

Welcome to Worship

Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026 | 9:30am



Welcoming in *Christ*. Growing in *Faith*. Responding in *Love and Service*.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
490 4th Street N., Bayport, MN | 651-439-3450

office.blcbayport@gmail.com | www.BethlehemStar.org | www.facebook.com/blcstar



Rev. Amy Vigesaa, *Pastor*

Hope Pederson *Worship Assistant*,
Jenny Schoolman, *Cantor*
Daniel Baumgartner, *Director, Music and Worship*

Ali Staloch, *Director, Children, Youth and Family Ministry*
Ben Crowder, *Audio Visual Tech*
Karl Braun, *Custodian*
Lori Gergen, *Office Administrator*

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

GATHERING

PRELUDE *Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia* Healey Willan

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

C **Amen.**

P Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

[Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues]

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us.

Blessed are you.

C **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

G You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

G You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

G Amen.

Acknowledgments

Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS103627. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission under OneLicense #A-721130, CCLI #237267 which allows use of the music in this service and reprint of hymns, & CVLI #20614336 which allows podcast/stream.

GATHERING SONG *That Easter Day with Joy was Bright*

ELW 384

1. That Easter day with joy was bright;
the sun shone out with fairer light
when, to their longing eyes restored,
th'apostles saw their risen Lord!

2. O Jesus, king of gentleness,
with constant love our hearts possess;
to you our lips will ever raise
the tribute of our grateful praise.

3. O Christ, you are the Lord of all
in this our Easter festival,
for you will be our strength and shield
from ev'ry weapon death can wield.

- 4 .All praise, O risen Lord, we give
to you, once dead, but now alive!
To God the Father equal praise,
and God the Spirit, now we raise!

GREETING

A The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C** **And also with you.**

KYRIE

ELW p. 138

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

This is the Feast

ELW p. 140

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Lord, our Good Above All Other, You are the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt. May we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

READING

1 Peter 1:3–9

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials,⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

PSALM *(please read responsively)*

Psalm 16

A ¹ Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

C ² **I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you.”**

A ³ As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble ones
in whom is all my delight.

C ⁴ **Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.**

A ⁵ The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

C ⁶ **The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant
places; I have a goodly heritage.**

A ⁷ I bless the Lord, who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

C ⁸ **I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.**

A ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.

C ¹⁰ **For you do not give me up to Sheol
or let your faithful one see the Pit.**

A ¹¹ You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 142

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

John 20:19-31

The Gospel is announced:

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth
chapter

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week,
and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of
the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace
be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands
and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the
Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the

Father has sent me, so I send you.”²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book.³¹ But these are written

so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

After the Gospel is read:

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Amy Vigesaa

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Walk By Faith

ELW 635

1. We walk by faith and not by sight;
with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:
"My peace be with you here."
2. We may not touch your hands and side,
nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"
3. Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near
and seek where you are found:
4. For you, O resurrected Lord,
are found in means divine:
beneath the water and the word,
beneath the bread and wine.
5. And when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.

APOSTLE'S CREED

**☐ I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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 PEOPLE

☐ Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

[A brief silence.]

Almighty God, you give life to the dead and call into existence things that do not exist. Breathe your Spirit upon us, that our faith may be renewed day by day. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Maker of heaven and earth, your mercies are new every morning. Open us to the wonders of creation, great and small, that we might grow in our care of all that You have made.

Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A God of peace, in every place where conflict rages, sow seeds of calm and openness to reconciliation. Strengthen the resolve of leaders and citizens to work for peace in their nations.

Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Healing God, come alongside all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way, mind, body, or spirit. Reveal to them your presence and assure them of the inheritance you have prepared for them. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Giver of joy, let this assembly be a place of genuine love and mutual affection. Deepen our care for one another and help us to embody your forgiving and sacrificial love. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

[Pastor Amy will conclude]

P Eternal One, we give thanks for saints who were faithful to the end and have joined with you through the promise of resurrection. Inspire us by their witness and bring us with them into your glorious presence. Merciful God,

C **Your mercy is great.**

P God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING MUSIC

Hallelujah, We Sing Your Praises

South African Hymn
Chapel Choir

OFFERING SONG *We Praise You, O God (vs. 1, 3)*

ELW 870

1. We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

3. With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us,
your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray,

C **Merciful God,**

accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.

**You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day
when we will hunger and thirst no more.**

Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,

that goodness and mercy may follow us

and bless the world you love.

In the name of Jesus, Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW p. 144

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE (Easter version)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the
resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

OR (Sunday version)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.

ELW p. 144

Blessed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p. 145

☞ 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 our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

AGNUS DEI

ELW p. 146

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC *Awake, My Heart, with Gladness* ELW 378

1. Awake, my heart, with gladness,
see what today is done;
now, after gloom and sadness,
comes forth the glorious sun.

My Savior there was laid
where our bed must be made
when, as on wings in flight,
we soar to realms of light.

2. Now hell, its prince, the devil,
of all their pow'r are shorn;
now I am safe from evil,
and sin I laugh to scorn.
For Christ again is free;
in glorious victory
he who is strong to save
has triumphed o'er the grave.

3. This is a sight that gladdens—
what peace it does impart!
Now nothing ever saddens
the joy within my heart.
No gloom shall ever shake,
no foe shall ever take,
the hope which God's own Son
in love for me has won.

4. Now I will cling forever,
to Christ, my Savior true;
my Lord will leave me never,
whate'er he passes through.
He rends death's iron chain;
he breaks through sin and pain;
he shatters hell's grim thrall;
I follow him through all.

5. Christ brings me to the portal
that leads to bliss untold,
whereon this rhyme immortal
is found in script of gold:
“Who there my cross has shared
finds here a crown prepared;
who there with me has died
shall here be glorified.”

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(Pastor Only)*

P Holy One,

through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

C Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

The Day of Resurrection

ELW 361

(Tune of ELW 805)

1. The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad,
the passover of gladness,
the passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from sin's dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over
with hymns of victory.

2. Let hearts be purged of evil
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light,
and list'ning to his accents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and hearing,
may raise the glad refrain.

3. Now let the heav'ns be joyful,
let earth its song begin,
the round world keep high triumph
and all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen,
their notes of gladness blend;
for Christ the Lord has risen,
our joy that has no end!

4. All praise to God the Father,
all praise to Christ the Son,
all praise to God the Spirit,
eternal Three in One!

Let all the ransomed number
fall down before the throne,
and honor, pow'r, and glory
ascribe to God alone!

DISMISSAL **A** Go in peace. Praise the Lord. **C** Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

In Thee Is Gladness

J.S. Bach