

Bethel Lutheran Church
Easter Sunday, Year A
April 5, 2026



Rev. Diane Martinson
Music & Choir Director: Rowen Erickson

Worship Volunteers

Assisting Minister: Cindy Michalski

Reader: Sandi Tibbetts

Altar Guild: Pat Petzel

Communion Assistant: Linda Wery

Ushers: Marsha Scholes & Rick Johnson

Video Tech: Doug Scholes

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

GATHERING

When this symbol is near a hymn (*), there is a Festival Introduction beforehand

PRELUDE - *Improvisation on Various Hymns* - Rowen Erickson

'Resurrection Fanfare' - Alexander Därr

WELCOME

Blessed be the holy Trinity, **one God**,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. Amen.

BRASS INVOCATION -

'Rise, Shine, You People!' arr. Michael Burkhardt

GREETING

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.**

OPENING 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!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1–3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, st. 4
Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

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

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 10: 34-43

34 Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. 36 You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. 37 That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39 We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, 40 but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 41 not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. 43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

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

PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (read responsively by verse)

1 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

2 Let Israel say,

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

14 The LORD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

15 There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

“The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;

16 the right hand of the LORD is exalted;
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.”

17 I shall not die, but I shall live

and recount the deeds of the LORD.

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

19 Open to me the gates of righteousness,

that I may enter through them

and give thanks to the LORD.

20 This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

21 I thank you that you have answered me

and have become my salvation.

22 The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This is the LORD’s doing;

it is marvelous in our eyes.

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

SECOND READING: Colossians 3: 1-4

1 If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, 3 for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

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

Please rise in body or in spirit

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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: Matthew 28:1-10

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

1 After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. 4 For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." 8 So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev Diane Martinson

Please rise in body or in spirit

HYMN OF THE DAY*

Awake My Heart With Gladness

Cranberry 378



1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness, see what to - day is done;
2 Now hell, its prince, the dev - il, of all their pow'r are shorn;
3 This is a sight that glad - dens—what peace it does im - part!
4 Now I will cling for - ev - er to Christ, my Sav - ior true;
5 Christ brings me to the por - tal that leads to bliss un - told,



now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, comes forth the glo - rious sun.
now I am safe from e - vil, and sin I laugh to scorn.
Now noth - ing ev - er sad - dens the joy with - in my heart.
my Lord will leave me nev - er, what - e'er he pass - es through.
where - on this rhyme im - mor - tal is found in script of gold:



My Sav - ior there was laid where our bed must be made
For Christ a - gain is free; in glo - rious vic - to - ry
No gloom shall ev - er shake, no foe shall ev - er take,
He rends death's i - ron chain; he breaks through sin and pain;
“Who there my cross has shared finds here a crown pre - pared;



when, as on wings in flight, we soar to realms of light.
he who is strong to save has tri - umphed o'er the grave.
the hope which God's own Son in love for me has won.
he shat - ters hell's grim thrall; I fol - low him through all.
who there with me has died shall here be glo - ri - fied.”

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.

Risen Savior, you have conquered death and opened the gates of everlasting life. Dispel our doubts and fears and renew our faith and hope in you. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Life-giving God, the created world rejoices in Christ's victory over death. May all the earth be renewed by the light of Jesus' resurrection, and may we be faithful stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Sovereign God, let the nations acknowledge your reign of justice and truth. Where violence, oppression, and corruption hold sway, pour out your holy and life-giving Spirit to transform and redeem. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Gentle Shepherd, like the women at the empty tomb, many grieve or feel lost and afraid. Draw near to those who are ill or in pain. Reveal yourself to them as the Risen One. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Faithful God, we thank you for the living hope you give us through Christ's resurrection. Bless this community, that we may boldly proclaim Christ's victory over death in word and deed. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For what else do the people of God pray?
Silent and spoken prayers are invited

Eternal One, we give thanks for all who have died and now share in the joy of your resurrection. Bring us, with them, to the unending feast of your victory. 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 Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of the Lord's peace with those around you. Please be seated.

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

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; but chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, 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.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

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.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

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 HYMNS

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

Now The Green Blade Rises

Cranberry 379



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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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.

MUSICAL OFFERING -

'Morceau Symphonique' by Alexandre Guilmant

Anton Granatella & Rowen Erickson

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*

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
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE -

Organ Symphony No. 1 in D Minor, Op. 14, mvt VI. Finale - Louis Vierne

Funding for Mission & Budget

Monthly Receipts through 3/16/26	\$ 9,714.00
Monthly Budget Expenses:	\$18,843.00
YTD Receipts through 2/28/26:	\$ 34,928.00

The Bethel Weekly

Communication Training: Cathy Cowling, an experienced church consultant, 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. She will also attend worship with us on April 12th so members have the opportunity to meet her. Please plan to attend as many of these meetings as possible.

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

Resurrection Food Pantry: Don't forget we are collecting for Resurrection food pantry. If you can bring some of the normal staples its' appreciated. (beans, canned meat, and soups,) They also need toilet paper.

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