

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Fourth Sunday of Easter May 11, 2025 Year C



Worship Assistants  
Assisting Minister: Doug Scholes  
Reader: Gayle Peot  
Altar Guild: Pat Petzel  
Communion Assistant: Marilyn Meister  
Ushers: Linda Grunewald & Carol Wehunt  
Video Tech: Doug Hanson

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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**    *Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs*    **Cranberry 847**



1 Come, let us join our cheer - ful songs with an - gels round the throne;  
2 “Wor - thy the Lamb that died,” they cry, “to be ex - alt - ed thus!”  
3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re - ceive hon - or and pow’r di - vine;  
4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou - sand thou - sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.  
“Wor - thy the Lamb,” our lips re - ply, “for he was slain for us!”  
and bless - ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.  
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: NUN DANKET ALL, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the wellspring of grace,  
our Easter and our joy. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are raised with him to new life.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning you created us in your image  
and planted us in a well-watered garden.  
In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,  
and you gave us water from the rock.

**When we did not know the way,  
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.  
At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,  
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.**

We praise you for your salvation through water,  
for the water in this font,  
and for all water everywhere.

**Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.  
Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.**

To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **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.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff begins with a 'Refrain' label and contains the lyrics 'This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,'. The second staff continues with 'al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb'. The third staff concludes with 'who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.' The music consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases marked with slurs.

*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.  
 This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God.

*Final refrain*

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, 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 peace, **you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Bethel Choir

*A Home of Grace*

**First Lesson: Acts 9:36-43**

<sup>36</sup> Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. <sup>37</sup> At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. <sup>38</sup> Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." <sup>39</sup> So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. <sup>40</sup> Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. <sup>41</sup> He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. <sup>42</sup> This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup> Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

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

**Psalm 23**(read responsively by verse)

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures;**

**he leads me beside still waters;**

<sup>3</sup>he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths

for his name's sake.

**<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the darkest valley,**

**I fear no evil;**

**for you are with me;**

**your rod and your staff —**

**they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

**<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me**

**all the days of my life,**

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.

**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 10:22-30**

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup> At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup> and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup> So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." <sup>25</sup> Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; <sup>26</sup> but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> The Father and I are one."

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

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day** *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

**Cranberry 789**



1 Sav - ior like a shep - herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.  
2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard - ian of our way;  
3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;  
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, for our use your fold pre - pare.  
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.  
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847  
Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

## 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.

You guide your people to the waters of life. Make your church a nourishing place for all who are thirsty for hope and healing. Renew us in the waters of baptism, and send us forth as signs of your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You tend to the earth, sustaining life in all places. Revive fragile ecosystems and restore species in danger of extinction. Teach us new ways of living in balance and harmony with our non-human neighbors. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You lead all peoples along right pathways. Grant wisdom and compassion to judges, lawyers, mediators, and legal advocates. Dismantle systems of mass incarceration, empower processes of restorative justice, and encourage all who strive for healing in our communities. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You wipe the tears from every eye. Tend to all who struggle with anxiety or depression, loneliness, or despair. Enfold all who are in any need in your shepherding care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

This Mother's Day, bless mothers, grandmothers, and all who offer mothering care. Come close to those whose relationships with their families are difficult,

and console all who grieve the loss of mother figures or the loss of children. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You are the source of everlasting life. In deep gratitude for all your saints, we rejoice in the joy and hope of the resurrection made known to us in Jesus, your beloved child. 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)

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 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness  
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed  
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant  
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
thine unction grace bestoweth;  
and, oh, what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,  
thy goodness faileth never.  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877

Music: St. COLUMBA, Irish tune

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*Have No Fear, Little Flock*

**Cranberry 764**



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle  
2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle  
3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -  
4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to



flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to  
flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in  
bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -  
God, for he stays close be - side you, in



give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!  
his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!  
lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!  
all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4  
Music: LITTLE FLOCK, Heinz Werner Zimmermann, b. 1930  
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### 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

**Bethel Choir**      *Choral Benediction*

Closing Hymn

Lead Me, Guide Me

Cranberry 768

*Refrain*



Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;



for if you lead me, I can - not stray.



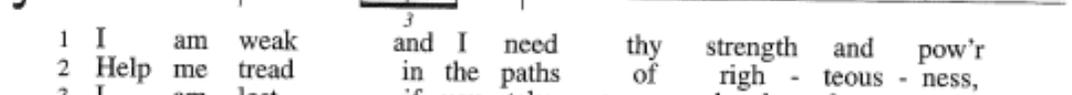
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.



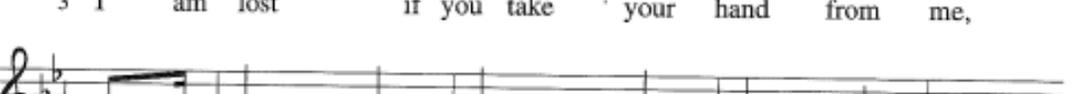
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.



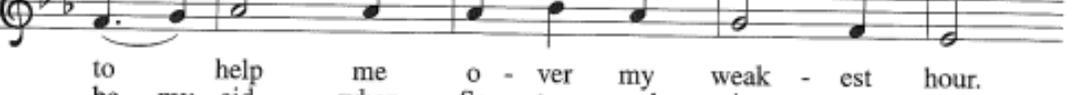
1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r



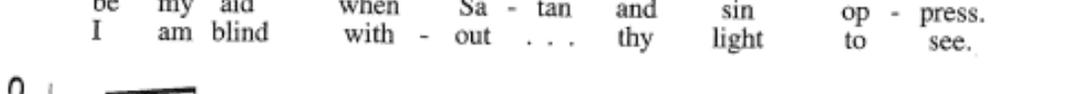
2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,



3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,



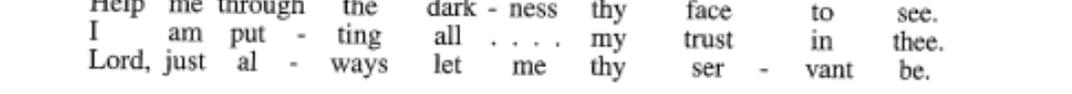
to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.



be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.



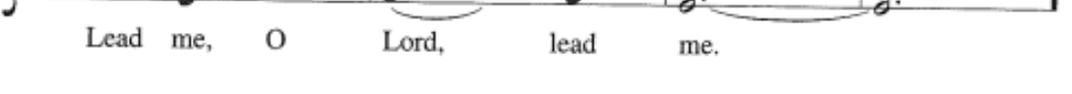
I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.



Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.



I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.



Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

*Refrain*



Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

## **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 5/6/25:	\$ 5,089.10
Monthly Budget Expenses:	\$20,033.00
YTD Receipts through 4/30/25:	\$ 84,665

## **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.

**Feed My Starving Children:** There are 2 opportunities to support FMSC in the coming week. There will a Culver's Fundraiser Night on May 12<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-8:00 at the De Pere, Voyager Drive and Suamico locations. Then on May 15-17 there will be a No Rummage Cookout and Bake Sale at St John Lutheran Church on Babcock in Ashwaubenon.

**Almost Last Sunday Supper:** Our first outing of the season will be at Pope's Pizza, 789 Armed Forces Dr on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm. Please let Pastor Kim know if you will be attending.

**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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