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**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Rev. Molly Wills, Pastor | Jan Smith, Accompanist

Resurrection of Our Lord | Sunday, April 20, 2025

ELW Holy Communion Setting 3

**SPIRIT ART**

**A meditative study of scripture through art.**

John 20:1-18

**WELCOME, WE’RE GLAD YOU’RE HERE!**

***If you are new to Bethel, here is some helpful worship information****: We use the ELW (red hymnal) and the supplement ACS (purple hymnal), which contain liturgy and hymns. Liturgy pages are at the front of each hymnal, with the page numbers at the bottom and in the bulletin as (red ELW p.) or (purple ACS p.) Hymn pages are in the back two-thirds of the hymnals, with the page numbers at the top and in the bulletin as (red hymnal #) or (purple hymnal #). The songs from the Green Book are in the bulletin as (green binder #).* ***Hearing assistive devices are available;*** *speak to an usher for assistance.*

**GATHERING**

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

Meditation time Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain arr. by Jacob B. Weber

The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done arr. by Jacob B. Weber

Up from the Grave arr. by William E. Grass (Chimes)

Welcome & Announcements

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.**

**GATHERING SONG** *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*(red hymnal #365)

Greeting (red ELW p. 138)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**KYRIE (red ELW p. 138) In peace, let us pray to the Lord…**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE (red ELW p. 139) This is the feast of victory…**

Prayer of the Day

**God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Bring the risen life we share with Christ to the forefront of our minds and strong within our hearts, helping us grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WORD**

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

FIRST Reading: Isaiah 65:17-25

17 For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. 18 But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating,
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people as a delight. 19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it
or the cry of distress. 20 No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days or an old person who does not live out a lifetime, for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. 21 They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. 22 They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat, for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. 23 They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—and their descendants as well. 24 Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. 25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

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

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good; God’s mercy endures forever.
2 **Let Israel now declare,** **“God’s mercy endures forever.”**
14 The Lord is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.
15 **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:** **“The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!**
16 The right hand of the Lord is exalted! The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!”
17 **I shall not die, but live,** **and declare the works of the Lord.**
18 The Lord indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.
19 **Open for me the gates of righteousness;** **I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.**
20 “This is the gate of the Lord; here the righteous may enter.”
21 **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me** **and you have become my salvation.**
22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
23 **By the Lord has this been done;** **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: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

19 If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.
20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. 21 For since death came through a human, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human, 22 for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. 23 But each in its own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24 Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (red ELW p. 142) **Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?…**

Gospel:  John 20:1-18 The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

1 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. 2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” 3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. 4 The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, 7 and the cloth that had been on Jesus’s head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, 9 for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples returned to their homes. 11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, 12 and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. 13 They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” 14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” 16 Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, “Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ ” 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and she told them that he had said these things to her.The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON SERMON**

Hymn of the Day *Earth, Earth, Awake!*  (purple hymnal #937)

apostles’ Creed (red ELW p. 104)

Prayers of intercession God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Peace The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**MEAL**

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

offering I Know That My Redeemer Lives arr. by Stan Pethel (Bethel Brass)

OfferING Prayer

**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 (red ELW p. 144)**

**PREFACE**

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (**red ELW **p. 144)**

Thanksgiving at the Table

lord’s prayer (red ELW p. 145)

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG (red ELW p. 146) **Lamb of God…**

SONG *Touch That Soothes and Heals: See My Hands and Feet*(purple hymnal #939)

Prayer after Communion

**SENDING**

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

Blessing

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

Sending SONG *Thine Is the Glory*(red hymnal #376)

Dismissal Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

God in peace. In Christ, you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude This Joyful Eastertide arr. by Kenneth T. Young

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NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS: Acts 5:27-32; Ps 150; Rev 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

**EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS**

In memory of our parents by Judy and Eric Angvall

In memory of sister and parents by Jan and David Gohl

In memory of our parents by Cathy Houg and Carolyn Barr

In memory of Steve Klobe by Lisa Klobe

In memory of our parents by Diane and Dave Horsman

In memory of our parents by Jill and Brian Duncan

In celebration of new life in Christ by Jill and Brian Duncan

In memory of our grandparents by Tamie and Ron Foust

In memory of family by the Wick family

In memory of Lloyd Weisenburger by Shirley Weisenburger and family

In memory of Virgil Lenzmeier by Jean and Pete Hallberg

In memory of Craig Jepsen by Emily and Jon Koehler

In memory of our parents by Jean and Jerry Christenson

In memory of Tim Smith by Jan Smith

In honor of Pastor Molly by WELCA

In memory of Wilbert, Lorraine, Clarence, Lloyd, and Jeanette by LuAnn and Bryon Weisenburger

In memory of Enid Curley by the Serum family

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Vibrantly open to the Spirit, Bethel Lutheran Church seeks to serve God

 and its neighbors by joyfully living into the good news of Jesus Christ.

**THIS WEEK AT BETHEL**

Happy Easter Day!

* Easter Brunch: 10:00 a.m., all proceeds will go to the Bethel Parking Lot Fund

Monday, April 21

* (Paint Factory event: 6:30 p.m., Hutchinson)

Wednesday, April 23

* Bible study: 11:30 a.m.
* Choir practice: 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 26

* Cemetery Clean-up Day: 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, April 27

* Praise Worship: 9:00 a.m.
* Sunday school, Confirmation, and First Communion class: 10:00 a.m.
* Bethel Breakfast: 10:30 a.m., Longhorn’s Burger House, LP

**QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS?** Contact the church office at 320-395-2125 or bethellutheranlp@gmail.com. For emergency pastoral care needs, call Pastor Molly Wills at 320-339-8169 or email pastor@lpbethel.org.

**ADDRESS:** 77 Lincoln AVE N, Lester Prairie, MN 55354, (Mailing USPS: PO Box 207)

**WEBSITE**: [www.lpbethel.org](http://www.lpbethel.org)

**FACEBOOK:** www.facebook.com/lpbethel

**BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** Wednesdays at noon

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** 25th of the month

**ONLINE GIVING:** Scan the QR code

**TEXT GIVING:** To give, text dollar amount to **866-298-7547**

**SIMPLY GIVING** offers convenience for you and much-needed consistency for Bethel! For more information, contact Stacy Meyer, Financial Secretary, at finsec@lpbethel.org.

**FOR THE YEAR 2025**

YTD $ Contributions: 26,701.79

YTD $ To Meet Budget: 41,048.04

YTD $ Difference: -14,346.25

**FINANCIAL UPDATE THROUGH APRIL 13**

Weekly Average Attendance: 64

$ Contributions: 1,456.00

$ To Meet Budget: 10,262.01

$ Difference: -8,806.01

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

* **PERSONAL CARE KITS:** Thank you to all who donated personal care kit items for Lutheran World Relief! Thanks to your generosity, we were able to assemble 20 kits!
* **THANK YOU**: Thank you to everyone who supported our Lenten Meals. Whether you came to eat, prepare and serve the meals, bake bars, or help clean up, it made for a wonderful six weeks of fellowship. We used three Thrivent Action Team cards to cover the expenses. Thank you, Thrivent, and those who applied for the grants.
* **WELCA EASTER PROJECT:** During the Easter season, WELCA will facilitate a collection of specific food items to donate to the McLeod County Common Cup Ministry. We encourage you to bring **applesauce** (cups or pouches), **instant breakfast bottles, juice boxes**, and **fruit cups** and place them in the collection containers in the narthex. These items will support the Weekend Food Program, which assists McLeod County families in need. Children who qualify for the program receive a bag of food at the end of each week to take home, helping to supplement their meals over the weekend when they are not in school and unable to benefit from school lunches and breakfasts. Since November, several Bethel members have been packing and delivering these food bags to the Lester Prairie school for local students. Check out the display in the narthex to learn more about this program. Watch for more information about the Common Cup Ministry soon.
* **CEMETERY CLEAN-UP, SATURDAY, APRIL 26:** Please come to help rake and clean up debris in our cemeteries. We will start cleaning up at the old Bergen Church site and cemetery at 9:00 a.m. Many hands make light work!
* **FIRST COMMUNION CLASS & CELEBRATION:**A First Communion class will be offered for first graders and older children whose parents feel they are ready to learn. The class will take place on Sunday, April 27, following the service. If you are interested in attending, please let Pastor Molly know so she can make the necessary preparations. The First Communion celebration will be held on Sunday, May 4.
* **A NEW MEMBER CLASS** will be held on Sunday, May 18, following the service. Please let Pastor Molly know if you are interested in becoming a member of Bethel Lutheran Church!





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