



Gathered Connected Sent

Bethany Lutheran Church | Long Beach, CA

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 26, 2026

April 26, 2026
Bethany Lutheran, Long Beach

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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

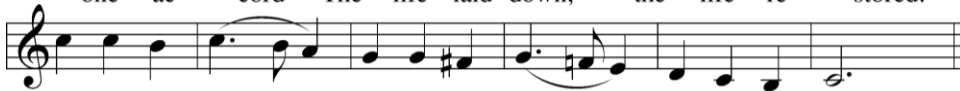
LSB 475



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!

CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION: *(based on 1 Peter 1:1 & 2)*

- L:** Strangers in the world, God's own people, chosen according to the Father's knowledge, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and the blood of Jesus
- P:** **Grace and peace are ours in abundance.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS: *(based on 1 Peter 1:14, 1:18-19 & 2:1)*

- L:** As obedient children rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.
- P:** **Most merciful God, we confess that too often we are disobedient children who fail to love You with our whole hearts; and who fail to love their neighbors as much as we love ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that as obedient children we delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

L: Beloved children of the Lord, it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. Through Him you have been forgiven and so your faith and hope are in God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE:

“Praise to You and Adoration”

LSB 692

1 Praise to You and ad - o - ra - tion, Bless - ed Je - sus,
2 Hold me ev - er in Your keep - ing; Com - fort me in
Son of God, Who, to serve Your own cre - a - tion, Came to
pain and strife. In my laugh - ter and my weep - ing Be with
share our flesh and blood. Guide me that I nev - er may
me through - out my life. Give me great - er love for You,
From Your fold or pas - tures stray, But with zeal and
And my faith and hope re - new In Your birth, Your
joy ex - ceed - ing Fol - low where Your steps are lead - ing.
life, and pas - sion, In Your death and res - ur - rec - tion.

FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

The disciples were devoted to the teachings of the apostles, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. A feeling of fear came over everyone as many amazing things and miraculous signs happened through the apostles. All the believers kept meeting together, and they shared everything with each other. From time to time, they sold their property and other possessions and distributed the money to anyone who needed it. The believers had a single purpose and went to the temple every day. They were joyful and humble as they ate at each other's homes and shared their food. At the same time, they praised God and had the good will of all the people. Every day the Lord saved people, and they were added to the group. -GW®

SECOND READING: *1 Peter 2:19-25*

God is pleased if a person is aware of Him while enduring the pains of unjust suffering. What credit do you deserve if you endure a beating for doing something wrong? But if you endure suffering for doing something good, God is pleased with you.

God called you to endure suffering because Christ suffered for you. He left you an example so that you could follow in His footsteps. Christ never committed any sin. He never spoke deceitfully. Christ never verbally abused those who verbally abused Him. When He suffered, He didn't make any threats but left everything to the one who judges fairly. Christ carried our sins in His body on the cross so that freed from our sins, we could live a life that has God's approval. His wounds have healed you. You were like lost sheep. Now you have come back to the shepherd and bishop of your lives. –GW®

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL: *John 10:1-10*

"I can guarantee this truth: The person who doesn't enter the sheep pen through the gate but climbs in somewhere else is a thief or a robber. But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep respond to his voice. He calls his sheep by name and leads them out of the pen. After he has brought out all his sheep, he walks ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they recognize his voice. They won't follow a stranger. Instead, they will run away from a stranger because they don't recognize his voice." Jesus used this illustration as he talked to the people, but they didn't understand what he meant.

Jesus emphasized, "I can guarantee this truth: I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before I did were thieves or robbers. However, the sheep didn't respond to them. I am the gate. Those who enter the sheep pen through me will be saved. They will go in and out of the sheep pen and find food. A thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. But I came so that my sheep will have life and so that they will have everything they need. –GW®



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus And with pa - tience
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en



am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to
 bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He
 from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,



sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,
 is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter,
 You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;



Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and
 We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts
 Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful
 that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,
 con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,



Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.
 here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.
 let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

MESSAGE: “When You’re a Stranger” 1 Peter 2:19-25

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

LSB 711

1 Sav - ior, like a shep - herd lead us; Much we
 2 We are Yours; in love be - friend us, Be the
 4 Ear - ly let us seek Your fa - vor, Ear - ly
 need Your ten - der care. In Your pleas - ant pas - tures
 guard - ian of our way; Keep Your flock, from sin de -
 let us do Your will; Bless - ed Lord and on - ly
 feed us, For our use Your fold pre - pare.
 fend us, Seek us when we go a - stray.
 Sav - ior, With Your love our spir - its fill.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have
 bought us; we are Yours. Bless - ed Je - sus,
 chil - dren when we pray. Bless - ed Je - sus,
 loved us, love us still. Bless - ed Je - sus,
 bless - ed Je - sus, You have bought us; we are Yours.
 bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 bless - ed Je - sus, You have loved us, love us still.

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 1 Peter 2:4-5)

- L:** You have come to Jesus, the Living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him.
- P:** **We, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God.**

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:

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.**

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.

***** For our 8:00 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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”

LSB 641

Refrain



You sat-is-fy the hun-gry heart With gift of fin-est wheat.



Come give to us, O sav-ing Lord, The bread of life to eat.



1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, They know and
 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to You Our praise and
 3 Is not the cup we bless and share The blood of
 4 The mys - t'ry of Your pres - ence, Lord, No mor - tal
 5 You give Your - self to us, O Lord; Then self - less



heed his voice; So when You call Your
 grat - i - tude That You should count us
 Christ out - poured? Do not one cup, one
 tongue can tell; Whom all the world can -
 let us be, To serve each oth - er

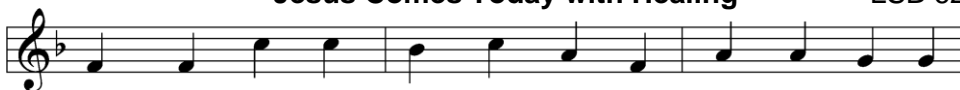
Refrain



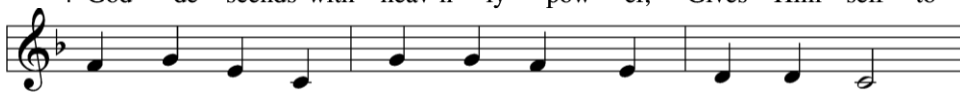
fam - 'ly, Lord, We fol - low and re - joice.
 wor - thy, Lord, To share this heav'n - ly food.
 loaf, de - clare Our one - ness in the Lord?
 not con - tain Comes in our hearts to dwell.
 in Your name In truth and char - i - ty.

“Jesus Comes Today with Healing”

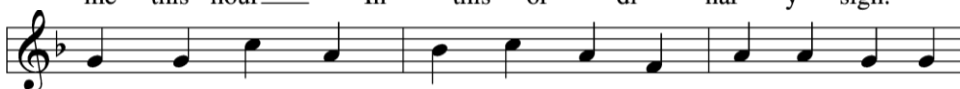
LSB 620



1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, Knock - ing at my
 2 Christ Him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, Yet in bread and
 3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the
 4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er, Gives Him - self to



door, ap - peal - ing, Of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.
 wine a - bid - ing In this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,
 Sav - ior ho - ly, Blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,
 me this hour— In this or - di - nar - y sign.



He Him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, And I hear His
 Gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, And the cup, the
 Ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, Who to bit - ter
 On my tongue His pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept His



in - vi - ta - tion: “Come and taste the bless - ed feast.”
 pre - cious to - ken Of His sa - cred cov - e - nant.
 death was giv - en, Hung up - on the curs - ed tree.
 grace, be - liev - ing That I taste His love di - vine.

- 5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,
 Whose own feast of love I savor,
 Bidden by His gracious call.
 Wedding garments He provides me,
 With a robe of white He hides me,
 Fits me for the royal hall.

- 6 Now have I found consolation,
 Comfort in my tribulation,
 Balm to heal the troubled soul.
 God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
 Cleanses me from sin and error,
 Makes my wounded spirit whole.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER



HOLY BAPTISM:

9:30

✠ **TREVOR BRIAN CROISSANT** ✠

Elder: Through Baptism, God has made **Trevor** a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that together we may present the forgiveness of God in Christ to our world.

People: **We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ and a worker with us in the kingdom of God.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

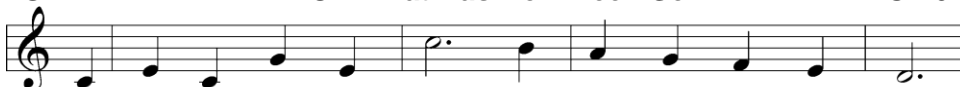
[L]: The Lord will bless and keep you, make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

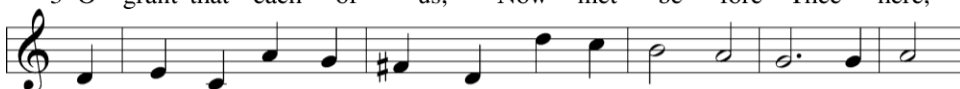
CLOSING HYMN:

"On What Has Now Been Sown"

LSB 921



1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;
2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;
3 O grant that each of us, Now met be - fore Thee here,



The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou
Ac - cept what is Thine own And par - don what is ours. Our prais -
May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -



in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!
es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless - ing give.
low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!

POSTLUDE

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"Praise to You and Adoration" LSB 692 Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo; tr. Kristen Kvamme, st. 1, alt; tr. *Christian Worship*, 1993, st. 2. Tune: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and Music: Public domain.

"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" LSB 685 Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-81; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978, alt. Tune: Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent. Text: © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149. Music: Public domain.

"Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us" LSB 711

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"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart" LSB 641

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"Jesus Comes Today with Healing" LSB 620 Text: Heinrich Puchta; tr. David W. Rogner. Tune: Johann Löhner; adapt. Johann Baltheusar König. Setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941 Text: ©David W. Rogner. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149. Tune: Public domain

"On What Has Now Been Sown" LSB 921

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt. Tune: John Darwall, 1731-89; setting: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978. Text and music: Public Domain.



SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Acolyte 9:30...Anastasia Kienitz

Lector 8:00...Greg Goebel

Liturgist...Karl Fink

Organist/Pianist...Kevin Bowers

Crucifer 9:30...Henry Cerulle

Lector 9:30...Lily Craft

Preacher...Pastor Kevin Kritzer

Children's Message...Kaley Ross



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.



Today's Flowers are given to the glory of God:

~ in celebration of our Grandson's Baptism
Trevor Brian Croissant ~

Love, Brian and Christie Betz

