

EASTER iv—Good Shepherd Sunday (April 21)

AS WE GATHER: The Easter Season finds us, gathered together by the Spirit's work, in the mystery of the presence of the Risen Christ. Gathered to God in Christ, we are here empowered to share what we have received: forgiveness, peace and hope to all He gathers to us and thus gathers to Himself.

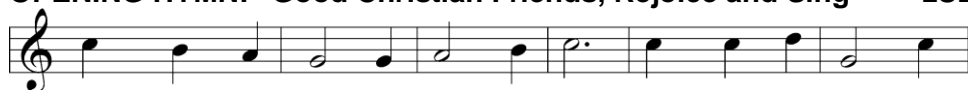
PRELUDE: "The Solid Rock" Jubilate Bell Choir
~Arr. Hart Morris

EASTER ACCLAMATION:

L: Christ is Risen!
P: He is Risen Indeed!
L: He knows His own; and His own know Him.
P: Alleluia!

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing" LSB 475



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joyce and sing! Now is the tri-umph
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; Bring flow'rs of song to
3 Praise we in songs of vic-to-ry That love, that life which
4 Your name we bless, O ris-en Lord, And sing to-day with



of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
strew His way; Let all the world re-joyce and say:
can-not die, And sing with hearts up-lift-ed high:
one ac-cord The life laid down, the life re-stored:



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

L: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of Jesus in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together, as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace of the sake of Christ and saying: God, be merciful to me a sinner.

P: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

L: Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declare us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit.

P: Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: "Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder"

Verse 1

Let us love and sing and wonder
Let us praise the Savior's name
He has hushed the law's loud thunder
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame
He has washed us with His blood (*repeat twice*)
He has brought us nigh to God

Verse 2

Let us love the Lord who bought us
Pitied us when enemies
Called us by His grace and taught us
Gave us ears and gave us eyes
He has washed us with His blood (*repeat twice*)
He presents our souls to God

Verse 3

Let us sing though fierce temptation
Threatens hard to bear us down
For the Lord our strong salvation
Holds in view the conqueror's crown
He who washed us with His blood (*repeat twice*)
Soon will bring us home to God

Verse 4

Let us wonder grace and justice
Join and point to mercy's store
When through grace in Christ our trust is
Justice smiles and asks no more
He who washed us with His blood
He who washed us with His blood
He who washed us with His blood
Has secured our way to God

Verse 5

Let us praise and join the chorus
Of the saints enthroned on high
Here they trusted Him before us
Now their praises fill the sky
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood
Thou art worthy Lamb of God

FIRST READING: Acts 4:1-12

Some priests, the officer in charge of the temple guards, and some Sadducees approached Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. These religious authorities were greatly annoyed. Peter and John were teaching the people and spreading the message that the dead will come back to life through Jesus. So the temple guards arrested them. Since it was already evening, they put Peter and John in jail until the next day.

But many of those who had heard the message became believers, so the number of men who believed grew to about 5,000.

The next day the Jewish rulers, the leaders, and the experts in Moses' Teachings met in Jerusalem. The chief priest Annas, Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and the rest of the chief priest's family were present. They made Peter and John stand in front of them and then asked, "By what power or in whose name did you do this?"

Then Peter, because he was filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and leaders of the people, today you are cross-examining us about the good we did for a crippled man. You want to know how he was made well. You and all the people of Israel must understand that this man stands in your presence with a healthy body because of the power of Jesus Christ from Nazareth. You crucified Jesus Christ, but God has brought Him back to life. He is the stone that the builders rejected, the stone that has become the cornerstone. No one else can save us. Indeed, we can be saved only by the power of the one named Jesus and not by any other person."-GW®

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" Troubadour Choir 8:00 am
~Kathleen Thomerson

"Praise the Lord" Trinity Choir 9:30 am
~Mark Patterson

SECOND READING: I John 3:16-24

We understand what love is when we realize that Christ gave His life for us. That means we must give our lives for other believers. Now, suppose a person has enough to live on and notices another believer in need. How can God's love be in that person if He doesn't bother to help the other believer? Dear children, we must show love through actions that are sincere, not through empty words.

This is how we will know that we belong to the truth and how we will be reassured in His presence. Whenever our conscience condemns us, we will be reassured that God is greater than our conscience and knows everything. Dear friends, if our conscience doesn't condemn us, we can boldly look to God and receive from Him anything we ask. We receive it because we obey His commandments and do what pleases Him. This is His commandment: to believe in His Son, the one named Jesus Christ, and to love each other as He commanded us. Those who obey Christ's commandments live in God, and God lives in them. We know that He lives in us because He has given us the Spirit. -GW®

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. A hired hand isn't a shepherd and doesn't own the sheep. When he sees a wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and quickly runs away. So the wolf drags the sheep away and scatters the flock. The hired hand is concerned about what he's going to get paid and not about the sheep.

"I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep as the Father knows me. My sheep know me as I know the Father. So I give my life for my sheep. I also have other sheep that are not from this pen. I must lead them. They, too, will respond to my voice. So they will be one flock with one shepherd. The Father loves me because I give my life in order to take it back again. No one takes my life from me. I give my life of my own free will. I have the authority to give my life, and I have the authority to take my life back again. This is what my Father ordered me to do."-GW®

SERMON HYMN: "At the Lamb's High Feast"

LSB 633



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal
6 Now no more can death ap - pall, Now no
7 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy! This a -



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love
more the grave en - thrall; You have o - pened par - a - dise,
lone can sin de - stroy; From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!
And Your saints in You shall rise. Al - le - lu - ia!
New - born souls in You to be. Al - le - lu - ia!

MESSAGE: "Gathered to Know"

SONG OF THE DAY: "Who You Say I Am"

Verse 1

Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me
Oh His love for me

Chorus 1

Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

Verse 2

Free at last
He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me

Chorus 2

In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

Bridge

I am chosen not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me not against me
I am who You say I am

Tag

(Oh) (Yes) I am who You say I am

CONFESSION OF FAITH:

APOSTLES' CREED: (** catholic means the universal Christian Church*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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.

OFFERING: *The Offering Box is located in the center aisle. If you so desire, Text Giving is now available by texting GIVE to 562-210-0463. For On-line Giving information, contact Maraley at mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

CONSECRATION OF GIFTS:

L: Eternal is the gift He brings, May these our gifts bring hearts to sing:

P: **Christ has triumphed! He is living! Alleluia!**

PRAYER OF THANKS:

L: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever,

P: **Amen.**

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.

+ Service of the Sacrament +

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Bethany/Holy Cross in the joyful confession that our Lord gives us His very Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins in this sacrament. God intends this gift for His children who recognize their sin, trust in Christ as their Savior, desire to live for Him alone and join in this joyful confession.

To prepare for communion you can find prayer prompts on the front page of the burgundy hymnal. Or simply pray: "Dear Lord Jesus, at Your gracious invitation, You invite me to come to You; to eat and drink Your holy body and blood as You Yourself have promised to give in this sacred meal. Forgive me of my sin, through this Your meal of Forgiveness. Let me experience the fullness of Your love, through this Your meal of love. Strengthen my faith, through this meal of Yours that calls for and bestows faith. Empower me to live for You, through this Your meal that promises life everlasting and equips me for daily living as one who has received You and Your gifts. Amen."

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*For those communing, who so desire, the center cups in each tray are **alcohol free**. The wafers on the stand next to the pillar pulpit side (when kneeling for communion) or on the stand in front of the baptismal font (when processing for communion) are **gluten free**.*

In our 9:30 a.m. service we will practice the Easter tradition of continuous communion. We will not kneel at the altar, rather we will join the procession of saints and come forward and remain standing as we receive the bread and wine. After receiving the elements, you are invited to return to your seat and continue in meditation, prayer and song.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" LSB 700



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
 2 Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us
 4 Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us Thy
 ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; Let us all in
 all Thy life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re -
 spot - less let us be; Let us see Thy



hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 Thee in - her - it; Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.
 turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.
 great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee,



Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in



bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
 and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
 as Thy hosts a - bove, Pray and praise Thee
 heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our



Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

“Jesus Paid it All”

Verse 1

And I hear the Savior say
Thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness watch and pray
Find in Me thine all in all

Chorus 1

'Cause Jesus paid it all
All to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow

Interlude

(It's washed away)
(All my sin and all my shame)

Verse 2

Lord now indeed I find
Thy pow'r and Thine alone
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone

Verse 3

And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete
Jesus died my soul to save
My lips shall still repeat

Interlude

Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow
He washed it white as snow
He washed it white as snow

Chorus 2

Oh praise the One Who paid my debt
And raised this life up from the dead

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION:

L: Now the God of peace Himself keep you blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it! Go in peace.

CLOSING HYMN: "Almighty Father, Bless the Word" LSB 923



1 Al - might - y Fa - ther, bless the Word Which through Your
2 We praise You for the means of grace As home - ward
△ 3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all



grace we now have heard. Oh, may the pre - cious
now our steps we trace. Grant, Lord, that we who
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye



seed take root, Spring up, and bear a - bun - dant fruit!
wor - shiped here May all at last in heav'n ap - pear.
heav'n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

POSTLUDE:

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"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing" LSB 475

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872-1955, alt.

Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570-1615; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941.

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"Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder"

CCLI Song # 5834479

John Newton | Laura Taylor

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"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" LSB 633

Text: Latin, c. 5th-10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814-68, alt.

Tune: *Kirchengeseng*, Ivancice, 1566; setting: Jan O. Bender, 1909-94

Text and tune: Public domain.

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"Who You Say I Am"
CCLI Song # 7102401
Ben Fielding | Reuben Morgan
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"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" LSB 700
Text: Charles Wesley.
Tune: Rowland H. Prichard; setting: *Service Book and Hymnal*, 1958.
Text and music: Public domain

"Jesus Paid it All"
CCLI Song #4689508
Alex Nifong| Elvina M. Hall | John Thomas Grape
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"Almighty Father, Bless the Word" LSB 923
Text: *Church Poetry*, Philadelphia, 1823, sts. 1-2, alt.; Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, st. 3.
Tune: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois
Setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941
Text and music: Public domain.

SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Acolyte 9:30...Audrey Kienitz
Lector 8:00...Katie Musick
Preacher... Pastor Kevin Kritzer
Director of Music...Noah Freeman
Artist in Residence...Blake Flattley

Crucifer 9:30...
Lector 9:30...Vance Frederick
Liturgist...Pastor Kyle Blake
Accompanist...Kevin Bowers
Children's Message...Brian Ho

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Today's Flowers are given to the glory of God



by Joyce Kuroiwa:

~In Loving Memory of Bert Kuroiwa~

by Jane Pearson:

~In Loving Memory of Dottie Stratman~



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If You're a Visitor, WELCOME! We are so glad you have joined us for worship today. If you would like more information about Bethany and its ministries, please scan the QR code to the right. You will be directed to Bethany's fillable information form:



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Please visit our websites to find out more about our Church, School and Preschool. Get weekly updates by signing up for the Bethany Bullet—our weekly capsule of worship highlights and campus-wide information.

Bethany Lutheran Church and its Ministries are found at: www.bethanylutheran.org

Bethany Lutheran School information can be found by visiting their website at: www.bethanylutheran.org/school/

Bethany Preschool's website: www.bethanylutheran.org/preschool/

To sign up for the weekly Bethany Bullet: <https://bit.ly/BethanyBulletSignUp>

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DONATE TO BETHANY’S FLOWER FUND!

Flowers are used to decorate the altar every Sunday, for special seasons such as Christmas and Easter, as well as other important dates during the church calendar. You are able to make two types of donations to the Altar Flower Fund: a general donation and a special request with recognition.



- **A SPECIAL REQUEST WITH RECOGNITION*** is a special type of Altar Flower donation. This request will be printed in the bulletin. For example, it could be given in memory of a person who has gone before us, for a wedding anniversary, baptismal birthday or a birthday celebration, etc. **This recognition has a suggested donation of \$75.**
- **A GENERAL DONATION TO THE ALTAR FLOWER FUND** enables Bethany to have flowers in worship and for our shut-in and hospitalized members to receive flowers from our flower ministry team, even when no one has ordered flowers for specific purposes on Sunday. **This General Donation is for any amount you wish to give.**

*If you are making a **Special Request with Recognition**, please use this form to let us know of your donation **for a specific Sunday date** and what the significance of that donation is. **IMPORTANT:** Please complete this form at least **2 weeks prior** to that date, so that information regarding your donation can be printed in the Sunday bulletin for the date requested.

Sign up to donate to Bethany’s Altar Flower Fund, please use this URL:

<https://bit.ly/BLCAltarFlowers>



Or scan Bethany’s Flower Fund QR code to the right: