

EASTER v

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:

"Prelude"
~David Cherwein

Organ

EASTER ACCLAMATION:

L: Christ is Risen,

P: **He is Risen Indeed!**

L: Those who abide in Him as He abides in them will bear much fruit.

P: **Alleluia!**

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: "Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven" LSB 477



1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heav'n and voic - es raise:
2 Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:
△ 3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high:



Sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;
See the an-cient pow'rs of e - vil In con - fu - sion and re - treat;
Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior Who has gained the vic - to - ry;



He who on the cross a vic - tim For the world's sal - va - tion bled—
Once He died, and once was bur - ied: Now He lives for - ev - er - more,
Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, Fount of love and sanc - ti - ty!



Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead.
Je - sus Christ, the world's Re - deem - er, Whom we wor - ship and a - dore.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia To the tri - une Maj - es - ty!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

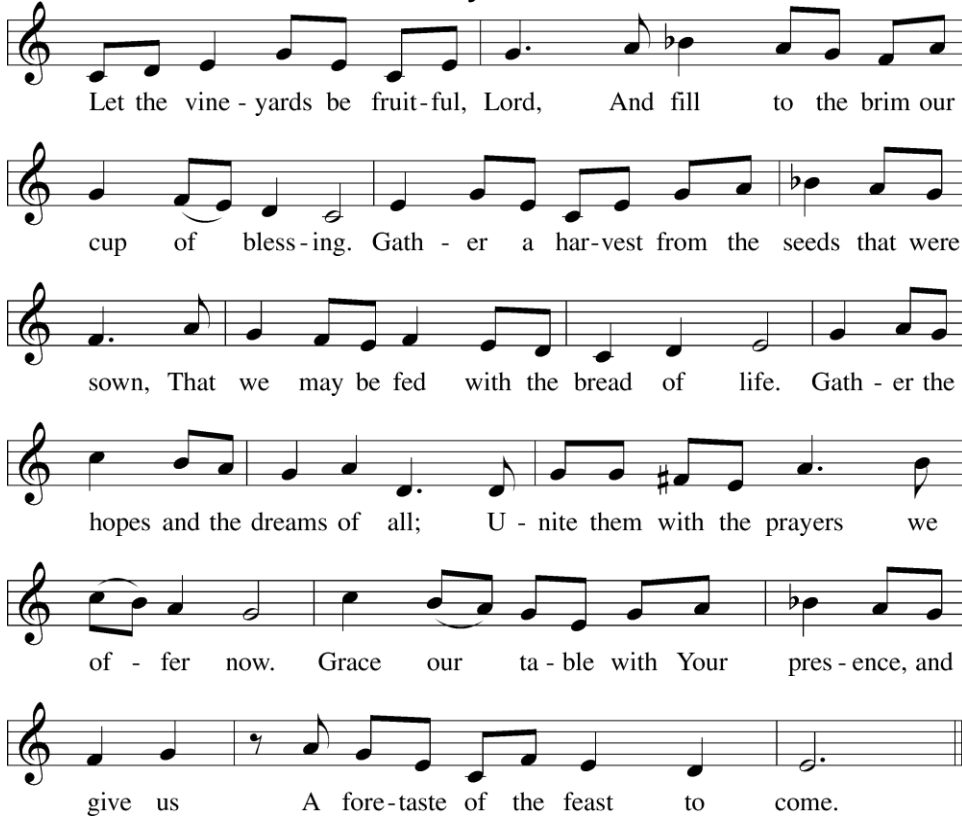
L: Gathered together as His people, let us take refuge in the mercy of the Risen Christ and confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE: “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful” LSB 955



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, And fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, That we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the
hopes and the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and
give us A fore - taste of the feast to come.

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

An angel from the Lord said to Philip, "Get up, and take the desert road that goes south from Jerusalem to Gaza." So Philip went.

An Ethiopian man who had come to Jerusalem to worship was on his way home. The man was a eunuch, a high-ranking official in charge of all the treasures of Queen Candace of Ethiopia. As the official rode along in his carriage, he was reading the prophet Isaiah out loud.

The Spirit said to Philip, "Go to that carriage, and stay close to it."

Philip ran to the carriage and could hear the official reading the prophet Isaiah out loud. Philip asked him, "Do you understand what you're reading?"

The official answered, "How can I understand unless someone guides me?" So he invited Philip to sit with him in his carriage.

This was the part of the Scriptures that the official was reading:

"He was led like a lamb to the slaughter.
He was like a sheep that is silent
when its wool is cut off.
He didn't open His mouth.
When He humbled Himself,
He was not judged fairly.
Who from His generation
will talk about His life on earth being cut short?"

The official said to Philip, "I would like to know who the prophet is talking about. Is he talking about himself or someone else?" Then Philip spoke. Starting with that passage, Philip told the official the Good News about Jesus.

As they were going along the road, they came to some water. The official said to Philip, "Look, there's some water. What can keep me from being baptized?" The official ordered the carriage to stop. He and Philip stepped into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they had stepped out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away. The official joyfully continued on his way and didn't see Philip again.

Philip found himself in the city of Azotus. He traveled through all the cities and spread the Good News until he came to the city of Caesarea.-GW®

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:1-11

Dear friends, don't believe all people who say that they have the Spirit. Instead, test them. See whether the spirit they have is from God, because there are many false prophets in the

world. This is how you can recognize God's Spirit: Every person who declares that Jesus Christ has come as a human has the Spirit that is from God. But every person who doesn't declare that Jesus Christ has come as a human has a spirit that isn't from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist that you have heard is coming. That spirit is already in the world.

Dear children, you belong to God. So you have won the victory over these people, because the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. These people belong to the world. That's why they speak the thoughts of the world, and the world listens to them. We belong to God. The person who knows God listens to us. Whoever doesn't belong to God doesn't listen to us. That's how we can tell the Spirit of truth from the spirit of lies.

Dear friends, we must love each other because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born from God and knows God. The person who doesn't love doesn't know God, because God is love. God has shown us His love by sending His only Son into the world so that we could have life through Him. This is love: not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the payment for our sins. Dear friends, if this is the way God loved us, we must also love each other. -GW®

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: "He Never Failed Me Yet"

Bethany Choir

~Robert Ray

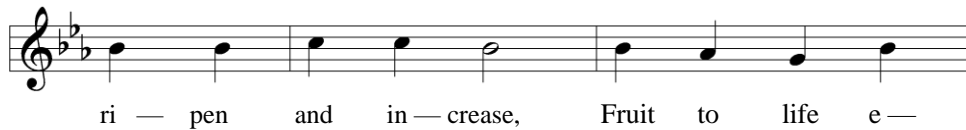
GOSPEL: *John 15:1-8*

Then Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father takes care of the vineyard. He removes every one of my branches that doesn't produce fruit. He also prunes every branch that does produce fruit to make it produce more fruit.

"You are already clean because of what I have told you. Live in me, and I will live in you. A branch cannot produce any fruit by itself. It has to stay attached to the vine. In the same way, you cannot produce fruit unless you live in me.

"I am the vine. You are the branches. Those who live in me while I live in them will produce a lot of fruit. But you can't produce anything without me. Whoever doesn't live in me is thrown away like a branch and dries up. Branches like this are gathered, thrown into a fire, and burned. If you live in me and what I say lives in you, then ask for anything you want, and it will be yours. You give glory to my Father when you produce a lot of fruit and therefore show that you are my disciples. -GW®

SERMON HYMN: "Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing" LSB 691 (tune LSB 345)



- 2 Laden branches freely bearing
Gifts the Giver loves to bless;
Here is fruit that grows by sharing,
Patience, kindness, gentleness.
- 3 Rooted deep in Christ our Master,
Christ our pattern and our goal,
Teach us, as the years fly faster,
Goodness, faith, and self-control.
- 4 Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending,
May we grow till harvests cease;
Till we taste, in life unending,
Heaven's love and joy and peace.

MESSAGE: "Gathered to Grow"

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Christ, the Word of God Incarnate" LSB 540



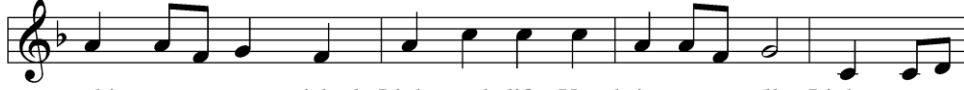
1 Christ, the Word of God in - car - nate, Lord and Son of
2 Christ, the liv - ing bread from heav - en, Food for bod - y,
3 Christ, the shoot that springs tri - um - phant From the stump of
4 Christ, our good and faith - ful shep - herd, Watch - ing all Your
5 Christ, the way that leads un - fail - ing To the Fa - ther's



A - bra - ham; Christ, the ra - diance of the Fa - ther,
food for soul; Christ, the man - na dai - ly giv - en,
Jes - se's tree; Christ, true vine, You nur - ture branch - es
lambs and sheep; Christ, the gate that guards the sheep - fold,
home on high, Christ, the truth that frees the cap - tive,



Per - fect God, the great I AM; Christ, the light, You
Nour - ish, strength - en, make us whole. Feed us with the
To bear fruit a - bun - dant - ly. Graft us in - to
Nev - er - fail - ing vig - il keep. When we stray, Good
Christ, the life that can - not die. Me - di - a - tor



shine un - van - quished, Light and life You bring to all; Light our
food of heav - en, Fore - taste of the feast to be; Quench our
You, O Sav - ior; Prune our hearts so we re - main Fruit - ful
Shep - herd, seek us, Find us, lift us, bear us home; Lamb of
to the Fa - ther, Sac - ri - fice and great High Priest: Lead us



path with Your own pres - ence, Grant us grace to heed Your call.
thirst with liv - ing wa - ter Spring - ing up e - ter - nal - ly.
branch - es in Your vine - yard Till e - ter - nal life we gain.
God, our shep - herd, keep us; Let us hear Your voice a - lone.
to Your heav'n - ly man - sions, There to share Your wed - ding feast.

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 12 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 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.



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in
 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
 heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
 wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
 all to me; All my wants to Him are known,
 and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
 Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—
 Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
 All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the
 Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
 won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
 walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.
 hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.
 need sup - ply While I live and when I die.





1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?
 2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.
 3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill
 4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.
 5 He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
 The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
 So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill.
 He lives, for - gives, He gives me His own righ - teous - ness.
 His song, pro - long Till ev - 'ry heart to Him be - long.

Refrain



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His

 own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION:

L: The Lord bless you and keep you, make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you, look upon you with favor, and give you His peace.

P: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "Abide, O Dearest Jesus"

LSB 919



1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, A - mong us with Your grace
2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, A - mong us with Your Word,
3 A - bide with heav'n - ly bright - ness A - mong us, pre - cious Light;
4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings A - mong us, boun - teous Lord;



That Sa - tan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.
And thus now and here - af - ter True peace and joy af - ford.
Your truth di - rect and keep us From er - ror's gloom - y night.
Let us in grace and wis - dom Grow dai - ly through Your Word.

- 5 Abide with Your protection
Among us, Lord, our strength,
Lest world and Satan fell us
And overcome at length.
- 6 Abide, O faithful Savior,
Among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us
To reach our home above.

POSTLUDE: "Fugue sur le thème du Carillon des Heures de la Cathédrale de Soissons, Op. 12"

Organ

~Maurice Duruflé

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"Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven" LSB 477
Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-85, sts. 1, 3; rev. Jubilate Hymns Ltd., st. 2.
Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827; adapt. Edward Hodges 1796-1867.
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"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful" LSB 955
Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-80
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Tune: MERTON "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding" LSB 345 Tune: William H. Monk, 1823-89. Public domain

"Christ, the Word of God Incarnate" LSB 540
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Tune: *Columbian Harmony*, Cincinnati, 1825. Public domain.

"Chief of Sinners Though I Be" LSB 611
Text: William McComb, 1793-1873, alt.
Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820-1901; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and music: Public domain.

"The Lamb" LSB 547
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"Abide, O Dearest Jesus" LSB 919
Text: Josua Stegmann; tr. August Crull.
Tune: Melchior Vulpius; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and music: Public domain.

SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Acolyte 9:30...Audrey Kienitz
Lector 8:00...Nola Seaman
Preacher... Pastor Kevin Kritzer
Director of Music...Noah Freeman
Organ...Robert Bottoms

Crucifer 9:30...Timothy O'Conner
Lector 9:30...Chris Cale
Liturgist...Pastor Mark Siegert
Accompanist...Kevin Bowers
Children's Message...Pastor Kevin Kritzer

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Today's Flowers are given to the glory of God

By the Pearson Family:

~Celebrating Randa Pearson's 90th Birthday!~



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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:

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