

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church
Resurrection of Our Lord - Easter Day April 20, 2025 Year C
Worship Assistants



Assisting Minister: Cindy Michalski
Reader: Dawn Schroeder
Altar Guild: Terri Hilbert
Communion Assistant: Dawn Schroeder
Ushers: Carl Andrews & Howard Schroeder
Video Tech: Doug Scholes

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING

Prelude

Easter Praises

Digby Meister, Viola Solo

Welcome

Tone Chime

*Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds
I Know That My Redeemer Lives*

Call to Worship

...Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Gathering Hymn

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Cranberry 365



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In the name of † the One
who was, who is, and who is to come. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,
and called to live the baptized life,
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that make a people your own,
that restore to wholeness,
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that strengthen believers
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;
waters that extend your boundless love
and cross barriers of our own making.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that open the hearts of believers
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;
waters that set your people on a new path,
rejoicing in the Spirit's power.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,
that our every day is shaped by these waters
that give us our very lives in you.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
 3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,
 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, all praise to Christ the Son,



the pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the pass - o - ver of God.
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
 the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.
 all praise to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One!



From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
 and lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
 Let all things, seen and un - seen, their notes of glad - ness blend;
 Let all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,



our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
 his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the glad re - frain.
 for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end!
 and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - cribe to God a - lone!

Prayer of the Day

The grace we discover on Easter morn,
the love of God that opens the world to a new day,
and the community that gathers in the spirit of the risen one,
be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray, God of mercy, **we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**
Please be seated.

Bethel Choir *Crown Him Lord this Easter Day*

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

WORD

Lesson: Isaiah 65:17-25

¹⁷I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;

the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.

¹⁸But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I am creating;

for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
and its people as a delight.

¹⁹I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,
or the cry of distress.

²⁰No more shall there be in it
an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²²They shall not build and another inhabit;

they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

²³They shall not labor in vain,
or bear children for calamity;
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—
and their descendants as well.

²⁴Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.

²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,


Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Word for All Ages


Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Alleluia

Cranberry 174



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

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Gospel: Luke 24:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, **Thanks be to God.**

¹ On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again." ⁸ Then they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Thine Is the Glory

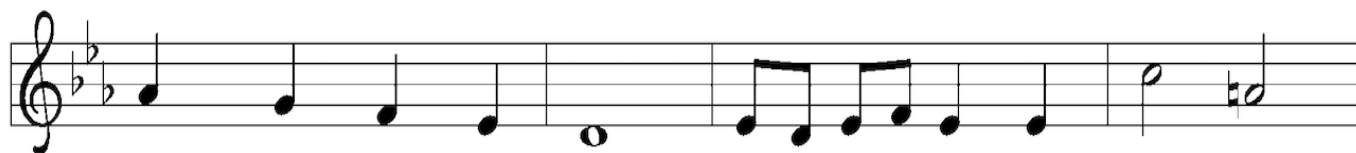
Cranberry 376



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-



vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain



where thy bod - y lay.
death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
to thy home a - bove.



Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Affirmation of Faith

In the dark before dawn,

we believe that God is alive.

In the midst of our grief,

we believe the Spirit is at work.

In the chaos of our broken world,

we believe that love is on the loose.

For no stone could keep God at bay,

and no violence could keep God's love from us.

So today we sing, *Alleluia!*

For somewhere in between our belief and doubt, **hope lives.**

Christ has died, **and Christ has also risen. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Prayers of the People

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Kindle new life in your church. Encourage all who seek creative ways to share the good news of Christ's resurrection. Bless mission developers and new ministries, that their work plant seeds that flourish. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Nourish new life in all of creation. Shower forests and grasslands, deserts, and mountains with life-giving rains. Grant us delight in your glory that shows forth in all that grows this season. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Empower new life among the nations. As you raised Jesus from the dead, bring new hope for peace and reconciliation in places of war and strife. Raise up leaders who are steadfast in their commitment to justice and transformation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Bring new hope among all who are in need, especially neighbors without homes or food, and those whose housing or food supply is at risk. Bring healing to all who are fearful, ill, or grieving. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Awaken new life in this place. Open our hearts to ways you are calling us to be at work in the world and our community. Give us courage to boldly share your love for all people beyond our walls. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting in the promises of the resurrection, we remember with thanksgiving our beloved dead. Sustain us with a living hope until we are reunited with them and all the saints at the heavenly banquet. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

Peace

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always!

And also with you!

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MEAL

Offering

Easter Medley

Digby Meister, Viola Solo

Offering Prayer

Let us pray, Risen One,

**you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.**

Come among us again,

breathe your life into us,

and enliven us with this meal,

that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, we are full of Alleluias
because this morning the sun rose once again.
This morning, the birds sang for you.
This morning children laughed,
flowers bloomed,

and hope was shared.
This morning, we heard
how the stone was rolled away.
This morning we dare to believe
that life is stronger than death and love is stronger than evil.

Today, we are full of Alleluias. Today we are full of hope.
However, we know that not every day feels like today.
Just two days ago, we walked the path to the cross.
Just two days ago, we remembered the violence humanity is capable of. Just
two days ago, we remembered the cruelty that this world knows all too well. So
on this hopeful day, as well as on those grief-filled days,
we ask that you would meet us here.
Meet us in this sanctuary.
Meet us in this community.
Meet us at this Table.

On the night in which you were betrayed,
you took bread, gave thanks, broke it,
and gave it to your friends, saying,
Take. Eat. This is my body.
Broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

After supper, you took the cup,
and when you had given thanks,
you gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new and eternal covenant relationship in my blood.
Shed for you and shed for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Pour out your Spirit on this bread and cup.
Roll back the stone, again and again,
as many times as it takes for us to see you.
Call us by name, again and again,
as many times as it takes for us to hear you.
Pull us from the trenches of our grief,
and give us reason to hope.

As you do,
we will keep singing your praises,
we will come back to this Table,
we will continue to bring you our hope,
our grief, and everything in between. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to the Table

On that first Easter morning when the women discovered the empty tomb, they told the disciples what they'd found. When Peter heard the news, he ran to the garden. He left the grief of the upper room, looking for a reason to hope.

Friends, maybe you are like Peter, running to this Table, hungry and longing for a taste of good news. Maybe you are like the other disciples, hanging back, arms crossed, tentative and unsure.

Or maybe you are somewhere in between it all.

No matter where you stand and what you feel, this Table is for you.

The one who walked this earth, healed the sick,
welcomed the children, and loved the outcast,
welcomes you to this Table.

So, come.

Bring your grief. Bring your questions. Bring your hope.
 Bring the messy middle of your life.
 Bring your faith and your dreams.
 Bring it all.
 For God meets us exactly where we are,
 smack-dab in the middle, with nothing but love.
 So come. This Table is for you.

Communion Hymns

Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!

Cranberry 380



1 Hal-le - lu - jah! Je - sus lives! He is now the Liv - ing One;
 2 Je - sus lives! Why do you weep? Why that sad and mourn - ful sigh?
 3 Je - sus lives! And thus, my soul, life e - ter - nal waits for you;
 4 Je - sus lives! Let all re - joice. Praise him, ran - somed of the earth.
 5 Hal-le - lu - jah! An - gels, sing! Join with us in hymns of praise.



from the gloom-y halls of death Christ, the con - quer - or, has gone,
 Christ who died our broth - er here lives our broth - er still on high,
 joined to Christ, your liv - ing head, where he is, you shall be too;
 Praise him in a no - bler song, cher - u - bim of heav'n - ly birth.
 Let your cho - rus swell the strain which our fee - bler voic - es raise:



bright fore - run - ner to the skies of his peo - ple, yet to rise.
 lives for - ev - er to be - stow bless - ings on his church be - low.
 with the Lord, at God's right hand, as a vic - tor you shall stand.
 Praise the vic - tor king, whose sway sin and death and hell o - bey.
 Glo - ry to our God a - bove and on earth his peace and love!

Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763–1841; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.
 Music: FRED TIL BOD, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887



1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day!" All on earth with an - gels say;
 2 Love's re-deem-ing work is done, fought the fight, the bat - tle won.
 3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has burst the gates of hell.
 4 Lives a - gain our glo - rious king! Where, O death, is now your sting?



raise your joys and tri - umphs high; sing, O heav'ns; and earth, re - ply.
 Lo! The sun's e - clipse is o'er. Lo! He sets in blood no more.
 Death in vain for - bids his rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
 Once he died our souls to save; where your vic - to - ry, O grave?

5 Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
 Praise to thee by both be giv'n.
 Thee we greet triumphant now:
 hail, the resurrection, thou!

6 King of glory, soul of bliss,
 everlasting life is this:
 thee to know, thy pow'r to prove,
 thus to sing, and thus to love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
 Music: ORIENTIS PARTIBUS, Pierre de Corbeil, d. 1222

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING

Announcements

Benediction

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The tomb is empty,

Christ has risen.

As you journey in faith, may your life be full,
your love be abundant, and your hope be eternal.

May God the Creator raise you from all that would bury you,
 May Christ Jesus call you by name and go ahead of you †
 And may the Holy Spirit empower you to go forth with hope,
 to release resurrection in the world. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* **Cranberry 367**



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
 Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Funding for Mission & Budget

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Monthly Receipts through 4/15/25: | \$ 13,366.40 |
| Monthly Budget Expenses: | \$20,033.00 |
| YTD Receipts through 3/31/25: | \$ 65,367 |

The Bethel Weekly

Fellowship Hour: Please, if you are able to help on a future date in April & May, sign up in the hallway.

Stamp Out Hungar Food Drive: Is Saturday, May 10th. The hub will be the Cofrin Post Office rather than the Packerland site. Collection teams will meet at the Cofrin Post Office at 9:30am. Food delivery at the pantry will be around 1:00pm. For those sorting at the pantry, pizza will be provided at noon. You do not need to register for sorting. Please see Charlie Hilla for more information.

Aebleskiver Committee: A committee is being formed to coordinate Aebleskiver Fest. This event has become too large for one person to handle. Ideally, small groups will handle specific tasks related to the event. If you would like to learn more, please attend the meeting on May 4th at 10:30am to give your thoughts.

Handbags for Hope: In conjunction with the Resurrection Food Pantry, we are asking all the ladies to bring in any unwanted purses. Donations are also needed of travel size hygiene items such as toothbrushes, shampoo, lip balm, etc. to fill the purses prior to distribution. Suggestions can be found on the front of the bin in the lounge.

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*Adapted from Word for Worship by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.
Call to worship from "The Three Women," found in Stages on the Way by Wild Goose Worship Group*