

EASTER vii—May 12, 2024, Mother's Day

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

EASTER ACCLAMATION:

L: Christ is Risen

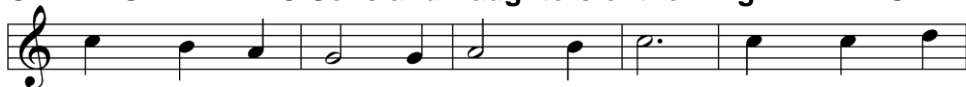
P: **He is Risen, Indeed!**

L: He has given us His Word, His Word is Truth

P: **Alleluia!**

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: "O Sons and Daughters of the King" LSB 470



1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King, Whom heav'n - ly
2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day, The faith - ful
3 An an - gel clad in white they see, Who sits and
4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear; A - mong them
8 How blest are they who have not seen And yet whose



hosts in glo - ry sing, To - day the grave has lost its sting!
wom - en went their way To seek the tomb where Je - sus lay.
speaks un - to the three, "Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee."
came their mas - ter dear And said, "My peace be with you here."
faith has con - stant been, For they e - ter - nal life shall win.



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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

L: Gathered together as His people, let us take refuge in the mercy of the Risen Christ and confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Holy and gracious God:

P I confess that I have sinned against you. Some of my sin I know – the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed – but some are known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me, that I may be at peace.

L: By the mercy of God we have been gathered to Him in Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven and by His Spirit we are raised up to lives of service in the name of our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: “His Mercy is More”

Verse 1

What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient all knowing He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Verse 2

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Verse 3

What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Chorus

Praise the Lord His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness new every morn
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-26

In my first book, Theophilus, I wrote about what Jesus began to do and teach. This included everything from the beginning of His life until the day He was taken to heaven. Before He was taken to heaven, He gave instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles, whom He had chosen.

After His death Jesus showed the apostles a lot of convincing evidence that He was alive. For 40 days He appeared to them and talked with them about God's kingdom.

Once, while He was meeting with them, He ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for what the Father had promised. Jesus said to them, "I've told you what the Father promises: John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when the apostles came together, they asked Him, "Lord, is this the time when You're going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

Jesus told them, "You don't need to know about times or periods that the Father has determined by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you. Then you will be my witnesses to testify about me in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After He had said this, He was taken to heaven. A cloud hid Him so that they could no longer see Him.

They were staring into the sky as He departed. Suddenly, two men in white clothes stood near them. They asked, "Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking at the sky? Jesus, who was taken from you to heaven, will come back in the same way that you saw Him go to heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain called the Mount of Olives. It is near Jerusalem, about half a mile away.

When they came into the city, Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon the Zealot, and Judas (son of James) went to the second-story room where they were staying.

The apostles had a single purpose as they devoted themselves to prayer. They were joined by some women, including Mary (the mother of Jesus), and they were joined by His brothers.

At a time when about 120 disciples had gathered together, Peter got up and spoke to them.

He said, "Brothers, what the Holy Spirit predicted through David in Scripture about Judas had to come true. Judas led the men to arrest Jesus. He had been one of us and had been given an active role in this ministry. With the money he received from the wrong he had done, he bought a piece of land where he fell headfirst to his death. His body split open, and all his internal organs came out. Everyone living in Jerusalem knows about this. They even call that piece of land *Akeldama*, which means 'Field of Blood' in their dialect. You've read in Psalms, 'Let his home be deserted, and let no one live there,' and 'Let someone else take his position.'

SERMON HYMN: "Christ the Eternal Lord" LSB 829



1 Christ the e - ter - nal Lord, Whose prom - ise here we claim,
2 Christ the un - chang - ing Word To ev - 'ry pass - ing age,
3 Christ the re - deem - ing Son, Who shares our hu - man birth,
4 Christ the un - fad - ing Light Of ev - er - last - ing day,
5 Christ the as - cend - ed King Ex - alt - ed high a - bove,



Whose gifts of grace are free-ly poured On all who name Your name;
Whose time-less teach-ings still are heard Set forth on Scrip-ture's page;
And by His death sal - va - tion won For ev - 'ry child of earth;
Our Morn-ing Star in splen-dor bright, The Life, the Truth, the Way;
Whose praise un - end - ing a - ges sing, Whom yet un - seen we love;



With thank - ful - ness and praise We stand be - fore Your throne,
Trans - form our thought and mind, En - light - en all who read,
In - spire our hearts, we pray, To tell Your love a - broad,
That light of truth You give To ser - vants as to friends,
When mor - tal life is past Your voice from heav-en's throne



In - tent to serve You all our days And make Your glo - ry known.
With - in Your Word by faith to find The bread of life in - deed.
That all may hon - or Christ to - day And fol - low Him as Lord.
Your way to walk, Your life to live, Till earth's brief jour-ney ends.
Shall call Your chil - dren home at last To know as we are known.

MESSAGE: "Gathered to Echo"

SONG OF THE DAY: "Is He Worthy"

Verse 1

Do you feel the world is broken, We do
Do you feel the shadows deepen, We do
But do you know that all the dark
Won't stop the light from getting through, We do
Do you wish that you could see it all made new, We do

Verse 2

Is all creation groaning, It is
Is a new creation coming, It is
Is the glory of the Lord
To be the light within our midst, It is
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this, It is

Chorus 1

Is anyone worthy, Is anyone whole
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave, He is David's Root
And the Lamb who died to ransom the slave
Is He worthy, Is He worthy
Of all blessing and honor and glory
Is He worthy of this, He is

Verse 3

Does the Father truly love us, He does
Does the Spirit move among us, He does
And does Jesus our Messiah
Hold forever those He loves, He does
Does our God intend to dwell again with us, He does

Chorus 2

Is anyone worthy, Is anyone whole
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave, He is David's Root
And the Lamb who died to ransom the slave
From ev'ry people and tribe every nation and tongue
He has made us a kingdom and priests
To God to reign with the Son, Is He worthy
Is He worthy, Of all blessing and honor and glory
Is He worthy, Is He worthy, Is He worthy of this, He is

Ending

Is He worthy, Is He worthy
He is, He is

CONFESSION OF FAITH: NICENE CREED: (**catholic means the universal Christian Church*)

**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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.**

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: Adoring praises now we bring and these our gifts to Christ our King

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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

L: Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.
God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

P: Hear our Prayer

L: May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

P: Hear our prayer.

L: Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend _____ and all who are in need praying for them at all times, Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

P: Hear our prayer.

L: Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

P: Hear our prayer.

L: Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

P: Hear our prayer.

L: Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

P: Hear our prayer.

L: And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

P: Hear our prayer.

L: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord

P: Amen.

***** For our 8:00 a.m. worshippers, the service continues on the bottom of page 11 with Announcements.**

***** For our 9:30 a.m. worshippers, the service continues with the Celebration of Holy Communion:**

+ 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: "Hear Us, Father, When We Pray" LSB 773

- 1 Hear us, Father, when we pray,
 Through Your Son and in Your Spirit.
 By Your Spirit's Word convey
 All that we through Christ inherit,
 That as baptized heirs we may
 Truly pray.

- 2 When we know not what to say
 And our wounded souls are pleading,
 May Your Spirit, night and day,
 Groan within us interceding;
 By His sighs, too deep for words,
 We are heard.

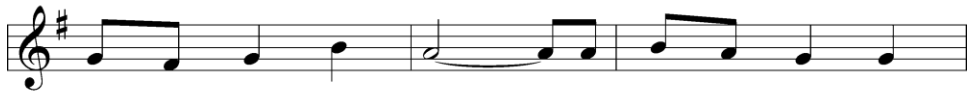
3 Jesus, advocate on high,
 Sacrificed on Calv'ry's altar,
 Through Your priestly blood we cry:
 Hear our prayers, though they may falter;
 Place them on Your Father's throne
 As Your own.

4 By Your Spirit now attend
 To our prayers and supplications,
 As like incense they ascend
 To Your heav'nly habitations.
 May their fragrance waft above,
 God of love.

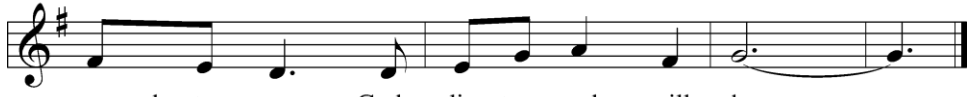
"Be Still, My Soul, before the Lord" LSB 771



1 Be still, my soul, be - fore the Lord, For
 2 You need not mul - ti - ply your words Nor
 3 Wait, then, in qui - et con - fi - dence, Your
 4 Be still, my soul, be - fore the Lord; On



God is al - ways near. Be - fore your mind is
 pray with prac - ticed art. Be - yond all speech, God
 anx - ious thoughts at rest. God knows your needs be -
 God in pa - tience wait. God's love, un - seen, sur -



moved to pray, God lis - tens and will hear.
 un - der - stands The hun - ger of your heart.
 fore you ask And works for what is best.
 rounds your life; God's help will not be late.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

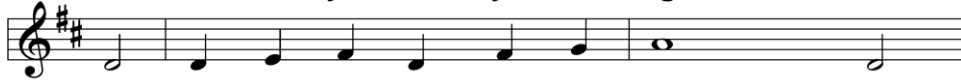
BENEDICTION:

L: The Lord will bless you and keep you, make His face to shine upon and be gracious unto you, He will look upon you with favor and give you His peace; for He is Risen!

P: He is risen indeed, Alleluia! Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"

LSB 493



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New
4 "You see Him now, as - cend - ing high Up
5 Be now our joy on earth, O Lord, And
△ 6 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, All



hymns through - out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia,
to the por - tals of the sky." Al - le - lu - ia,
be our fu - ture great re - ward. Al - le - lu - ia,
praise to You let earth ac - cord: Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
al - le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall
al - le - lu - ia! Then, throned with You for - ev - er,
al - le - lu - ia! You are, while end - less a - ges



trod, As - cends un - to the throne of
see Re - turn - ing in great maj - es -
we Shall praise Your name e - ter - nal -
run, With Fa - ther and with Spir - it



God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
ty." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
ly. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



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

POSTLUDE

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“O Sons and Daughters of the King” LSB 471

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1994; tr. John Mason Neal, 1818-66, alt.

Tune: French, 15th cent. Text and Tune: Public domain

“His Mercy is More”

CCLI Song #7065053

Matt Boswell | Matt Papas.

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“Christ the Eternal Lord” LSB 829

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926.

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93; setting: Service Book and Hymnal, 1958.

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Tune: Public domain.

“Is He Worthy”

CCLI Song # 7108951

Andrew Peterson | Ben Shive

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“Hear Us, Father, When We Pray” LSB 773

Text: Chad L. Bird, b. 1970

Tune: *Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch*, Halle, 1704, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen;

Setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941.

Text: © Chad L. Bird

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Tune: Public domain

“Be Still, My Soul, before the Lord” LSB 771

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., born 1923.

Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950.

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“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” LSB 493

Text: Bede, 673-735; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978, alt. Tune: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Köln, 1623.

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SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Acolyte 8:00...Emilee Torres
Acolyte 9:30...Alice Kienitz
Lector 8:00...Sheri and Tom Esswein
Preacher... Pastor Kevin Kritzer
Director of Music...Noah Freeman
Accompanist...Kevin Bowers

Crucifer 8:00...Trevor Torres
Crucifer 9:30...Reenie Long
Lector 9:30...Josette and John Utke
Liturgist...Karl Fink
Artist in Residence...Blake Flattley
Children's Message...Karl Fink

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Today's Flowers are given to the glory of God



By Kimberlie Frederick:

*-In celebration of Vance Frederick's 75th Birthday on May 14th,
and Happy Mother's Day to all of the special moms in our lives! ~*

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Today's Flowers are given to the glory of God



By Norma Morris:

~In loving memory of Harvey Morris~

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Year to Date: Average weekly Worship Attendance: 415 2023
494 2024

Year to Date: Baptisms: 16 2023
25 2024

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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 the significance of that donation. **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: