

Welcome to Worship

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026 | 9:30am



CONFIRMATION

Affirmation of Baptism

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
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As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Cornerstone

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 31:1-5

P ¹In you, O Lord, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.

C ²**Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.**

**Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.**

P ³You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me;

C ⁴**take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.**

P ⁵Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

GATHERING SONG *Cornerstone*

Reuben Morgan

1. My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name *[repeat]*

Chorus

Christ alone cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm He is Lord
Lord of all

2. When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

Chorus

Christ alone cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm He is Lord
Lord of all

Interlude

Chorus

Christ alone cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm He is Lord
Lord of all

3. When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne
Faultless stand before the throne

GREETING

P 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

C **Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

WORD

READING

1 Peter 2:2-10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,"

⁸and

"A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence

of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

GOSPEL READING

John 14:1-14

The Gospel is announced:

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

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

¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Amy Vigesaa

HYMN OF THE DAY

Trust in God

Brandon Lake

1. Blessed assurance
Jesus is mine.
He's been
my fourth man in the fire
time after time.

Born of His Spirit
washed in His blood,
and what He did
for me on Calvary
Is more than enough.

Chorus

I trust in God
my Savior,
The One who will never fail.
He will never fail.

2. Perfect submission
all is at rest.
I know the author of tomorrow
has ordered my steps.

So this is my story
and this is my song.
I'm praising
my risen King and Savior
all the day long.

Bridge

I sought the Lord and
He heard and He answered
I sought the Lord and
He heard and He answered
I sought the Lord and
He heard and He answered
That's why I trust Him
That's why I trust Him

I sought the Lord and
He heard and He answered
I sought the Lord and
He heard and He answered
I sought the Lord and
He heard and He answered
That's why I trust Him
That's why I trust in

God my Savior,
The One who will never fail.
He will never fail.

I trust in God my Savior,
The One who will never fail.
He will never fail.

PRAYER SONG Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying W&P 92

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

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.

A God of water and the Word, we give you thanks for the gift of baptism and these young people who affirm the promises and commitments made in theirs. Guide them in faith, surround them with the community of saints, and grow in them the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We pray for Anna Crowder, Elaine Lesicka, Madalyn Martin, and Matthew Wubben. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Merciful God, **C receive our prayer.**

A God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick. Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God, **C receive our prayer.**

A God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God, **C receive our prayer.**

P God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed. 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.**

PRAYER SONG Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying W&P 92

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C And also with you.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

P Today we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ. Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

C Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

R I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

R I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 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.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

R 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.

AFFIRMATION

P You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

R I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P People of God, do you promise to support these youth and pray for them in their lives in Christ?

C We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P Stir up in (name) the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.

P Let us rejoice with these siblings in Christ. We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR CONFIRMANDS

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING MUSIC *You Are My King (Amazing Love)* Billy Foote
Bridge of Harmony

OFFERING SONG *We Fall Down* Chris Tomlin

1. We fall down.
We lay our crowns
at the feet of Jesus.
The greatness of mercy and love
at the feet of Jesus.

Chorus

And we cry holy, holy, holy.
And we cry holy, holy, holy.
And we cry holy, holy.
Holy is the Lamb.

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

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

☒ 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. 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 *Here I am Lord*

ELW 574

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?"

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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,

Amen

SENDING

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

How Great is Our God/How Great Thou Art

Chris Tomlin

The splendor of the King clothed in majesty,
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,
And trembles at His voice. Trembles at His voice.

Chorus

How great is our God!
Sing with me, how great is our God!
And all will see how great, how great is our God!

And age to age He stands and time is in His hands,
Beginning and the End, beginning and the End.
The God-head three in one, Father, Spirit, Son,
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb. *(Repeat Chorus)*

Bridge

Name above all names,
Worthy of all praise.
My heart will sing,
"How great is our God!" *(repeat Bridge)*

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art! (*repeat Refrain*)

DISMISSAL **A** Go in peace. Praise the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

How Great Thou Art

Acknowledgments

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