

Easter Sunday

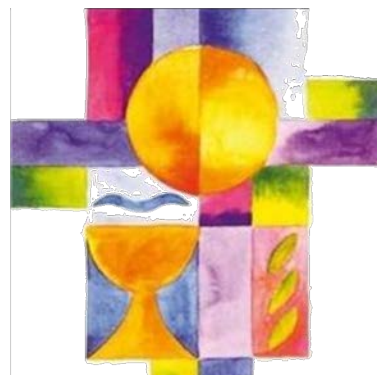
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Pastor Calvin Konop, Presiding
Jessica Christenson, CYF Director

Karina Roth, Musical Director

April 5, 2026 – 10:00 AM

Belonging to Christ, Sharing Christ on the North Shore and Beyond!



Introduction

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, “God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34): Christ’s resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God’s faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God’s endless love.

Prelude

Karina Roth, Organ

Welcome to Worship

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

Announcements

(No Sunday School today)

Gathering Hymn

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today



ELW 365

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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. 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.**

The Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

ELW 385

(Verses 1 & 2)

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.**

Children's Time

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

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.)

First Reading:

Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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

Psalm

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever.

²Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

¹⁵Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,

but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰"This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter."

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

²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

²³By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Second Reading:

Colossians 3:1-4

¹If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, 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, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel:

Matthew 28: 1-10

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

¹ After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

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

Sermon

Pastor Calvin Konop

Hymn of the Day

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

ELW 367

Congregation sings verses: 1 & 4

High Voices: Verse 2

Low Voices: Verse 3

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 God's People

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.*

Risen Savior, you have conquered death and opened the gates of everlasting life. Dispel our doubts and fears and renew our faith and hope in you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Life-giving God, the created world rejoices in Christ's victory over death. May all the earth be renewed by the light of Jesus' resurrection, and may we be faithful stewards of all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sovereign God, let the nations acknowledge your reign of justice and truth. Where violence, oppression, and corruption hold sway, pour out your holy and life-giving Spirit to transform and redeem. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Gentle Shepherd, like the women at the empty tomb, many grieve or feel lost and afraid. Draw near to those who are ill or in pain. *We pray especially for John, Phyllis, Joan, Linda, Luke, Sarah, Bruce, Lynn, and Katrina.* We pray now for those we name aloud, or in the silence of our hearts. *(A time of silence).* We pray for all those dealing with issues of mental health or addiction. Reveal yourself to them as the Risen One. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Faithful God, we thank you for the living hope you give us through Christ's resurrection. Bless this community, that we may boldly proclaim Christ's victory over death in word and deed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Eternal One, we give thanks for all who have died and now share in the joy of your resurrection. Bring us, with them, to the unending feast of your victory. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

OFFERING

"Shout On" arr. by Alice Parker

Bethlehem Choir

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.**

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

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COMMUNION MUSIC:

*Lamb of God
Thine is the Glory*

ELW page 112

ELW 376

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:

Jesus Shall Reign

ELW 434

Congregation to sing verses 1. 2. 3. 5

Only Choir to sing verse 4

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Karina Roth

 He is
RISEN Alleluia!

Thank you to Bruce & Cheryl Johnson for providing the most delicious Caramel Rolls for today's brunch. Thank you to **Gwen Lenz, Kris Hedstrom & Hospitality Team #4** for serving today. Thank you to **Jess Christenson** for providing the Easter Egg Hunt and Activities between services.

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

This week we lift up these members: Janet Elmquist; Patti Beyer; John & Cindy Muus; Brad, Brooke, J, Ryan & Katie Shannon; and Jens, Mindy, Chance, Kysen & Finnley Jacobsen. May God walk with these faithful friends in their Easter journey. May God walk with these faithful friends in their Easter pilgrimage.

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. 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.

Easter Monday is an ELCA holiday. The office will be closed April 6th.

Pastor Calvin will be on vacation next week. He will return to the office on Monday April 13. Rev. Rolf Morck will be preside over our worship next Sunday. Blessings to Pastor Calvin for a wonderful vacation with his dad.

Rare Concert at Bethlehem on April 11, 2026 at 7:00 pm. The **Valencia Baryton Project**, an internationally touring classical trio devoted to reviving one of music history's most fascinating and seldom-heard instruments—the baryton. With 16 strings (six bowed on the front and ten plucked on the back like a harp), Tickets are sliding scale, K–12 students attend for free, and all proceeds go toward covering the costs of the concert. Tickets at: <https://nsma.simpletix.com> Don't miss this one-of-a-kind classical experience in Grand Marais.

Galatians Study begins week of 4/12. Choose Tuesdays at 8:30am or Wednesdays at 6:30pm. Sign up in Narthex

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.

