

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH



PASTOR CALVIN KONOP, PRESIDING
JESSICA CHRISTENSON, CYF DIRECTOR
KARINA ROTH, MUSICAL DIRECTOR
April 19, 2026 - 10:00 AM

Introduction

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

Prelude

Karina Roth

Welcome & Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

*Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb! **Amen.***

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us the Cross, the Baptism, the Temperance, the Cascade, the Devil Track, the Brule, the Pigeon and Lake Superior. Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.***

*Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.***

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you. You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever. Amen.

Gathering Song **Alleluia! Jesus is Risen** **ELW 377**

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 **ELW page 147**

Canticle of Praise **This is the Feast** **ELW page 148**

Prayer of the Day

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Time

On the way up the aisles, the children will be collecting "Noisy Change" for the "Holy Cow" fund, which will support ELCA World Hunger.

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.

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

Psalm

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

1 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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

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

Gospel

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.

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Calvin Konop

Hymn of the Day

ACS 1024

Here in Jesus Christ I Will Stand

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation. (A brief silence.)

*Living Savior, just as you journeyed with the disciples to Emmaus, accompany us on our journey of faith. Gather us at your table, that we recognize you in the breaking of the bread. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.***

*Almighty God, you provide for the needs of all creation. Bless the fields that are being prepared for planting, and send favorable weather so that the soil may yield an abundant harvest. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.***

*God of justice, where leaders abuse power, confront them and call them to repentance. Where there is corruption, bring integrity; where there is violence, sow peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.***

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

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

All are welcome!

*Bethlehem Lutheran Church believes in the real presence of Christ in Holy Communion, and we practice eucharistic hospitality. **All persons**, whether visiting or a member, are welcomed to Communion. (Offered in these sacraments are wine or apple juice; and regular or gluten-free wafers.)*

Communion Music

Lamb of God

ELW page 154

We Come to the Hungry Feast

ELW 479

Post Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in grace unto everlasting life. Amen.

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.

Blessing

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.

Sending Hymn

This Joyful Eastertide

ELW 391

Dismissal

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

Postlude



Karina Roth



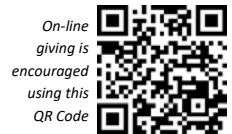
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This Week at Bethlehem:

Sun Apr 19	8:40 AM	Choir practice
	10:00 AM	Worship Service & Sunday School
	2:00 PM	Worship at Care Center
Mon Apr 20	3:30 PM	Girl Scouts
	6:30 PM	Church Council
Tues Apr 21	8:30 AM	Galatians Study
	5:30 PM	Girl Scouts
	6:30 PM	Worship planning
Wed Apr 22	12:30 PM	Text Study
	5:30 PM	Community Meal
	6:00 PM	Worship
	6:30 PM	Confirmation
	6:30 PM	Galatians Study
Thurs Apr 23	8:00 AM	Bible Study
	9:00 AM	Quilting
Sat. Apr 25	9-2	Free Laundry Day
Sun Apr 26	8:40 AM	Choir practice
	10:00 AM	Worship Service & Sunday School

We pray for healing for these members & friends: Christian Curtis, Peggy Peterson; Kamryn Johnson, Bruce & Stacey Johnson, Joan Bieber, Linda Zenk, Clayton & Nancy Koss, Lois Johnson, Phyllis Olson, Butch & Rhonda Schulte, Luke Gulstrand, Sarah Coe, Lynn Schulte, Paulina Backstrom, Shae Lindholm, Char Anderson, Stacey Schulte, Hank Ferland, Margaret Dahl, Katrina Crouse, Karen Shannon, Tom Christiansen

This week we lift up these members: Carol Berglund; Drew Heinonen, Lisa Tracy, Naomi, Anders & Sylvan; Gwen & Bill Lenz; Nathan, Lynn, Natasha, Levi, Lucas & Landon Sheils; Doug & Kathy Finn; May God walk with these faithful friends in their Easter journey.

Bethlehem's Mission of the Month for April will be a Free Laundry Day for any of our neighbors who would appreciate a little help making ends meet. We are asking for cash donations that can be turned into quarters for the machines. You can also bring rolls of quarters to the church office. Our event will be held at Squig's laundry, just above the courthouse at 5th Ave and 3rd Street, on **Saturday, April 25th, 9am to 2pm**. We will have morning coffee and donuts, lunch sandwiches, and snacks. Last year's event was a great time for getting to know locals we had not met, and inviting folks to "come and see" what's happening at Bethlehem. We are hoping for an even bigger turnout this year. Who knew laundry day could be so much fun? **Member Challenge:** This is a fun activity to participate in! Plan on being there to support your community. Feel free to wear your "God's Work. Our Hands. T-shirts to the event.

NEMN Synod Assembly will be held April 24-26. Pastor Calvin & Ashley Konop and Sue Hennessy will represent Bethlehem at the gathering. A new bishop will be voted in during this gathering. Pastor Anne Swallow Gillis will be our guest preacher on the 26th.

May newsletter deadline: Please submit your articles by Wednesday April 22.

Galatians Study is held on Tuesdays at 8:30am or Wednesdays at 6:30pm. Please join us.

Senior Quilt Day: April 30, 2026—lunch with the Quilters and pick out their quilt. On May 10: Senior blessings and quilts during worship

"Super Hero Training" Vacation Bible School will be **July 13-17, 2026**. 9 am to noon for K-5th grade students. \$15/student. Scholarships available. More to come.