

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Lori Bonkoski
Sunday, April 19, 2026

Music: Glenda McGaffee
Lay Reader: Ethan Rozeboom



WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS
SILENT PRAYER

***Please stand as you are able**

***GATHERING HYMN #377 "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!"**

1. Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light! Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Refrain

Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!

2. Walking the way, Christ in the center telling the story to open our eyes; breaking our bread, giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.

Refrain

Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!

3. Jesus the vine, we are the branches; life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree; heaven to earth, Christ to the people, gift of the future now flowing to me.

Refrain

Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!

4. Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent: death put asunder, and Easter is bright. Cherubim sing: O grave, be open! Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.

Refrain

Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!

5. City of God, Easter forever, golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb, river of life, saints and archangels, sing with creation to God the I AM!

Refrain

Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: We have come to worship in spirit and truth.

C: God lives! God is with us! Celebrate!

P: We have come to hear the story of Jesus and his love.

C: God lives! God is with us! Celebrate!

P: We have come to share in the activity of God in the word.

C: God is with us! Thanks be to God!

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: For times when we forget about you, O God.

C: Forgive us, Lord.

P: When we are tempted to think we are self-sufficient.

C: Forgive our sin, O Lord.

P: When we pull ourselves away from life and the ones we love.

C: Heal our brokenness, O God of life.

P: When we find all hope to be gone and the future very dark.

C: Restore us with your Spirit, Creator God, and put within us a new attitude that springs from your gift of eternal life.

P: In the name of Jesus, the Christ, I speak his Word to you: "I am the living bread from heaven--if you eat from me, you will never die. I am the water of life--if you drink from me you will never thirst again. I am the way, the truth and the life--if you come to me you will have life and have it abundantly".

C: These words of Jesus are for us and for all time. We are loved with an everlasting love. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus. Our sin is forgiven. Praise God!

HYMN OF PRAISE "This is the Day"

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made; we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ³⁶ "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" ³⁸ Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save

yourselves from this corrupt generation.”⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

R: The Word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God**

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

¹ I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,

² **for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.**

³ The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me; I came to grief and sorrow.

⁴ **Then I called upon the name of the LORD: “O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”**

¹² How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things God has done for me?

¹³ **I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.**

¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God’s people.

¹⁵ **Precious in your sight, O LORD, is the death of your servants.**

¹⁶ O LORD, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

¹⁷ **I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the LORD.**

¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God’s people,

¹⁹ **in the courts of the LORD’s house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: I Peter 1:17-23

¹⁷ If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person’s work, live in fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹ Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

²² Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

R: The Word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION, “Be Not Afraid”**

Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia! Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

***GOSPEL READING: Luke 24:13-35**

¹³ Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you

the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

P: This is, the Gospel of our Lord

C: Thanks be to God

MESSAGE – Pastor Lori

*** HYMN OF THE DAY TFF#98 "Open Our Eyes, Lord"**

Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus, to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him. Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen. Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

I have faith in God, in response to overwhelming love. I believe that God has created me and all that I have and has given me gifts beyond measure.

I have faith in Jesus, who emptied Himself out of His love for me. I believe that Christ died on a cross for my sin, conquered death and the power of evil, and was raised to life on that third day. His death is mine, His resurrection is mine, new life is mine because of Jesus' words and work.

I believe in the Holy Spirit in response to overwhelming love. I believe that the Holy Spirit is present here among us and lives within each person. The Spirit

continues to call people by the Gospel and creates and builds the church of Christ. Through the power of the Spirit,

I have power to stand in strength against all adversity.

I believe that Jesus has gone to prepare a place for me and will come again to take each of us to be with Him. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.

***PEACE**

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

***OFFERING**

***OFFERING SONG #82 "Oh, How He Loves You and Me"**

Oh, how he loves you and me. Oh, how he loves you and me; he gave his life, what more could he give? Oh, how he loves you; oh, how he loves me; oh, how he loves you and me!

***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.**

***THE VICTORY FEAST**

P: We declare ourselves to be Easter people.

C: We have come to share in the table that Jesus has promised us.

P: He took the bad news of sin and guilt and changed it to good news through his dying and rising for us.

C: We are here to celebrate that Good News and the presence of Christ with us!

***Easter Season Eucharist Prayer (sung to the tune of ELW#379)**

Holy, Holy, Holy, God of power and might, Your glory fills all heav'n and earth with light. Blest is the One who comes now in your name, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: And he took the bread, blessed it, and broke it. He said to his disciples:

C: "Take, eat; this is my body."

P: Also, he took the cup of wine. After saying thanks, he gave it to them saying:

C: "Drink of it, all of you for this is my blood of the new covenant. It is poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Do this to remember me."

P: We thank you, Lord God, for these elements given in love for us. Accept us, forgive us, and heal us, that we might be faithful to you.

***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 THE LORD'S TABLE

P: This is the Victory Feast of God.

C: This is the feast of the Lamb of God, who was sacrificed for all sin, for my sin.

P: We praise Christ, whose blood was shed, and whose body was broken.

C: We share a heavenly food as we now come to his table.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

***BLESSING**

P: May Christ's body and blood strengthen your faith for life and service. Go now in peace and joy, celebrating the blessings of this Victory Feast!

C: Amen!

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

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.**

***SONG OF THANKSGIVING #885 "Praise God, From Whom all Blessings Flow"**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

***BENEDICTION:**

P: Go in peace, You are the forgiven people of God.

C: We will celebrate forgiveness in every tomorrow. We will celebrate forgiveness in the week ahead through acts of kindness, times of listening, and deeds of generosity.

P: Go in peace. You are the forgiven people of God.

C: We have heard the Good News. We will share the Good News.

P: The Lord be with you. Go and serve in Jesus's name.

C: Amen!

***CLOSING HYMN #462 "Now We Join in Celebration"**

1. Now we join in celebration at our Savior's invitation, dressed no more in spirit somber, clothed instead in joy and wonder; for the Lord of all existence, putting off divine transcendence, stoops again in love to meet us, with his very life to feed us.

2. Lord, as round this feast we gather, fill our hearts with holy rapture! For this bread and cup of blessing are for us the sure possessing of your loving deed on Calv'ry, of your living self, our vict'ry, pledge of your unfailing presence, foretaste here of heav'nly gladness.
3. Lord, we share in this communion as one fam'ly of God's children, reconciled through you, our brother, one in you with God our Father. Give us grace to live for others, serving all, both friends and strangers, seeking justice, love, and mercy till you come in final glory.

Prayer Concerns: Doug McGuire, Peggy Goettsch, Doug Chapman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We extend our **sympathy** to Larry Warner and his family as they mourn the passing of his 101-year-old mother, Arlene. A service was held on Saturday in Bentonville, AK.

The beginning of May is National Nursing Home week and we would like to do something special for the employees and residents at Tuff Home. We hope to provide cake or cupcakes for the employees and small gift bags for the residents. We are seeking donations of the following things: socks, hard candy, lip balm, nail polish, body spray, lotion, brush, pen and large print word search books. Please consider donating to this cause to brighten up the lives of the residents of Tuff Home for Nursing Home Week. Donations may be left in the narthex.

There are multiple areas where **volunteers are needed** to assist in worship and help maintain the church property. These include **ushers, communion helpers, lay readers, power point operators, and mowers**. Please sign up on the appropriate sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Generations Senior Meal Site is looking for volunteers to assist with serving their scheduled noon meals. If you enjoy visiting with people and serving others, consider becoming a volunteer. There are needs for dishwasher and dining room volunteers...on a regular and/or intermittent basis. Please call Pam at Generations: 507-283-9846 to volunteer or for additional information! Volunteer schedules allow people to select the days they can serve!

Tuff Home Country Store is seeking donations of various items. A collection box can be found in the narthex. Requested items include: lip balm, lipstick, nail polish, body sprays, hair detangler/brush, socks, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hard candies, lotion, large print word searches, and seasonal room decorations.

Shetek camp brochures available in the narthex.