

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Third Sunday of Easter May 4, 2025 Year C



Worship Assistants  
Assisting Minister: Charlie Hilla  
Reader: Sharon Hilla  
Altar Guild: Kathy Long  
Communion Assistant: Linda Wery  
Ushers: Marsha Scholes & Kay Smith  
Video Tech: Cindy Michalski

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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**    *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing*    **Cranberry 385**



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph  
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is  
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which  
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:  
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:  
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



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

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.

Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpus, 1570–1615

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## **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** (setting 3) pp.140-41

*Refrain*



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

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.

*Refrain*

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, Eternal and all-merciful God, **with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow 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 9:1-6 (7-20)

<sup>1</sup> Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup>and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup>He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" <sup>5</sup>He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup>But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." [<sup>7</sup>The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. <sup>8</sup>Saul got up from the ground, and

though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." <sup>11</sup> The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, <sup>12</sup> and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." <sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; <sup>14</sup> and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; <sup>16</sup> I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." <sup>17</sup> So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup> and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, <sup>20</sup> and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." ] Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalms 30**(read responsively by verse)

<sup>1</sup>I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up,  
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

**<sup>2</sup>O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,  
and you have healed me.**

<sup>3</sup>O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol,  
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

**<sup>4</sup>Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones,  
and give thanks to his holy name.**

<sup>5</sup>For his anger is but for a moment;  
his favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may linger for the night,  
but joy comes with the morning.

**<sup>6</sup>As for me, I said in my prosperity,**

**"I shall never be moved."**

<sup>7</sup>By your favor, O LORD,  
you had established me as a strong mountain;  
you hid your face;  
I was dismayed.

**<sup>8</sup>To you, O LORD, I cried,  
and to the LORD I made supplication:**

<sup>9</sup>"What profit is there in my death,  
if I go down to the Pit?  
Will the dust praise you?  
Will it tell of your faithfulness?

**<sup>10</sup>Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me!  
O LORD, be my helper!"**

<sup>11</sup>You have turned my mourning into dancing;  
you have taken off my sackcloth  
and clothed me with joy,  
**<sup>12</sup>so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.**  
**O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.**

### The Word for All Ages

#### Gospel Acclamation Setting 3



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 21:1-19**

The Holy Gospel according to **John**.

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

<sup>1</sup> After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup> Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup> Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." <sup>6</sup> He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. <sup>7</sup> That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. <sup>8</sup> But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

<sup>9</sup> When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." <sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup> A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." <sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup> Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands,

and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." <sup>19</sup> (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

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

## Sermon

### Hymn of the Day

*Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing*

**Cranberry 389**



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

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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.

Your love sustains the church and its ministries. By that love, equip youth  
directors, Sunday school teachers, and all who guide formation in the church to  
nurture vibrant, living faith among your people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is  
great.**

Your abundance is made known throughout creation. Preserve oceans and  
rivers, lakes and estuaries so that all creatures living in them might flourish. Make  
us wise stewards of our local watersheds. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your wisdom guides all who strive for justice and peace. Strengthen the work of  
grassroots organizers, especially among communities on the frontlines of justice  
work. Amplify the voices of those most in need, that their leadership guides the  
way forward. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your compassion surrounds all who are in need. We pray for all people experiencing poverty and food insecurity, and for all struggling with debt and economic uncertainty. Reassure all who experience hopelessness or need your tender care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You invite all people to your table of grace. Make this a community of radical hospitality where all feel loved and celebrated. Show us how to better welcome visitors and bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for the witness of your saints of all times and places. May their lives of faith guide us in our own journeys with you, today and every day. 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.

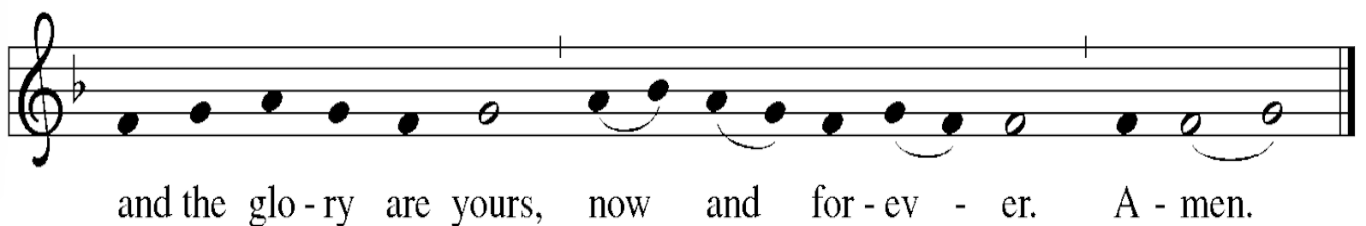
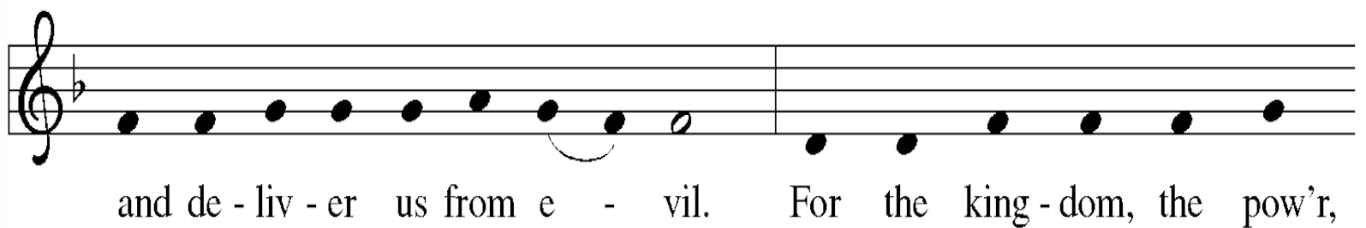
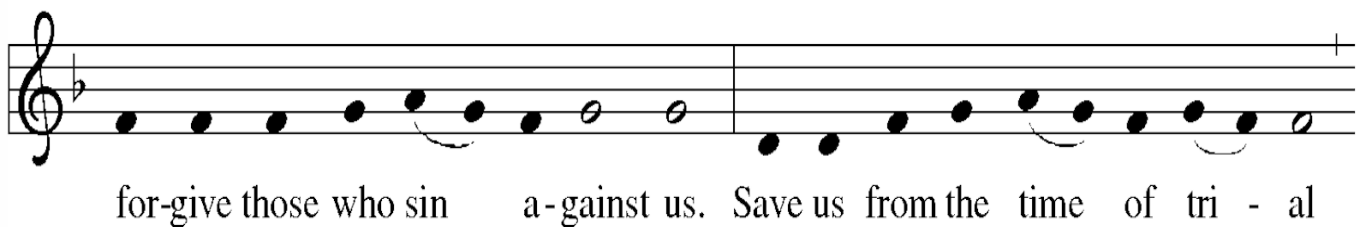
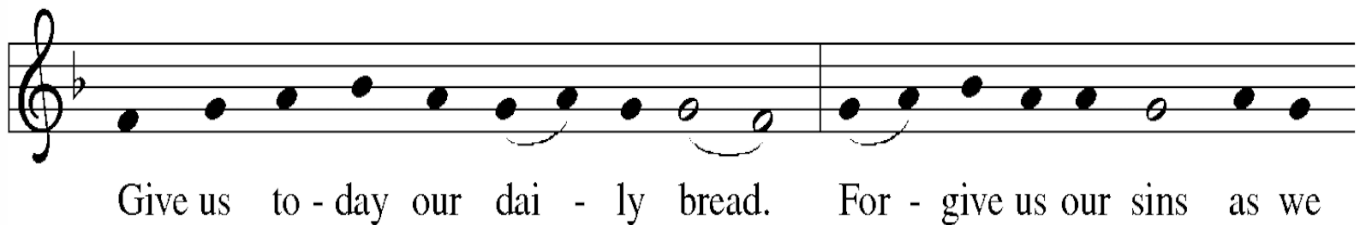
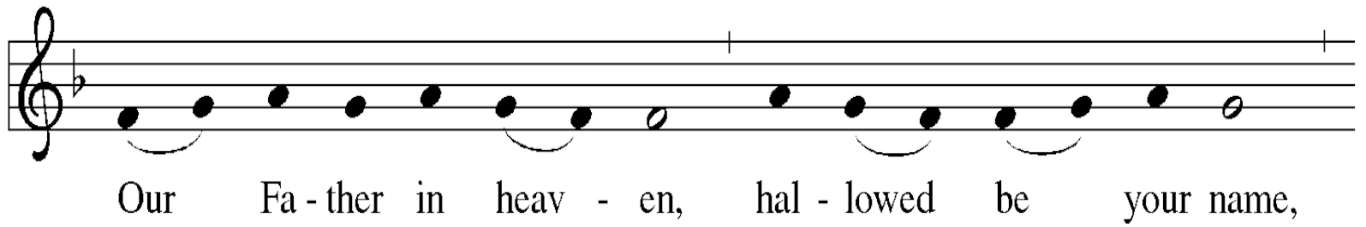
After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine that sat among them; he blessed it and gave it to every one of them, saying, Take, and drink. This is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

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** (setting 3)

Pg. 163

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

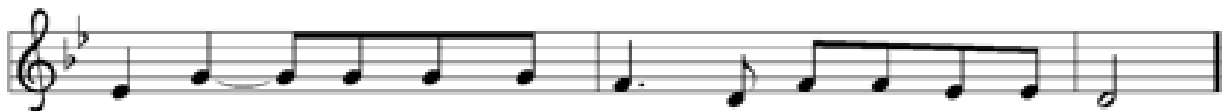




1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er  
 2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the  
 3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to  
 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y  
 birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun-tain  
 die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly  
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through-out the u - ni - verse dis-played;  
 gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;  
 bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;  
 ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

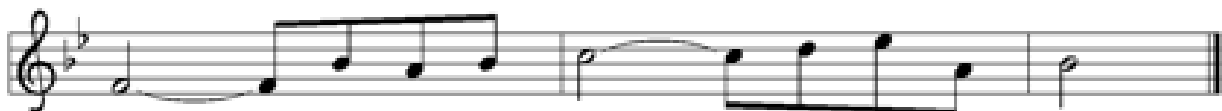
*Refrain*



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989

Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine

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1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5  
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

### 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**

*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today, Alleluia!*

**Cranberry 369**



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Chris-tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris-tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!  
sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!  
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!  
when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!



at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!  
now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!  
met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!  
now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1807–1882, alt.  
Music: LLANFAIR, Robert Williams, 1781–1821

### 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 4/30/25:	\$ 19,457.45
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 May and June, 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 today 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.

**Pastor Kim:** Is on vacation May 22<sup>nd</sup>-May 26<sup>th</sup>. For Pastoral emergencies, please contact Pastor Melissa at Resurrection.

**Culver's Share Event:** On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Bethel will receive 15% of all sales on food and gift cards from 5:00-8:00pm at the Suamico Culver's. Come out and enjoy a juicy butter burger or your other Culver's favorites or buy a gift card. 6 volunteers are needed to bus tables and deliver food to tables & drive-up customers for 1 1/2- hour shifts. Please see the sign-up sheet in the hallway.

**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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