



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 5TH, 2026

8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 AM

+ indicates to stand in body or spirit;
bold print indicates congregational responses

Welcome to worship on this special day.

*We celebrate with the ancient Easter greeting, a Thanksgiving for Baptism,
joyous songs, and John's account of the resurrection that proclaims the victory of Christ for us all.
The healing, strength and pardon of the Risen Lord be yours this day and always.*

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE “Jesus Christ is Risen Today” arr. Margaret V. Sandresky
“Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain” arr. Robert Buckley Farlee
“This Joyful Eastertide” arr. Paul Bouman
“Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!” arr. Brenda Portman

WORDS OF WELCOME

+ INVOCATION

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life. **Amen.**

+ GATHERING HYMN/ANTHEM (8:00 & 9:30) "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" ELW #365 stanzas 1,2,4
 (11:00) "Hallelujah Chorus" G.F. Handel (Church Choir & Guests)

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!
 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!
 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!
 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!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

+ AN EASTERTIDE THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Today, we proclaim the resurrection and give thanks for baptism. Baptism unites us with the risen Christ and nourishes our transformation.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the water, the mystery, and the life.

Holy God, you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from sin and death
and raised us with Jesus.

In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

Through these waters,
**each of us is called and gifted for ministry,
in the church and in the world.**

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.
Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.
Empower our witness to your resurrection.
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

Satisfy the world's need through your living water. **Amen.**

+ CANTICLE OF PRAISE “This is the Feast of Victory”

Assisting Minister: This is the Feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. 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. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and

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

Refrain

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

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

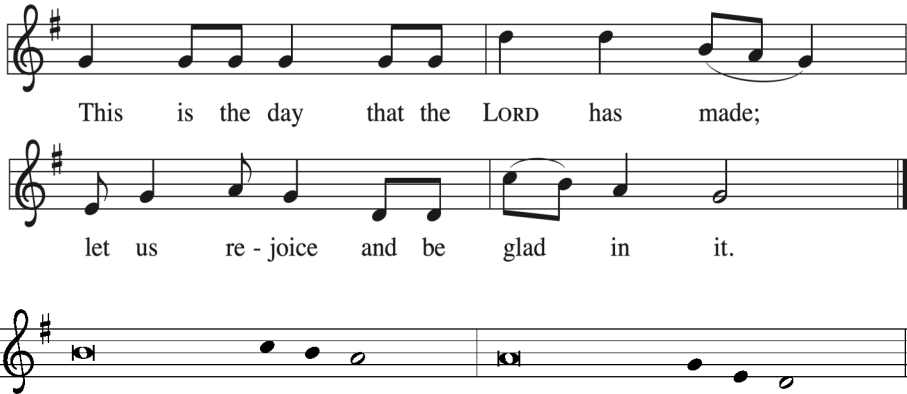
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

✠ WORD ✠

PSALM *PSALM 118:21-29*



The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text: "This is the day that the LORD has made;". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "let us rejoice and be glad in it.". The third staff is a continuation of the melody, starting with a whole rest followed by a half note G, then a quarter note A, and ending with a quarter note G.

²¹I give thanks to you, for you have | answered me
and you have become | my salvation.

²²**The stone that the build- | ers rejected
has become the chief | cornerstone.**

²³By 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. R**

²⁵Hosanna! | O LORD, save us!

We pray to you, LORD, pros- | per our days!

²⁶**Blessed is the one who comes in the name | of the LORD;
we bless you from the house | of the LORD.**

²⁷The LORD is God and has giv- | en us light.

Form a procession with branches up to the corners | of the altar.

²⁸**You are my God, and | I will thank you;
you are my God, and I | will exalt you.**

²⁹Give thanks to the LORD, | for the LORD is good;
God's mercy en- | dures forever. R

+ 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.

+ HOLY GOSPEL *JOHN 20:1-18*

The Gospel according to John, the 20th chapter.

Glorify 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 our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

+ HYMN OF THE DAY “Christ Is Alive, and Goes Before Us” VT 565

Refrain

Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and share what
love_ can do. This is the day of_ new be - gin-nings;
our God is mak - ing all things new,
our God is mak - ing all things new.

1. This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone. *Refrain*
2. For by the life and death of Jesus,
love's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference,
as faith and hope are born again. *Refrain*
3. Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to find. *Refrain*

+ NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

+ SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING



Guests

Generosity is part of who we are as God's people. Guests can use their QR code to give via Breeze, Bethel's trusted online giving platform. Select "Member Faith Giving" to give to the general budget. Members can use their QR code to sign into Breeze to give a one-time gift or to schedule an automated donation. Online giving cards (at the name tag stations), checks, or cash may be placed in the offering plates as they are passed.



Members

ANTHEM (8:00 & 9:30) *"The Morning Trumpet"* arr. Daniel Kallman

(11:00) *"Allelu, Alleluia"* Aaron David Miller

+ OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



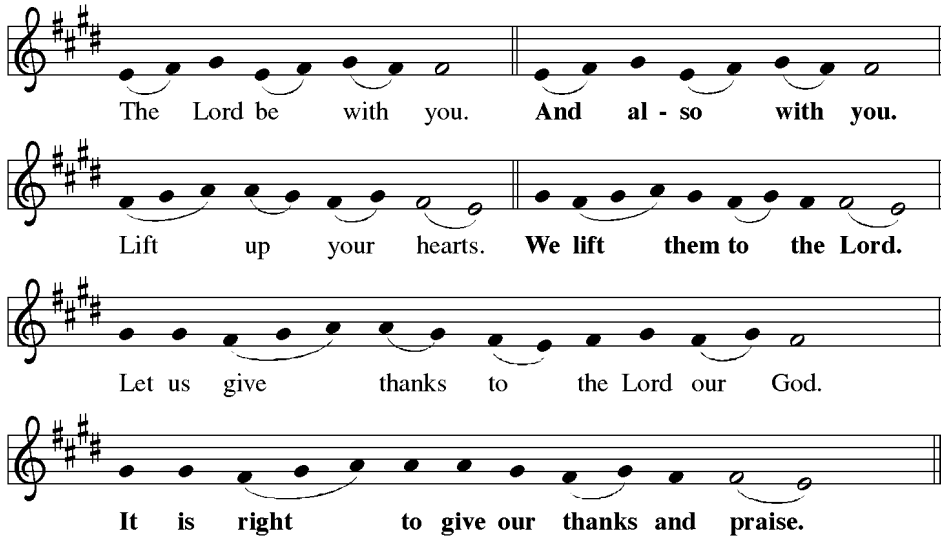
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

+ OFFERTORY 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 Christ's body and blood, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

✠ MEAL ✠

+ GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

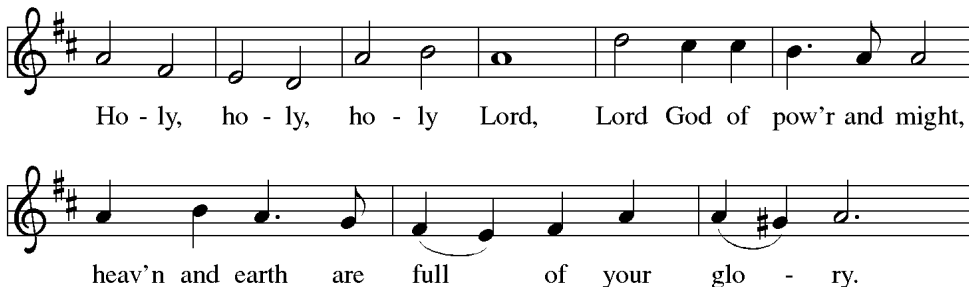
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

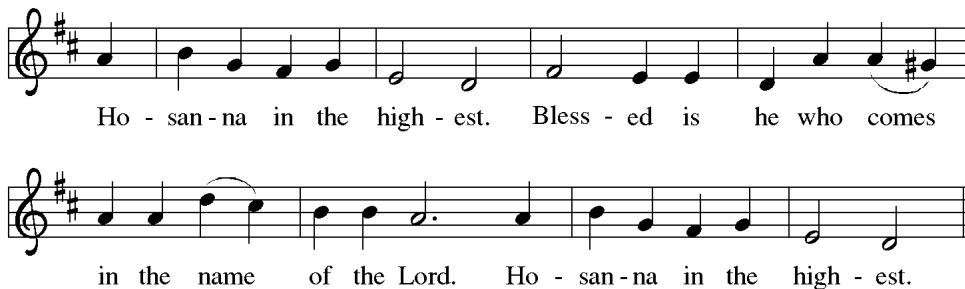
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

+ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

This is the day that in joy and delight we join with all the angels of heaven and all the creatures on earth to sing our praise and thanksgiving to you, all holy and mighty and glorious God. For Christ is risen: **Christ is risen in indeed!**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



This is the day that you gave light to the earth. This is the day that you saved the Israelites through the sea and with your pillar of fire led them to freedom.

Now every night is as bright as day, and that light is Christ: **Thanks be to God.**

This is the day that you broke the chains of death. This is the day that, marrying heaven to earth, you washed away sin, rescued us from evil, and brought us your peace.

The Lamb who was slain has begun to reign, for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed!**

The Words of Institution / Las Palabras de la Institución

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

On this day send us the power of your Holy Spirit.

Revive us with the body and blood of our risen Savior.

Illumine our lives with your presence, and shine your Morning Star over all humanity, for that light is Christ: **Thanks be to God.**

All holy and mighty and glorious God, radiant Father, victorious Son, and shining Spirit, we bless your salvation, we sing of your mercy, and we praise your victory through all time and space, for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed!**

Amen and amen: **Amen and amen.**

+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

+ EL PADRE NUESTRO

**Padre nuestro que estás en los cielos,
santificado sea tu nombre;
venga a nos tu reino;
hágase tu voluntad,
así en la tierra como en el cielo;
el pan nuestro de cada día, dánoslo hoy;
y perdónanos nuestras deudas
así como nosotros perdonamos
a nuestros deudores;**

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

y no nos dejes caer en la tentación;
mas libranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino,
el poder y la gloria,
por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.

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, grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION HYMNS "I Am the Bread of Life" ELW #485



1. "I am the Bread of life. You who
2. "The bread that I will give is my
3. "Un less you eat of the
4. "I am the res - ur - rec - tion,
5. Yes, Lord, I be - lieve that



come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
flesh for the life of the world, and if you
flesh of the Son of Man and
I am the life. If you be -
you are the Christ, the

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 eat_____ of this bread, you shall live for
 drink_____ of his blood, and drink_____ of his
 lieve_____ in_____ me, e - ven_ though you
 Son_____ of_____ God, who_____ have__

me un - less the___ Fa - ther beck - ons."
 ev - er, you shall live for - ev - er."
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
 die,_____ you shall live for - ev - er."
 come in - to_____ the___ world.____

Refrain

"And I will raise___ you up, and I will raise___ you up,
 and I will raise___ you up___ on the last___ day."

"Now the Green Blade Rises" ELW #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.

+ TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

+ POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.

Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

✠ SENDING ✠

+ BENEDICTION

May God who brought us from death to life fill you with great joy.
May Almighty God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
bless you and keep you, now and forever. **Amen.**

+ SENDING HYMN (8:00 & 9:30) *“Hallelujah Chorus”* G.F. Handel (*Church Choir & Guests*)
(11:00) *“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”* ELW #365 stanzas 1, 2, & 4 (on page 2)

+ DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE *“Toccata (from Symphony No. 5)”* Charles-Marie Widor

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Inger Hanson & Pastor Ben Schori

Acolytes: (8:00) (9:30) (11:00)

Assisting Ministers: (8:00) Joanna McLees (9:30) Anton Armstrong (11:00) Krista Middlebrooks

Ushers: (8:00)

(9:30)

(11:00)

Readers: (8:00) (9:30) Anton Armstrong (11:00)

Sacramental Ministers: (8:00)

(9:30)

11:00)

Altar Care Setup & Cleanup: (8:00) (9:30) (11:00)

Guest Pianist: (8:00) Ruth Hoekstra; (9:30) Ian Schleif

Church Choir Director: Peter Schleif

Trumpet: Gerry Hoekstra

Flute: Krista Middlebrooks

Vocal Duet: Krista Middlebrooks & Megan Engel

Keyboards: Megan Engel

A/V Technicians: Sam Dwyer, Asher Engle, Nathan Broughton, Nathan Hoekstra

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover: LeCompte, Rowan and Irene LeCompte. *Mary Magdalene in the garden with Jesus*,
(in the Resurrection Chapel of the Washington National Cathedral, Washington DC, USA)
from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN

The Eastertide Thanksgiving for Baptism is cobbled from Sundays and Seasons
and from the Mennonite Church's 2020 hymnal *Voices Together*

The Psalm refrain is by Bradley Ellingboe, from *ELW Psalter for Worship, Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.

"Christ Is Alive, and Goes Before Us" Text by Brian Wren, © 1983 Hope Publishing Co.,
Music by Lori True, © 2003 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Eucharistic prayer is modified from Gail Ramshaw's Easter Day Table Thanksgiving found in
Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks Eucharistic Prayers © 2017 Augsburg Fortress

Portions of the liturgy are reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship,
© 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license SB143519

Other liturgical aids are from Sundays and Seasons © 2024

Other music is used with permission
under OneLicense.net license #A703881 or CCLI license #2666099



1321 North Avenue, Northfield, MN 55057
www.bethelnorthfield.org | 507.786.6674

