



BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH, LONG BEACH
CONFIRMATION SUNDAY • 9:30 AM
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 27, 2025

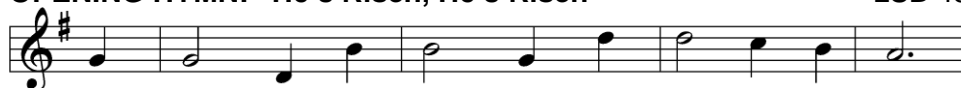
PRELUDE

Organ

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: "He's Risen, He's Risen"

LSB 480



1 He's ris - en, He's ris - en, Christ Je - sus, the Lord;
2 The foe was tri - um - phant when on Cal - va - ry
3 But short was their tri - umph; the Sav - ior a - rose,
4 O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
5 Then sing your ho - san - nas and raise your glad voice;



He o - pened death's pris - on, the in - car - nate, true Word.
The Lord of cre - a - tion was nailed to the tree.
And death, hell, and Sa - tan He van - quished, His foes.
Christ rose, and now o - pen is fair E - den's door.
Pro - claim the blest tid - ings that all may re - joice.



Break forth, hosts of heav - en, in ju - bi - lant song
In Sa - tan's do - main did the hosts shout and jeer,
The con - quer - ing Lord lifts His ban - ner on high;
For all our trans - gres - sions His blood does a - tone;
Laud, hon - or, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:



And earth, sea, and moun - tain their prais - es pro - long.
For Je - sus was slain, whom the e - vil ones fear.
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nev - er - more die.
Re - deemed and for - giv - en, we now are His own.
With Fa - ther and Spir - it He ev - er shall reign.

EASTER ACCLAMATION:

L: Christ is Risen!

P: He is Risen Indeed!

L: Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.

P: Alleluia!

INVOCATION:

- L**: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
P: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

- L**: Righteous and Victorious God, our Father and Brother, our maker and redeemer, we confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean. On occasions we have doubted Your promises and Your presence and at times we have demanded You act as we see fit and think necessary. Therefore, we turn to You our Lord and our God, seeking the refuge of Your infinite mercy and grace found in the crucified and risen Christ.
- P**: **O most merciful God who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, and by Your grace bring us at last to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**
- L**: The Almighty God who has given His Son over to death for you and has raised Jesus from the dead, for His sake absolves your guilt and removes your disgrace. Therefore as a called and ordained servant of the Risen Jesus, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

O God of life, You reach out to us amid our fears and frustrations with the wounded hands of Your Risen Son. By Your Spirit's breath revive our faith in Your promises and power, in Your mercy and might, that we, who are the body of Your Son, become the means through which many are moved to proclaim You their Lord and God. Amen.

PSALM 118:14-24 (*read responsively*)

- L**: The LORD is my strength and my song.
P: **He is my savior.**
- L**: The sound of joyful singing and victory is heard in the tents of righteous people.
P: **The right hand of the LORD displays strength.**
- L**: The right hand of the LORD is held high.

P: The right hand of the LORD displays strength.

L: I will not die,
P: but I will live and tell what the LORD has done.

L: The LORD disciplined me severely,
P: but he did not allow me to be killed.

L: Open the gates of righteousness for me.
P: I will go through them and give thanks to the LORD.

L: This is the gate of the LORD
P: through which righteous people will enter.

L: I give thanks to you,
because you have answered me.
P: You are my savior.

L: The stone that the builders rejected
P: has become the cornerstone.

L: The LORD is responsible for this,
P: and it is amazing for us to see.

L: This is the day the LORD has made.
P: Let's rejoice and be glad today! –GW®

FIRST READING: Acts 5:12-20

Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." –ESV®

HYMN OF PRAISE: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing” LSB 475



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice and sing! Now is the tri-umph
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:
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!

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

8:00 & 9:30 am

GOSPEL: *John 20:19-31*

That Sunday evening, the disciples were together behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jews. Jesus stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you!” When He said this, He showed them His hands and His side. The disciples were glad to see the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, so I am sending you.” After He had said this, He breathed on the disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whenever you forgive sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you don’t forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

Thomas, one of the twelve apostles, who was called Didymus, wasn’t with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, “We’ve seen the Lord.”

Thomas told them, “I refuse to believe this unless I see the nail marks in His hands, put my fingers into them, and put my hand into His side.”

A week later Jesus’ disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then Jesus said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at My hands. Take your hand, and put it into My side. Stop doubting, and believe.”

Thomas responded to Jesus, “My Lord and my God!”

Jesus said to Thomas, “You believe because you’ve seen Me. Blessed are those who haven’t seen Me but believe.”

Jesus performed many other miracles that His disciples saw. Those miracles are not written in this book. But these miracles have been written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and so that you will have life by believing in Him.—GW®

SERMON HYMN: “Church of God, Elect and Glorious” LSB 646



1 Church of God, e - lect and glo - rious, Ho - ly
 2 God has called you out of dark - ness In - to
 3 Once you were an al - ien peo - ple, Strang - ers
 4 Church of God, e - lect and ho - ly, Be the

na - tion, cho - sen race; Called as God's own
 His most mar - v'ulous light; Brought His truth to
 to God's heart of love; But He brought you
 peo - ple He in - tends; Strong in faith and

spe - cial peo - ple, Roy - al priests and heirs of
 life with - in you, Turned your blind - ness in - to
 home in mer - cy, Cit - i - zens of heav'n a -
 swift to an - swer Each com - mand your Mas - ter

grace: Know the pur - pose of your call - ing,
 sight. Let your light so shine a - round you
 bove. Let His love flow out to oth - ers,
 sends: Roy - al priests, ful - fill your call - ing

Show to all His might - y deeds; Tell of love that
 That God's name is glo - ri - fied And all find fresh
 Let them feel a Fa - ther's care; That they too may
 Through your sac - ri - fice and prayer; Give your lives in

knows no lim - its, Grace that meets all hu - man needs.
 hope and pur - pose In Christ Je - sus cru - ci - fied.
 know His wel - come And His count - less bless - ings share.
 joy - ful ser - vice— Sing His praise, His love de - clare.

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY: "O Sons and Daughters of the King" LSB 470



1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King, Whom heav'n - ly
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
9 On this most ho - ly day of days Be laud and



hosts in glo - ry sing, To - day the grave has lost its sting!
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.
ju - bi - lee and praise: To God your hearts and voic - es raise.



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!

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION AND CONFESSION OF FAITH: *9:30 am

CONFIRMATION ADDRESS:

L: Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." You have been baptized and catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord's bidding. Jesus said, "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

PROFESSION OF FAITH: (Congregation, please join in responses) All services

L: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?
P: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?

P: Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

L: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

P: Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

(See page 13 for a list of the 2025 Youth Confirmands.)

OFFERING: *There is a plate in the Narthex for your gifts. If you so desire, TEXT GIVING is available by texting GIVE to 562 210-0463. You can also mail in your gifts to the church office.*

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!

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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.

***** For our 8:00 & 11:00 a.m. worshippers, the service continues on 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 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, center cups in each tray are alcohol free.
The wafers next to the Christ candle are gluten free;
for those with dietary restrictions, please take a gluten free wafer.*

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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

“Father Welcomes”

LSB 605

Refrain



Fa - ther wel-comes all His chil - dren To His fam - 'ly



through His Son. Fa - ther giv - ing His sal - va - tion,



Life for - ev - er has been won.



1 Lit - tle chil-dren, come to Me, For My king - dom

2 In the wa - ter, in the Word, In His prom - ise,

3 Let us dai - ly die to sin; Let us dai - ly



is of these. Life and love I have to give,

be as - sured: Those who are bap - tized and be - lieve

rise with Him, Walk in the love of Christ our Lord,



Refrain

Mer - cy — for your sin.

Shall be — born a — gain.

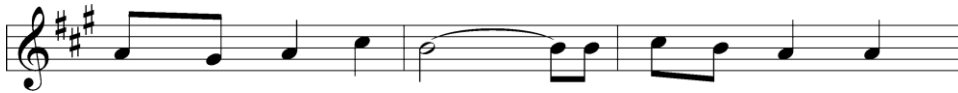
Live in the peace of God.

“We Walk By Faith and Not by Sight”

LSB 720



1 We walk by faith and not by sight, No
2 We may not touch His hands and side, Nor
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; And
4 For You, O res - ur - rect - ed Lord, Are
5 Lord, when our life of faith is done, In



gra - cious words we hear From Him who spoke as
fol - low where He trod; But in His prom - ise
may our faith a - bound To call on You when
found in means di - vine: Be - neath the wa - ter
realms of clear - er light We may be - hold You



none e'er spoke, But we be - lieve Him near.
we re - joice And cry "My Lord and God!"
You are near And seek where You are found.
and the Word, Be - neath the bread and wine.
as You are, With full and end - less sight.

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: “Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go” LSB 920



1 Forth in the peace of Christ we go;
 2 King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings;
 3 Priests of the world, Christ sends us forth
 4 Christ's are our lips, His Word we speak;
 5 We are the Church; Christ bids us show



Christ to the world with joy we bring;
 King - ship with Him His ser - vants gain;
 This world of time to con - se - crate,
 Proph - ets are we whose deeds pro - claim
 That in His Church all na - tions find



Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips,
 With Christ the Ser - vant - Lord of all,
 This world of sin by grace to heal,
 Christ's truth in love that we may be
 Their hearth and home where Christ re - stores



Christ in our hearts, the world's true king.
 Christ's world we serve to share Christ's reign.
 Christ's world in Christ to re - cre - ate.
 Christ in the world, to spread Christ's name.
 True peace, true love to all man - kind.

POSTLUDE:

Organ

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SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Acolyte 9:30...Audrey Kienitz

Crucifer 9:30...Emilee Torres

Lector 8:00...Katie Musick

Lector 9:30...Steve Albers

Lector 11:00...Brady Bowman

Liturgist 8:00...Pastor Kevin Kritzer

Liturgist 9:30...Pastor Kyle Blake

11:00...Isaiah Duport

Preacher...Reverend John Alwood

Organ...Robert Bottoms

Children's Message...Isaiah Duport

Piano...Kevin Bowers





Youth Confirmation Class of 2025

OLIVIA ALVARADO

daughter of Miguel and Erika Alvarado

AIDEN ANDREW BOMMARITO

son of Mark and Katherine Bommarito

BROOKLYN BRYANT

daughter of Ian and Jamie Bryant

CONNOR PAUL CLEVEN

daughter of Brian and Mariaelena Clevén

PENELOPE ANNE CLEVEN

daughter of Brian and Mariaelena Clevén

ALICE ELIZABETH KIENITZ

daughter of Josh Kienitz and Vanessa Ferguson Kienitz

IRENE “REENIE” VERONICA LONG

daughter of Michael and Julie Long

SOPHIA ULIANO ERDMAN

daughter of Gene and Anna Erdman



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“He’s Risen, He’s Risen” LSB 480

Text: C.F.W. Walther, 1811-87, abr.; tr. Anna M. Meyer, 1867-1941, alt.

Tune: C.F.W. Walther, 1811-87; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941.

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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. Music: Public domain

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“Church of God, Elect and Glorious” LSB 646

Text: James Edward Seddon, 1915-83.

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Music: Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-92

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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

“Father Welcomes” LSB 605

Text and Tune: Robin Mann; © 1986 Kevin Mayhew, Ltd. All rights reserved.

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We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight LSB 720

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-71, alt. Tune: Mary Haugen, b. 1950.

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“Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go” LSB 920

Text: James Quinn, b. 1919

Tune: Georg Joseph, 17th cent., adapt.; setting: *Cantica Spiritualia*, 1847

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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.





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>



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 towards. **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: