

WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

God's Family Serving Christ with Love

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3rd SUNDAY of EASTER

APRIL 14 & 18, 2021



Enter to Praise

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 3:12-19

After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer.

¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out." The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 4

The LORD does wonders for the faithful. (Ps. 4:3)

¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

²**"You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;
how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?"**

³Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; the LORD will hear me when I call.

⁴**Tremble, then, and do not sin; speak to your heart in silence up- on your bed.**

⁵Offer the appointed sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

⁶**Many are saying, "Who will show us any good?"**

Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.

⁷You have put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine abound.

⁸**In peace, I will lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.**

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-7

God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we

are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you.

Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Our hearts | burn within us* while you open to | us the scriptures.

Alleluia. (Luke 24:32)

GOSPEL: Luke 24:36b-49

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things." ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

NICENE CREED

Let us say together the words of the 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

Living God, in the midst of Easter joy we are still filled with questions and wondering. Open our hearts and minds as we encounter the scriptures, so that the church embodies repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to all nations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, like a master artist you have fashioned the universe out of your love and delight. Heal your creation where it is in need of restoration. Provide all the inhabitants of earth a peaceful and sustainable home. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all, the nations hunger and thirst for your righteousness. Many call on you for guidance and strength. Answer their hopes with the peace of Christ and give your lovingkindness to national, state, and local leaders of people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress. Grant to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and nurse them back to health and wholeness, especially for all those on our prayer list and in our hearts. Be close to the hearts of the lonely. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving Parent, you have given us such love that we should be called the children of God. Reveal yourself to us so that we in this community of faith will become more and more like you in our mutual love and bold witness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all times and ages, those who have died in you now see you as you are. We thank you for their lives among us, especially for all loved ones lost in the past year. Assure us of the peace you have promised, that we may join them in everlasting life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

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

OFFERING PRAYER

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Earth Day Clean Up after worship today, Sunday, April 18th
- We continue to need worship volunteers: ushering and reading
- Do you want to learn how to run the video equipment for Live streaming worship? Contact the office.
- Fashion Show here at church, May 1st. Looking for models for the clothes. Tickets available from the office, on our website and at Theresa's Boutique.
- Carla will be playing requested hymns during Communion. To request a hymn contact Carla or the office.

BLESSING

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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Depart to Share

Today's Worship Team

Wednesday 5:30pm, 4/14

Music: Carla

Usher: Geoff Gilbert

Sunday Morning Service 9am, 4/18

Music: Carla Gerhardt

Reader: Angela Pace

Usher: Travis Cox

Video Production: Brady & Lori Cox

Next Week's Worship Team

Wednesday 5:30pm, 4/21

Music: Carla

Usher: Geoff Gilbert

Sunday Morning Service 9am, 4/25

Music: Carla Gerhardt

Reader:

Usher:

Video Production:

**You can still tune
in at 9am
Worship to listen
from your car –
88.3 FM.**

Please Pray For

Church Prayer List:

Angie & Jim Buchholtz

Abby Leader & Family

Jeremy Schilling

Bonnie Bender

Lynn Grueneberg

Bob O'Halloran

Noretta Moran

Our Extended Family Prayer Concerns:

Wayne Ostertag

Holland Family

Julie Grueneberg (Lynn & Diane's daughter)

Brad Kohnke

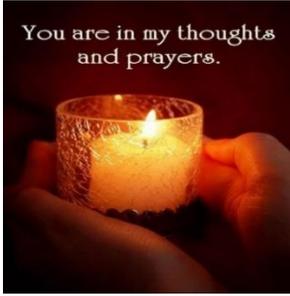
Deb Moe & family (Sandra Sween's cousin)

Randy VonRuden

Betty Hayes (Chad Hayes' grandma)

Steve Rohrbacher (Marie & Ed's son)

Lucca



Bill (Ann Ciske's father-in-law)
 Randy
 Tom Teslik (Mark Teslik's son)
 Rick Voight (Halley Harms' father)
 Shannon Henderson
 Dick & Rene' Johnson
 Patty McGee
 Natalie Pierce



Featuring fashions from
 Theresa's Boutique

When: Saturday, May 1st, 1:00 pm
Where: Bethlehem Lutheran Church
 W8267 Hwy 33 E, Portage, WI
Tickets: \$10 - purchase at church or online @
www.bethlehemlcportage.org



Models & Volunteers for Fashion Show

We are looking for young ladies and women to model clothes for the fashion show, as well as, people to help work behind the scenes: ticket takers, ushers, outfit assistants, host/reader.

Contact Ruth Price at 429-3191 or the church office to sign up or for more details.



Help Build Beds for Kids in Need - Public Build Day

April 17th, 9 am – 12 pm

Goal for the day is 20 bunks (40 beds)

Register on SHP Website or use this form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeda66mXshX8JmnNhh_jMlivoQ94ibDgKikdkjIEtVJtrXTHw/vjwform

Online Worship Update:

We will no longer be streaming the Wednesday evening worship service on YouTube. Please join us in person.

We will continue to do so Sunday mornings.

This Week:

Wednesday, April 14

10:30 am Tai Chi

5:30 pm In person Worship

6:30 pm Confirmation Grades 6th-8th

Resumes in person & online

Thursday, April 15

6:00 pm Council Meeting

Friday, April 16

CHIMES articles due

10:30 am Tai Chi

Sunday, April 18

9 am In person & Online Worship

10 am Earth Day Clean up

Monday, April 19

10:30 am Tai Chi

Tuesday, April 20

9 am Quilters

POP UP FOOD PANTRY

NO INCOME LIMITS

Thursday, April 29, 2021 from 4PM-6PM

Located in the Parking Lot of the

Wyocena Community Center

Corner of E. Dodge St. and Hwy 22

ANYONE IN NEED OF FOOD IS WELCOME

Sponsored by the Salvation Army

Distributed by the Helping Hands Food Pantry

Delivered by Second Harvest Food Bank



EARTH DAY CLEAN UP

Sunday, April 18th 10 am

Rain date: April 25th



Hymn Requests

Carla will be playing requested hymns during Communion. To request a hymn contact Carla or the office.