



SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026



PEACE  
BE WITH YOU

John 20:26

### **Introduction**

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

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# GATHERING

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

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM & INVOCATION

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Leader: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism ... We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters, and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

**People: We praise you for the gift of new life in Christ. Alleluia!**

**Leader:** Pour out your Holy Spirit on the baptized, that we may find strength, comfort, and peace through being claimed as God's own in Christ Jesus.

**People: May new life in Christ, given freely to us in baptism, be a daily hope and desire as well as eternal promise and assurance! Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG

### **"ARISE SHINE"**

Music and lyrics Jamie Harvill, Rita Baloche  
© 1994 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Integrity's Praise! Music  
Administrators Integrity Music

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

Leader



In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly



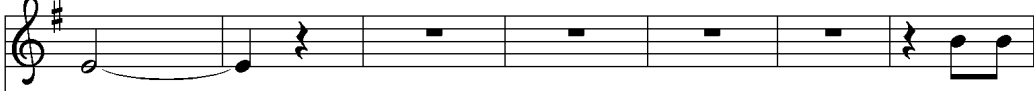
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have



For the reign of God, and for




mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.




Lord.

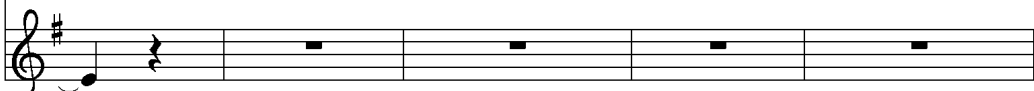
For your



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your



word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.

mer-cy. A-men.

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

**NOW THE FEAST (ELW #167)**

*Refrain*

Now the feast and cel-e-bra-tion, all of cre-a-tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo-ry for-ev-er-more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

freed and u-nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

*Refrain*

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

God; to make all things new.

Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, 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

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

### FIRST READING

**ACTS 2:14a, 22-32**

<sup>14a</sup> Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: <sup>22</sup> "Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know <sup>23</sup> this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. <sup>24</sup> But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. <sup>25</sup> For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; <sup>26</sup> therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. <sup>27</sup> For you will not abandon my soul to Hades or let your Holy One experience corruption. <sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' <sup>29</sup> "Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our

ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup> Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup> Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.' <sup>32</sup> "This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Congregation:*

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

*Optional Repeat*

### GOSPEL

**JOHN 20:19-31**

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

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### “WE ARE ALL WITNESSES”

PASTOR DAVE YOUNG

1. In John 20, the disciples are hiding behind locked doors, yet soon after (in Acts 2), Peter is boldly preaching in public. What changes them? Where do you see fear holding you back from being a witness, and what might help move you forward?
2. Peter says, “We are all witnesses” to the resurrection. What does it mean to be a witness to Christ today, especially if we haven’t physically seen Jesus like the disciples did?
3. Thomas struggles to believe without seeing, yet Jesus meets him in that doubt. How can our own doubts actually shape us into more honest and compassionate witnesses to others?
4. Peter tells the story of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection with clarity and conviction. If someone asked you why your faith matters, what part of your story or experience would you share as your “witness”?

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### “MORE LIKE JESUS”

Music and lyrics: Brett Younker, Brooke Ligertwood Et Al  
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Administrators Capitol CMG Publishing, Hillsong Publishing, LLC

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition will end with “Merciful God” and the response will be “**receive our prayer**”

## SHARING OF CHRIST’S PEACE

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

### MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

## OFFERING

*Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting the ongoing ministry of Bethel Lutheran Church! In-person gifts may be placed in the offering plates, mailed to Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church (2077 N. Frederick Pike, Winchester, VA 22603), given online at [www.bethelwinchester.com](http://www.bethelwinchester.com) or using the adjacent QR code.*



## MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

## AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT (ELW #465)



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,  
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when



may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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## OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## THE 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.**

## PREFACE

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!  
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 6/8 time signature. The lyrics are placed below the notes on each staff.

### JESUS WORDS ABOUT COMMUNION



## LORD'S PRAYER



Our God in heav-en, ho - ly is your name, your  
reign come, your will done, on earth as in heav-en  
Give us today our dai-ly bread, and help us forgive as we have been for - giv-en  
In the time of tri - al lead us in - to light, for yours is the  
king-dom, and the power, and the glo-ry, for - ev - er. Our  
God, in heav-en, ho-ly is your name, ho-ly is your name.

Words: Matthew 6:9-13; adapt by Mark A Miller and Laurie Zelman Music: Mark A Miller Adapt and music ©2008 Abingdon Press admin by the Copyright Company

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

### THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Welcome to the Lord's Table!

Everyone, regardless of age and denomination, is invited to join us for Holy Communion. If you prefer a blessing, simply inform the communion distributors. The ushers will direct your row when it is time to come forward.

You will receive the bread from the first Holy Communion distributor. You will pick up the cup of wine or juice from the tray held by the second distributor. For those who need gluten free a pre-packaged **gluten-free** wafer and a cup of **grape juice** is also available.

Once you have communed, you are invited to return to your seat for silent reflection or singing

## LAMB OF GOD



1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha - tred and fear;



have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Text: ICET; additional text by Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.  
Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

### “WONDERFUL GRACE”

Music and lyrics: John Pantry

© 1986 HarperCollins Religious Administrators Song Solutions

## AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND (ELW#779)



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5  
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

### COMMUNION BLESSING

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

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

### BENEDICTION

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**.



- 1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
- 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,
- 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
- 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave
- 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.  
 whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;  
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.  
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.  
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,  
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,  
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,  
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.  
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.  
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.  
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

## DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE



*Thank you for worshipping with us today.*

We hope every person felt welcomed here, especially our guests. We trust that our time together has filled you with a sense of joy and peace, and we invite you to return soon.

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