

**Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Third Sunday of Easter April 19, 2026 Year A**



Rev Diane Martinson  
Music by David Raynier

**Worship Volunteers**

**Assisting Minister:** Charlie Hilla

**Reader:** Peggy Hansen

**Altar Guild:** Debbie Kasulke

**Communion Assistant:** Peggy Hansen

**Ushers:** Gayle Peot & Cindy Michalski

**Video Tech:** Lucas Dean

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

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**OPENING HYMN** *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!* **Cranberry 373**



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

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**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne  
and to the Lamb! **Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness  
who accompanies us on our journeys.  
We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.  
We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.  
Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.  
Break down barriers that divide us.  
Fill us with the breath of peace.  
Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,  
and for making us a new creation.  
We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

**THIS IS THE FEAST** (setting 3)

pgs.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. | Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb  
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

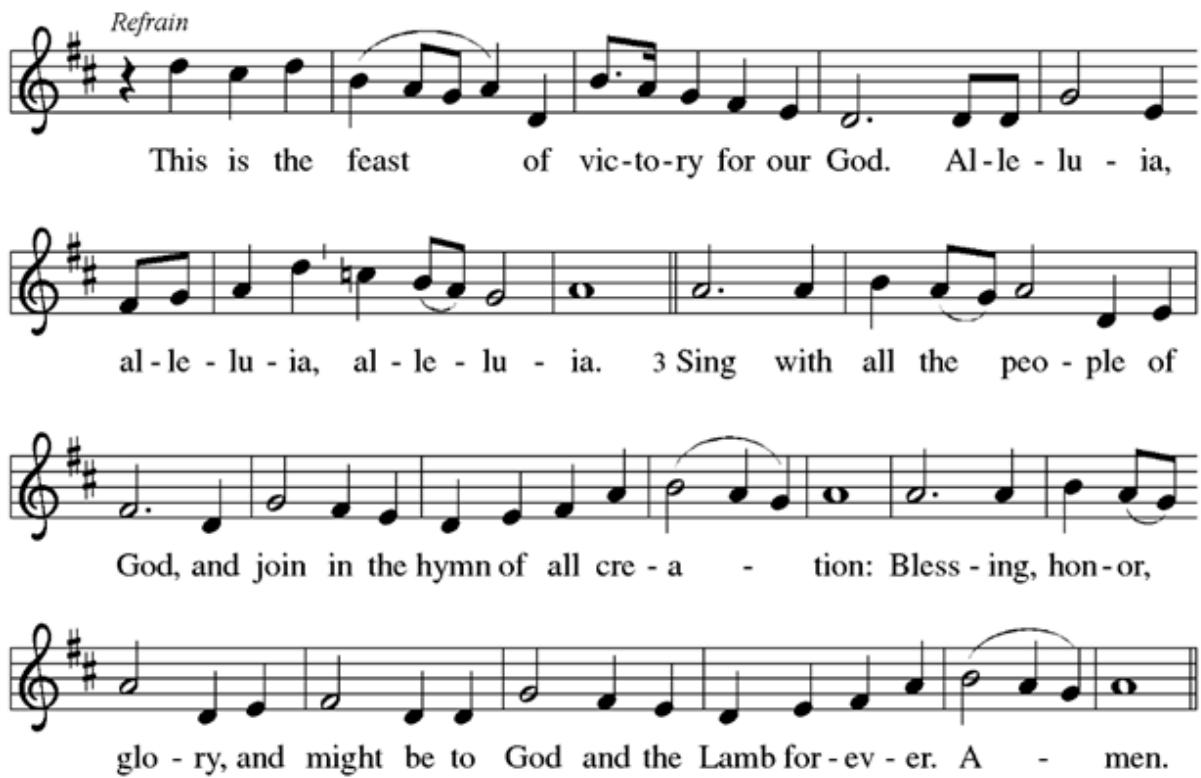
The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a 'Refrain' label and a fermata over the first measure. The lyrics are: 'This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,'. The second staff continues with 'al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. | 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 features various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some notes beamed together and a fermata at the end of the first staff.

*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.

*Final refrain*

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

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

○ God, **your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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

**WORD**

**FIRST LESSON: Acts 2:14a, 36-41**

14a Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]:

36 “Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” 38 Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you, for

your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” 40 And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” 41 So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 116:1-4, 12-19** (read responsively by verse)

1 I love the LORD because he has heard  
my voice and my supplications.

**2 Because he inclined his ear to me,  
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

3 The snares of death encompassed me;  
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;  
I suffered distress and anguish.

**4 Then I called on the name of the LORD,  
“O LORD, I pray, save my life!”**

12 What shall I return to the LORD  
for all his bounty to me?

**13 I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the LORD;**

14 I will pay my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all his people.

**15 Precious in the sight of the LORD  
is the death of his faithful ones.**

16 O LORD, I am your servant;  
I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.  
You have loosed my bonds.

**17 I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice  
and call on the name of the LORD.**

18 I will pay my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all his people,

**19 in the courts of the house of the LORD,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem.**

**Praise the LORD!**

**SECOND LESSON 1 Peter 1:17-23**

17 If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. 18 You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. 20 He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. 21 Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

22 Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. 23 You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

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

**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: Luke 24:13-35**

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

13 Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16 but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things

that have taken place there in these days?" 19 He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. 22 Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 23 and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." 25 Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! 26 Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" 27 Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. 28 As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 29 But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" 33 That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. 34 They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" 35 Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

**SERMON**

**Rev Diane Martinson**



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!  
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter  
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;  
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:  
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!  
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;  
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;  
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.  
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!  
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:  
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,  
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!  
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

*Refrain*



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926  
Music: David N. Johnson, 1922–1987  
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Music © 1969 *Contemporary Worship 1*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## APOSTLES' 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**

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

Living Savior, just as you journeyed with the disciples to Emmaus, accompany us on our journey of faith. Gather us at your table, that we recognize you in the breaking of the bread. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, you provide for the needs of all creation. Bless the fields that are being prepared for planting, and send favorable weather so that the soil may yield an abundant harvest. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of justice, where leaders abuse power, confront them and call them to repentance. Where there is corruption, bring integrity; where there is violence, sow peace. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Healing Savior, your resurrection brings hope to a hurting world. Heal those who are sick. Strengthen the weary, give courage to the despairing, and comfort the dying. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Gracious One, you have made us your own through the gift of baptism. Unite us in genuine love for one another and uphold this community in your name. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

For what else do the people of God pray?

*Spoken and silent petitions are welcome.*

Eternal Light, we give thanks for (*Olavus Petri, Laurentius Petri and*) all who have nurtured your church's life in ages past. Bring us at last with them to the brightness of your glorious presence. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through 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, Merciful God, **accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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

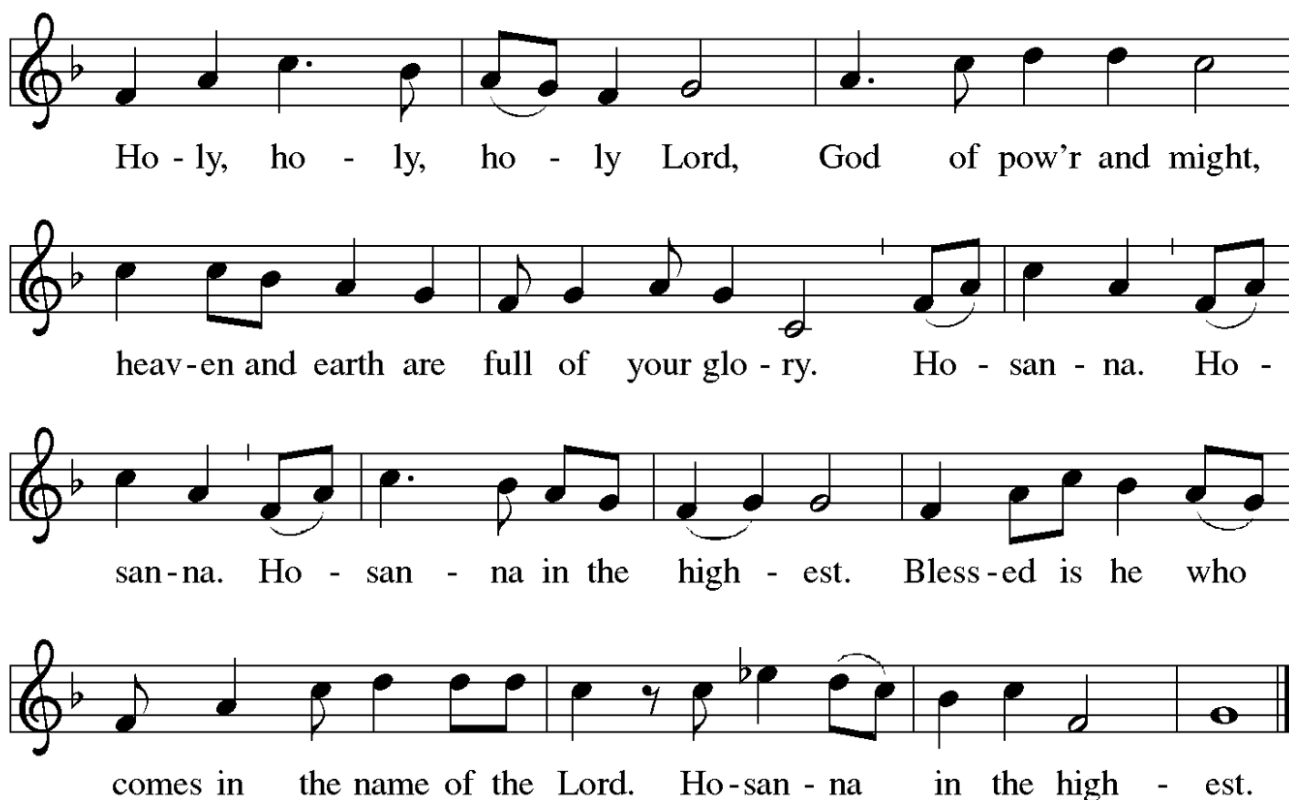
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;  
who in dying has destroyed death,  
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

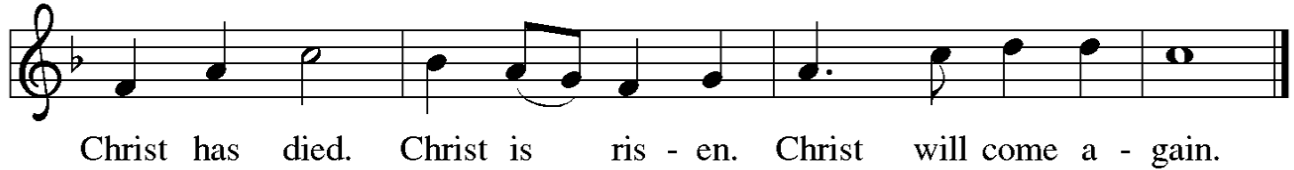
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.  
You are most holy,  
and great is the majesty of your glory.  
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but have eternal life.  
We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
to fulfill for us your holy will  
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.  
In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,  
and the promise of his coming again,  
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,  
not as we ought but as we are able;  
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,  
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ  
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,  
may be formed to live as your holy people  
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.  
To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



## THE 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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMN

*Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal*

**Cranberry 464**



- 1 Bread of life, our host and meal, Je - sus, feed us.
- 2 Bread now break and wine now pour, Je - sus, feed us.
- 3 Grant for - give - ness in the feast— Je - sus, feed us—
- 4 Thank you for this gift we share. Je - sus, feed us.



Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.  
Make us one, our hope re - store; feed us with your love.  
for the great - est and the least; feed us with your love.  
Save God's chil - dren ev - 'ry - where; feed us with your love.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943; Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: JESUS, FEED US, Ray Makeever

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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray, **Holy One,**

**through this meal you have made your home among us**

**and are making all things new.**

**Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,**

**to love our enemies,**

**and to bring your healing to the nations.**

**In the name of Jesus,**

**Amen.**

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

**SENDING**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

**Cranberry 674**



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:  
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,  
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.  
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

*Refrain*



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980

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## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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### Funding for Mission & Budget

Monthly Receipts through 4/15/26	\$20,177.00
Monthly Budget Expenses:	\$18,843.00
YTD Receipts through 3/31/26:	\$ 53,627.00

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## **The Bethel Weekly**

**Communication Training:** Cathy Cowling, will be with us for four consecutive Wednesday evenings at 6pm beginning on April 22nd through May 13th. During her time with us, Cathy will help us talk about the conflict and loss of trust with leadership and then focus on learning more healthy and effective skills and tools for communication and dealing with conflict. Please plan to attend as many of these meetings as possible.

**Resurrection Food Pantry:** Fill the Wagon in April is here. Grab a shopping list so we can break last month's total of 113 pounds of food!

**Woodside Donations:** We have started collecting donations for woodside. The red wagon is for Resurrection Food Pantry and the metal basket is for Woodside. They are needing the following items:

- \*Markers & Colored Pencils
- \*Figurines to paint
- \*New Nail Polish
- \*Hygiene products (deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste)
- \*Socks with grips
- \*Full size candy bars
- \*Seasonal Décor/ Trinkets

**Stamp Out Hunger:** food drive is coming on Saturday May 9th. The Food Pantry will again need collection teams to pick up the food on the mail routes beginning at 9:30 am. The pantry is furnishing teams who will be collecting on the East Side of Green Bay at the Cofrin Post office. The collection activity is usually finished by about 1pm. We will then need many additional people at the pantry to sort and put the food away. There will be a light lunch funded by a Thrivent Action Grant around 12:30 pm. Those who participated last year actually had fun doing this service. Just remember to bring sunscreen. **Please sign up today to help out.**

**Fellowship Hour:** If you are able to help on a future date in April, please sign up in the hallway.

**Handbags for Hope:** In conjunction with the Resurrection Food Pantry, 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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