



Gathered Connected Sent

Bethany Lutheran Church | Long Beach, CA

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 19, 2026

April 19, 2026
Bethany Lutheran, Long Beach

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING SONG: “All Creatures of Our God and King”

Verse 1

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Oh praise Him, Alleluia
Thou burning sun with golden beam
Thou silver moon with softer gleam
Oh praise Him Oh praise Him
Alleluia alleluia alleluia

Verse 2

Let all things their Creator bless
And worship Him in humbleness
Oh praise Him, Alleluia
Praise praise the Father praise the Son
And praise the Spirit Three-in-One
Oh praise Him Oh praise Him
Alleluia alleluia alleluia

Verse 3

All the redeemed washed by His blood
Come and rejoice in His great love
Oh praise Him, Alleluia
Christ has defeated every sin
Cast all your burdens now on Him
Oh praise Him Oh praise Him
Alleluia alleluia alleluia

Verse 4

He shall return in pow'r to reign
Heaven and earth will join to say
Oh praise Him, Alleluia
Then who shall fall on bended knee
All creatures of our God and King
Oh praise Him Oh praise Him
Alleluia alleluia alleluia

CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION: *(based on I Peter 1:3&4)*

L: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

P: **In His great mercy He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead!**

L: and an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade, kept in heaven for you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS: *(based on I Peter 2:11-12, 18, 21-22)*

L: Dear Friends, I urge you as aliens and strangers in this world to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.

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 remission 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 grace bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

L: Jesus Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, the righteous of the unrighteous, to bring us to God. By His wounds we have been healed. Our sins have been forgiven and we have been saved by the risen Jesus, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: "Here in the Water"

Verse 1

This is the beginning of a life made new
This is where forever begins with You
I remember the day
When You gave me your name
This is the beginning of a life made new

Verse 2

This is the beginning of a life made new
This is where forever begins with You
You put the old in the grave
With the sin and the shame
This is the beginning of a life made new

Chorus 1

The Jordan song goes on and on
My morning dawns
Here in the water
Evil depart from my new heart
New mercies start
Here in the water

Verse 3

This is the beginning of a life made new
This is where forever begins with You
Baptized into death
I share Your breath
This is the beginning of a life made new

Chorus 2

The Jordan song goes on and on
My morning dawns
Here in the water
Evil depart from my new heart
New mercies start
Here in the water

Bridge

I have received
I still believe
Your word to me
Here in the water
Delivered me
And set me free
Your word to me
Here in the water

FIRST READING: Acts 2:36-41

“All the people of Israel should know beyond a doubt that God made Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

When the people heard this, they were deeply upset. They asked Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”

Peter answered them, “All of you must turn to God and change the way you think and act, and each of you must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins will be forgiven. Then you will receive the Holy Spirit as a gift. This promise belongs to you and to

your children and to everyone who is far away. It belongs to everyone who worships the Lord our God.”

Peter said much more to warn them. He urged, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted what Peter said were baptized. That day about 3,000 people were added to the group.–GW®

SECOND READING: *1 Peter 1:17-25*

So, if you call God your Father, live your time as temporary residents on earth in fear. He is the God who judges all people by what they have done, and He doesn't play favorites. Realize that you weren't set free from the worthless life handed down to you from your ancestors by a payment of silver or gold which can be destroyed. Rather, the payment that freed you was the precious blood of Christ, the lamb with no defects or imperfections. He is the lamb who was known long ago before the world existed, but for your good He became publicly known in the last period of time. Through Him you believe in God who brought Christ back to life and gave Him glory. So your faith and confidence are in God.

Love each other with a warm love that comes from the heart. After all, you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth. As a result you have a sincere love for each other. You have been born again, not from a seed that can be destroyed, but through God's everlasting word that can't be destroyed. That's why Scripture says,

“All people are like grass,
and all their beauty is like a flower of the field.
The grass dries up and the flower drops off,
but the word of the Lord lasts forever.”

This word is the Good News that was told to you. –GW®

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL: *Luke 24:13-35*

On the same day, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus. It was about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking to each other about everything that had happened.

While they were talking, Jesus approached them and began walking with them. Although they saw him, they didn't recognize him.

He asked them, “What are you discussing?”

They stopped and looked very sad. One of them, Cleopas, replied, “Are you the only one in Jerusalem who doesn’t know what has happened recently?”

“What happened?” he asked.

They said to him, “We were discussing what happened to Jesus from Nazareth. He was a powerful prophet in what he did and said in the sight of God and all the people. Our chief priests and rulers had him condemned to death and crucified. We were hoping that he was the one who would free Israel. What’s more, this is now the third day since everything happened. Some of the women from our group startled us. They went to the tomb early this morning and didn’t find his body. They told us that they had seen angels who said that he’s alive. Some of our men went to the tomb and found it empty, as the women had said, but they didn’t see him.”

Then Jesus said to them, “How foolish you are! You’re so slow to believe everything the prophets said! Didn’t the Messiah have to suffer these things and enter into his glory?” Then he began with Moses’ Teachings and the Prophets to explain to them what was said about him throughout the Scriptures.

When they came near the village where they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. They urged him, “Stay with us! It’s getting late, and the day is almost over.” So he went to stay with them.

While he was at the table with them, he took bread and blessed it. He broke the bread and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. But he vanished from their sight.

They said to each other, “Weren’t we excited when he talked with us on the road and opened up the meaning of the Scriptures for us?”

That same hour they went back to Jerusalem. They found the eleven apostles and those who were with them gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has really come back to life and has appeared to Simon.”

Then the two disciples told what had happened on the road and how they had recognized Jesus when he broke the bread. –GW®

SERMON SONG: “Christ My Victory”

Verse 1

Though the terrors of the night
Overwhelm my will to fight
And I long for all this suffering to end
When the arrows fly my way
Blocking out the light of day
There is One who shields me with His mighty hand

Chorus

Christ my victory
Over ev'ry enemy
Standing over me
In the wake of Calvary
I will fix my eyes
On the One who reigns (forever)

Verse 2

Though the powers of this world
Come to tear me from your hold
They will never claim the power that is Yours
You have broken every lie
That has come to take my life
For you've crushed the devil's head under your feet

Bridge

With a Word the war is over
Though the devil will not rest
I will stand upon the Word of God
For your promise is my confidence

Tag

Forever

MESSAGE: *"When You're a Stranger" I Peter 1:17-25*

SONG OF THE DAY: "Living Hope"**Verse 1**

How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished the end is written
Jesus Christ my living hope

Verse 2

Who could imagine so great a mercy
What heart could fathom such boundless grace
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ my living hope

Chorus

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope

Verse 3

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
(REPEAT)
Jesus Yours is the victory

Ending

Jesus Christ my living hope
Oh God You are my living hope

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 Andria at arosas@bethanylutheran.org or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!

CONSECRATION OF GIFTS: *(based on I Peter 4:10)*

L: Each one of us should use whatever gifts we have received from God to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

CONFESSION OF FAITH: (1 Peter 3:15)

- L:** The apostle calls us to set Christ apart as Lord and be prepared to share the reason for the hope we have in Him. The hope summarized in the Creed we confess with all those who live on earth as strangers and long for Christ's appearing:

CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

- L:** Humbly, under God's mighty hand we come before Him in prayer, casting all anxiety on Him because He cares for us (*1 Peter 5:6-7*) praying Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

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 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 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."

*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 am 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION SONGS:

"Abide with Me"

LSB 878

- 1 Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
- 2 I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.
- 6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

“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, He has washed us with His blood
He has washed us with His blood, 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, He has washed us with His blood
He has washed us with His blood, 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 conqu'ror's crown
He who washed us with His blood, He who washed us with His blood
He who washed us with His blood, 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING: (*based on 1 Peter 4:11*)

L: The Lord will bless and keep you, make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

P: To Him be praise, glory, and power forever and ever. Amen.

CLOSING SONG: "Be Thou My Vision"

Verse 1

Be Thou my Vision O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me save that Thou art
Thou my best thought by day or by night
Waking or sleeping Thy presence my light

Verse 2

Be Thou my Wisdom and Thou my true Word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me Lord
Thou my great Father I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

Verse 3

High King of heaven my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys bright heaven's Sun
Heart of my own heart whatever befall
Still be my Vision O Ruler of all

Ending

Be Thou my Vision

POSTLUDE



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"All Creatures of Our God and King"

CCLI Song # 6529800

Jonathan Baird | Ryan Baird | St. Francis of Assisi | William Henry Draper

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"Here In the Water"

CCLI Song #7262312

Adam Lamb, Ben Lange, Emily Bartels

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"Christ My Victory"

CCLI Song # 7240042

Emily Bartels, Matthew Preston, Nick Taylor

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"Living Hope"

CCLI Song # 7106807

Phil Wickham, Brian Johnson

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"Abide with Me" LSB 878

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847, alt. Tune: William H. Monk, 1823-89 Text and Music: Public domain Arr.: Blake Flattley

"Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder"

CCLI Song # 5834479

John Newton | Laura Taylor

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"Be Thou My Vision" WOV 776

Text: Irish 8th-10th cent.; tr. Mary El Byrne, 1880-1931; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.

Music: Irish tune; arr. Frank Ferko, b. 1950.

Text and music: Public domain.

CCLI Song #7064078

Blake Flattley| Mary E. Byrne| Eleanor H. Hull

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SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Acolyte 9:30...Dean Rosas

Lector 8:00...Steve Albers

Liturgist 8:00...Karl Fink

Preacher...Pastor Seth Moorman

Artist in Residence...Blake Flattley

Children's Message...Lillie Strahm

Crucifer 9:30...Abigail Rosas

Lector 9:30...John Holmquist

Liturgist 9:30..Pastor Kevin Kritzer

Keyboard...Pat Gagan



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.



Parents of Young Children: We are so glad you and your children are here! Children are a joyful part of worship—after all, God created them with curiosity, energy, and yes, a few wiggles. Please don't feel pressure to keep them perfectly still in God's house. Their presence is truly a gift to our church family.

Worship is where we learn, together, how to listen and speak to God alongside our brothers and sisters in faith. You are welcome to quietly explain parts of the service and what our worship leaders are doing—children learn how to worship by watching and imitating you.

If it would be helpful, “worship bags” are available in the Narthex with items designed to support children and families during worship. Childcare is also available in our Nursery for children from birth through age five. Our caring and qualified staff look forward to welcoming your little one into a safe and loving environment.

Bethany's Nursery is located across the courtyard. Please feel free to ask an usher if you need directions—we're happy to help.



Please visit our websites to find out more about our Church, School and Preschool. Get weekly updates by signing up for the **Bethany Broadcast**—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 Broadcast**: <https://bit.ly/BethanyBroadcastSignUp>

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: