

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Second Sunday of Easter April 27, 2025 Year C



Worship Assistants  
Assisting Minister: Doug Hanson  
Reader: Linda Wery  
Altar Guild: Debbie Kasulke  
Communion Assistant: Sheila Greenwood  
Ushers: Doug Scholes & Rick Johnson  
Video Tech: Rick Johnson

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

**GATHERING**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

A rumor about an empty tomb  
And a missing body.

**Unlikely.**

Yet this was the testimony of the women;  
And it was confirmed by the disciples.

**It means life will never be the same.**

Love is stronger than death,  
Forgiveness flows,  
Healing comes,  
People change,  
Hope is renewed.  
Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**Opening Hymn**    *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright*

**Cranberry 384**



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the  
2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with  
3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in  
4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to



sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing  
con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will  
this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our  
you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther



eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!  
ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.  
strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.  
e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

## **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.**

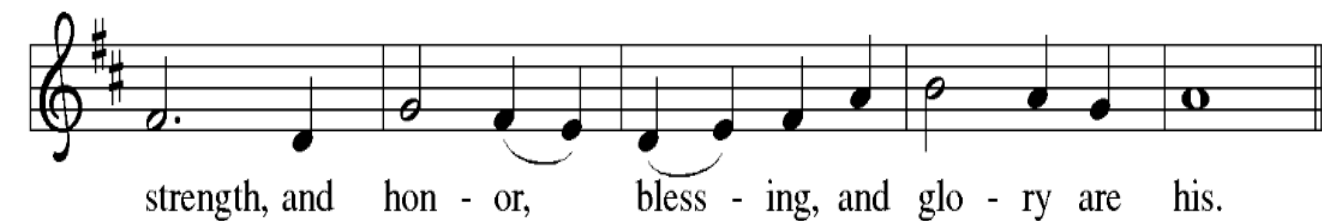
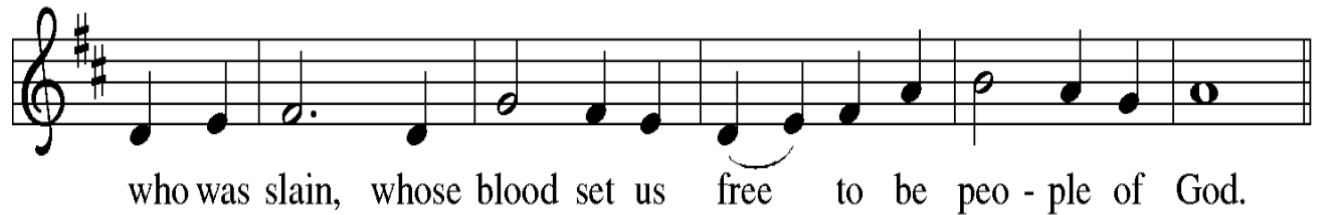
We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that strengthen believers  
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;  
waters that extend your boundless love  
and cross barriers of our own making.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

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.**

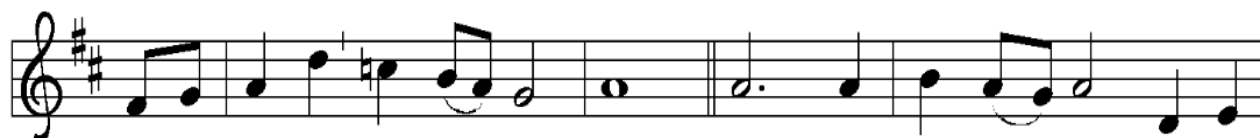
This Is the Feast

pgs.140-41





This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



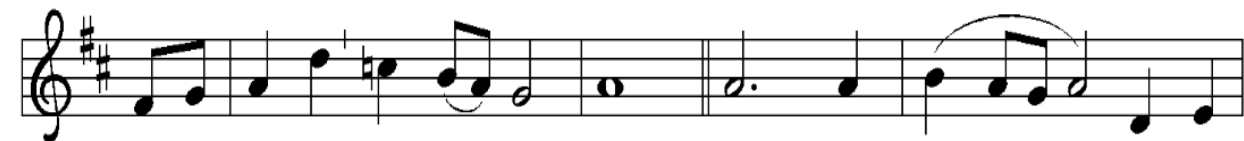
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



### 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, O God of life, **you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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

**WORD**

### First Lesson: Acts 5:27-32

<sup>27</sup> When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup> saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." <sup>29</sup> But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. <sup>30</sup> The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup> God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup> And we are witnesses to

these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

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

**Psalm 118:14-29** (read responsively by verse)

<sup>14</sup>The LORD is my strength and my might;  
he has become my salvation.

**<sup>15</sup>There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:**

**"The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;**

<sup>16</sup>the right hand of the LORD is exalted;  
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly."

**<sup>17</sup>I shall not die, but I shall live,  
and recount the deeds of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD has punished me severely,  
but he did not give me over to death.

**<sup>19</sup>Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup>This is the gate of the LORD;  
the righteous shall enter through it.

**<sup>21</sup>I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

**<sup>23</sup>This is the LORD's doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**<sup>25</sup>Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!  
O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!**

<sup>26</sup>Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.  
We bless you from the house of the LORD.

**<sup>27</sup>The LORD is God,  
and he has given us light.  
Bind the festal procession with branches,  
up to the horns of the altar.**

<sup>28</sup>You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;  
you are my God, I will extol you.

**<sup>29</sup>O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.**

### **The Word for All Ages**

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

**pg. 142**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

#### **Gospel: John 20:19-31**

The Holy Gospel according to John.

#### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and



said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

## Sermon

### Hymn of the Day

### *We Walk by Faith*

### Cranberry 635



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with  
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor  
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and  
 4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are  
 5 And when our life of faith is done, in

gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as  
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise  
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when  
 found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter  
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you

none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."  
 we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
 you are near and seek where you are found:  
 and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.  
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.

Music: SHANTI, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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## **Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. 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.

Inspire the church with the breath of your Holy Spirit, that we sing the good news  
of the resurrection. Inspire deacons and pastors, lay leaders and bishops to  
boldly proclaim your love for all people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Preserve the earth as a safe home for all creatures. Restore habitats  
contaminated by pollution or overuse, strengthen efforts to shape more  
sustainable communities, and make us mindful of the impacts of our daily lives  
on the well-being of creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Kindle in the nations a spirit of cooperation and mutual care. Raise up creative  
and courageous leaders committed to shaping just solutions to complex  
challenges in our local and global communities. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Embrace all who carry wounds, that they might know your compassion. Draw near to those with chronic pain or anxiety, and all for whom death is near. Comfort individuals and communities suffering in any way. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Transform our fear into curiosity and love, especially across differences in race, religion, sexuality, gender identity, and economic situation. Unravel stereotypes that lead to discrimination, and destroy oppressive systems that marginalize vulnerable communities. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For what else do the people of God pray?

We remember the faithful departed from all times and places. Confident that you are the Alpha and Omega, we pray for your wisdom and guidance until our earthly pilgrimage is complete. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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**

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always,  
**And also with you.**

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*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**MEAL**

### **Offering**

#### **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.**

Gathered round a table is where Jesus so often met people . . .

. . . gathered round the table of Matthew,

the table of Zacchaeus,

the table of Simon,

the table of Peter,

the table of Lazarus, Martha and Mary,

the tables of Joanna and Susannah . . . .

. . . gathered round a table where he could see people face to face, listen to their stories, share their laughter.

And here, we are gathered round a table because this is where Jesus has promised to be.

We remember the night, in an upstairs room, when Jesus sat at a meal with his disciples. They gathered around one table, those who were broken and those who sought wholeness. And Jesus took the bread, gave thanks for it, and gave it to every one of them saying, take, and eat. This is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine that sat among them; he blessed it and gave it to every one of them, saying, Take, and drink. This is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So we will do as Jesus did. We take this bread and this wine from this table through which Jesus has promised to make himself known to each one of us.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

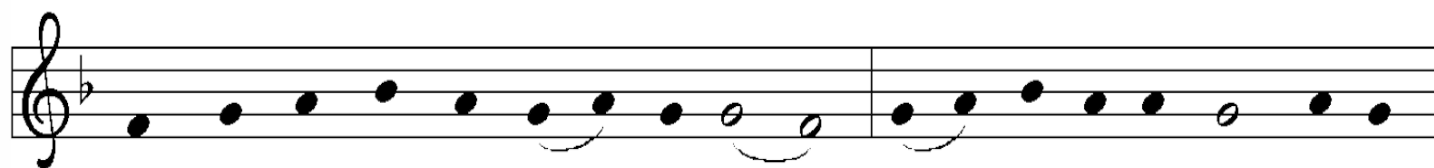
And as he said a prayer before sharing, let us follow his example.



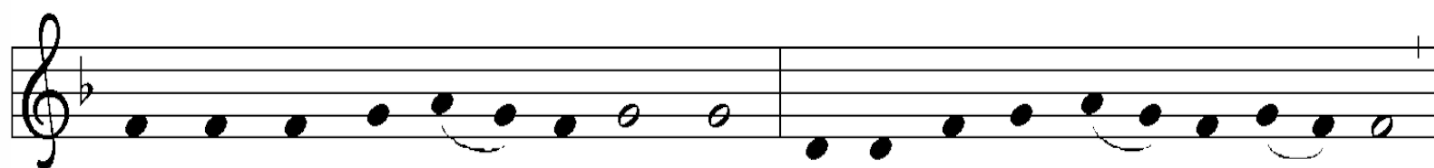
Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



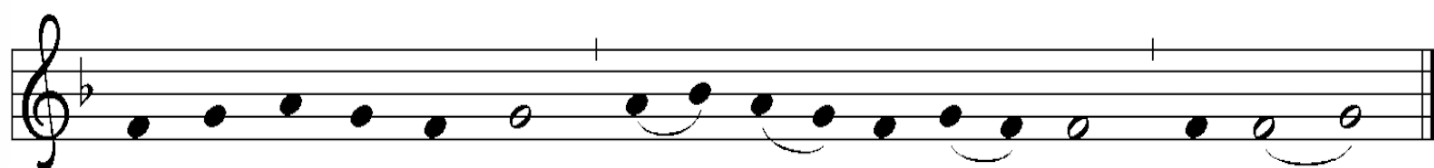
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al



and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,



and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.



1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,  
 2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,  
 3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,  
 4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,



come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.  
 come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.  
 in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.  
 rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,  
 Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,  
 In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,  
 Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,



our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.  
 Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.  
 in the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.  
 Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom.

Text: Billema Kwillia, b. 1925, sts. 1-3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1-3, alt.  
 Music: A VA DE, Billema Kwillia, adapt.

Text sts. 1-3 and tune © Lutheran World Federation; text st. 4 and music adapt. © 1972 *Contemporary Worship 4*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when  
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let  
 3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my  
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast  
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I  
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888

Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876

### **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray, Living One,  
**in this feast you have made yourself known to us.**  
**Send us now to tell of your wonders,**  
**sing of your glory,**  
**and proclaim your risen life**  
**to a wounded and weary world. Amen.**

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

**SENDING**

### **Announcements**

#### **Benediction**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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**

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

**Cranberry 855**

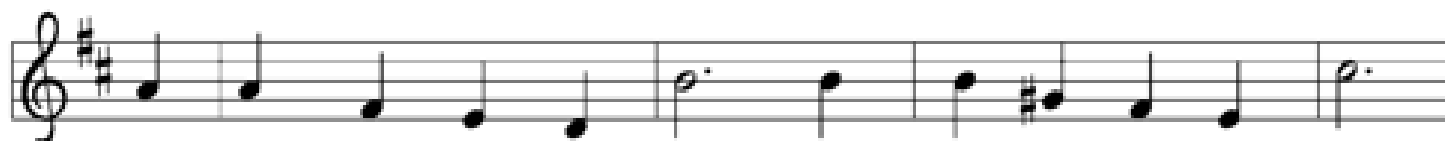




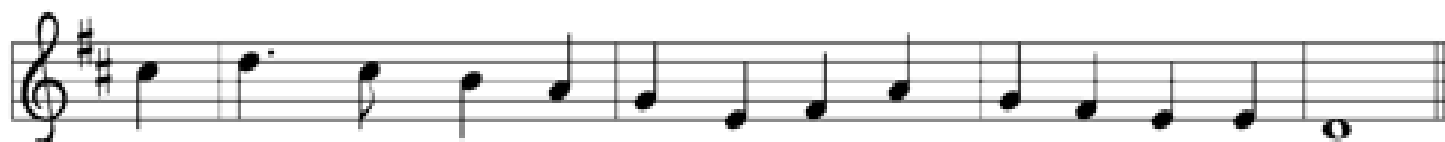
- 1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
- 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,
- 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
- 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave
- 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.  
 whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;  
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.  
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.  
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,  
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,  
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,  
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.  
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.  
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.  
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

## **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 4/22/25:	\$17,327.50
Monthly Budget Expenses:	\$20,033.00
YTD Receipts through 3/31/25:	\$ 65,367.00

## **The Bethel Weekly**

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

**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 next Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am to give your thoughts.

**Stamp Out Hungar Food Drive:** Is Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**Salvation Army Senior Meal:** Is May 19<sup>th</sup>. Please see the sign-up sheet in the hallway for needed items.

**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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