

Welcome to Worship

Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026 | 9:30am



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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
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Rev. Amy Vigesaa, *Pastor*

Jody Miranda, *Worship Assistant, 9:30am*
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*

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Awesome God

arr. Peggy Bettcher
Handbells

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

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

G **Amen.**

P Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

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.

C 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.

C 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.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Goodness of God*

Jenn Johnson

1. I love You Lord.

Oh, Your mercy never fails me.

All my days

I've been held in Your hands.

From the moment that I wake up

until I lay my head,

I will sing of the goodness of God.

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful.
All my life You have been so so good.
With every breath that I am able,
I will sing of the goodness of God.

2. I love Your voice.

You have led me through the fire.
In darkest night,
You are close like no other.
I've known You as a father.
I've known You as a friend.

I have lived in the goodness of God. *[Repeat Chorus]*

Bridge

Your goodness is running after,
it's running after me.
Your goodness is running after,
it's running after me.

With my life laid down,
I'm surrendered now.
I give You everything.
Your goodness is running after,
It's running after me.

[Repeat Bridge]

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful.
All my life You have been so, so good.
With every breath that I am able,
I will sing of the goodness of God.
I will sing of the goodness of God.

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

READING

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

^{14a} But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ³⁶ "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" ³⁸ Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this

corrupt generation.”⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

PSALM *(please read responsively)*

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

A ¹ I love the Lord because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

G ² **Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

A ³ The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

G ⁴ **Then I called on the name of the Lord, “O Lord, I pray, save my life!”**

A ¹² What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?

G ¹³ **I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord;**

A ¹⁴ I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

G ¹⁵ **Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.**

A ¹⁶ O Lord, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.
You have loosed my bonds.

C ¹⁷ **I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice
and call on the name of the Lord.**

A ¹⁸ I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,

C ¹⁹ **in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.
Praise the Lord!**

GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:13–35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty fourth
Chapter

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

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas,

answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him

strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them.³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight.³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.³⁴ They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!"³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

P The Gospel of the Lord. **C** Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Amy Vigesaa

HYMN OF THE DAY *This is Amazing Grace* Phil Wickham

1. Who breaks the power of sin and darkness,
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder
and leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

Chorus

This is amazing grace,
This is unfailing love,
That You would take my place,
That You would bear my cross.
You laid down Your life
That I would be set free,
Oh, Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me.

2. Who brings our chaos back into order,
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter?
The King of Glory, the King of Glory.
Who rules the nations with truth and justice,
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?
The King of Glory the King above all kings. *Chorus*

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!
Worthy, worthy, worthy! [*Chorus*]

APOSTLES' 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 SONG

Alleluia

W&P 6

He's my Savior, alleluia,
he's my savior, alleluia;
alleluia, alleluia,
he's my savior alleluia.

Hear our prayer Lord, alleluia,
hear our prayer Lord, alleluia;
alleluia, alleluia,
hear our prayer Lord, alleluia.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Living Savior, just as you journeyed with the disciples to Emmaus, accompany us on our journey of faith. Gather us at your table, that we recognize you in the breaking of the bread. Merciful God, **C** **receive our prayer.**

A Almighty God, you provide for the needs of all creation. Bless the fields that are being prepared for planting, and send favorable weather so that the soil may yield an abundant harvest. Merciful God,
C **receive our prayer.**

A God of justice, where leaders abuse power, confront them and call them to repentance. Where there is corruption, bring integrity; where there is violence, sow peace. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

A Gracious One, you have made us your own through the gift of baptism. Unite us in genuine love for one another and uphold this community in your name. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

A Healing Savior, your resurrection brings hope to a hurting world. Heal those who are sick. Strengthen the weary, give courage to the despairing, and comfort the dying. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

P Eternal Light, we give thanks for all who have nurtured your church's life in ages past. Bring us at last with them to the brightness of your glorious presence. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

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.

REPEAT PRAYERS SONG

Alleluia

W&P 6

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Risen Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

OFFERING MUSIC

Elegy

Susan Nelson
Handbells

OFFERING SONG

We Bow Down

W&P 149

1. You are Lord of creation
and Lord of my life,
Lord of the land and the sea.
You were Lord of the heavens
before there was time,
and Lord of all lords You will be.

Chorus

We bow down
And we worship You, Lord;
We bow down
and we worship You, Lord;
We bow down
and we worship You, Lord;
Lord of all lords You will be.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray,

G **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.

MEAL

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p. 145

G **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

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC *Day of Arising*

ELW 374

1. Day of arising,
Christ on the roadway,
unknown companion walks with his own.
When they invite him,
as fades the first day,
and bread is broken, Christ is made known.

2. When we are walking,
doubtful and dreading,
blinded by sadness, slowness of heart,
yet Christ walks with us,
ever awaiting
our invitation: Stay, do not part.

3. Lo, I am with you,
Jesus has spoken.
This is Christ's promise, this is Christ's sign:
when the church gathers,
when bread is broken,
there Christ is with us in bread and wine.

4. Christ, our companion,
hope for the journey,
bread of compassion, open our eyes.
Grant us your vision,
set all hearts burning
that all creation with you may rise.

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,
G Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

Our God

Chris Tomlin

1. Water You turned into wine,
opened the eyes of the blind;
there's no one like You,
None like You.

Into the darkness You shine,
out of the ashes we rise;
there's no one like You,
none like You.

Chorus

Our God is greater,
our God is stronger;
God You are higher than any other.
Our God is healer,
awesome in power, our God, our God.

2. Into the darkness You shine,
out of the ashes, we rise;
there's no one like You,
none like You

Chorus

Our God is greater,
our God is stronger;
God You are higher than any other.
Our God is healer,
awesome in power, our God our God.

Bridge

And if our God is for us
then who could ever stop us?
And if our God is with us
then what could stand against?
And if our God is for us
then who could ever stop us,
And if our God is with us,
then what could stand against?
What could stand against?

Chorus

Our God is greater,
our God is stronger;
God You are higher than any other.
Our God is healer,
Awesome in power our God our God [*Repeat Chorus*]

Bridge

And if our God is for us
then who could ever stop us,
and if our God is with us
Then what could stand against?
And if our God is for us
then who could ever stop us,
and if our God is with us
then what could stand against?
What could stand against?

Chorus

Our God is greater,
Our God is stronger;
God You are higher than any other.
Our God is healer,
Awesome in power, our God, our God.

DISMISSAL **A** Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
 C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Our God

Acknowledgments

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