

Jesus took bread,
blessed and broke it,
and gave it to them

LUKE 24:30

Sunday, April 23, 2023
Third Sunday of Easter
Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)

**PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES
RINGING OF BELL
WELCOME**

The communion of saints stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

HYMN At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing (ELW 362)



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to
2 Praise we Christ, whose love di - vine gives his
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured death's dread
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal



our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love



flow - ing from his wound - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

GREETING (ELW p.184)

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

And also with you.

Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed.

Sin and death have no power over us.

Alleluia!

Let us come and worship Him.

Let us worship Him in spirit and in truth.

Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

The communion of saints is seated.

CHOIR ANTHEM “Fairest Lord Jesus”

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Today’s reading is the conclusion of Peter’s sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.

A reading from Acts.

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], 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.” ³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸Peter 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. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 116:1-4, 12-19

Psalm 116 is a psalm of thanksgiving.

¹I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,

²**for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.**

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;
I came to grief and sorrow.

⁴**Then I called upon the name of the LORD:**

“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”

¹²How shall I repay the LORD
for all the good things God has done for me?

¹³**I will lift the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD.**

¹⁴I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God’s people.

¹⁵**Precious in your sight, O LORD,
is the death of your servants.**

¹⁶O LORD, truly I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

¹⁷**I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the LORD.**

¹⁸I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God’s people,

¹⁹**in the courts of the LORD’s house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:17-23

The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.

A reading from First Peter.

¹⁷If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The communion of saints stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL READING: Luke 24:13-35

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then 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?" ¹⁹He 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, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But 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. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and 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. ²⁴Some 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! ²⁶Was 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.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The communion of saints is seated.

SERMON

Pastor Erika Uthe

The communion of saints stands.

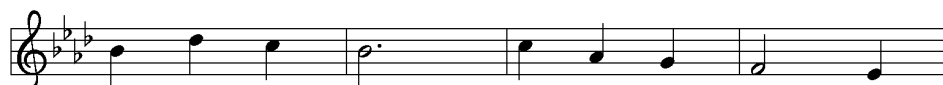
HYMN Alleluia! Jesus is Risen (ELW 377)



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

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 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 INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Each petition ends with, "Lord, in your mercy." Those worshipping respond with, "Hear our prayer."

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The communion of saints is seated.

OFFERING

We are grateful for your gifts and they are needed to continue the work of the church. Options on ways to give are found on our website (www.wbbethany.org). Thank you!

Offerings received are brought forward and placed on the altar as the communion of saints stands and sing the hymn below is sung.

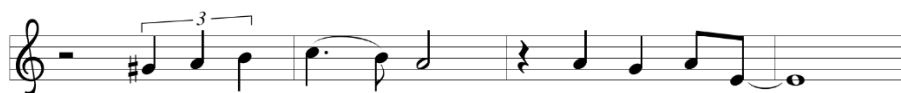
OFFERTORY HYMN *Change My Heart, O God (ELW 801)*



Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

HYMN *This Little Light of Mine* (ELW 677)

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh, oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

oh,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935
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BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

BENEDICTION *"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"*

SENDING

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS		
Ministers of:	Today	April 30
Music	Jill Barnhart	Jill Barnhart
Proclamation (Lector)	Cheryl Boerjan	Del Hughes
Minister of Technology	Cole Crosthwaite Tate Frantz	Alex Poppen
Worship (Altar Care)	John & Linda Black	John & Linda Black



Fourth Sunday Community Meal
Tonight from 5:00 to 6:00 PM
In the Great Hall
Please join us for a wonderful meal and great fellowship!

Thank you for worshipping with us today. Just as Jesus welcomed the stranger, we believe all are welcome here. Please join us again next week. For more information about our life together in Christ, visit: www.wbbethany.org



Ministry Opportunities This Week

Tuesday, April 25

9:00 AM — Prayers with Pastor & Paula

Wednesday, April 26

7:00 AM — Men's Bible Study with Breakfast

6:15 PM — Choir Practice

6:30 PM — Youth Faith Formation (4-8 Grade)

Thursday, April 27

6:00 AM — Women's Bible Study

1:00 PM — Quilters

Sunday, April 30

8:30 AM — Sunday School (PreK-Grade 3)

9:30 AM — Worship (Hymn Sing)

10:30 AM — Fellowship

Graduation Recognition and Blessing

DURING WORSHIP ON MAY 21 (9:30 AM)

Come celebrate with our graduates:
Alex Poppen, Hannah Schiele, Andrew Samuelson,
Aiden Shields and Hunter Niles



Hymn Sing Sunday April 30

Please join us next Sunday as we give thanks for the gift of music and song in our worship of God. The choir will sing and there will be an opportunity to sing a verse or two of your favorite hymn.



Did you know...

How your weekly offering makes an impact?

It supports... youth ministries

30 children were able to attend Vacation Bible School
12 Children were given Bibles in the spring + 15 more this fall
Wednesday Faith Formation - Starts September 7
Sunday School resumes - September 11



It supports...small group Bible Studies

Wednesday Mornings - Men's Study Group - 7:00am
Thursday Mornings - Woman's Study Group - 6:00am
Monthly Women's Bible Study - 2nd Wednesday at 9:00am

It supports...community outreach programs

Like the Hope Chest & the Food Pantry which provide clothing and food to those in need



It supports... meals and fellowship

Free dinner on the 4th Sunday of the month
the annual community tailgate
Angel Meals
annual Spaghetti Dinner

Thank you for your gifts,
which support these and many more
great ministries at Bethany Lutheran Church

Did you know...



How your weekly offering makes an impact?

It helps us invest in technology to expand our reach beyond the church doors



Average Online attendance - 112 viewers

Thank you for your gifts,
which support these and many more
great ministries at Bethany Lutheran Church

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SYNOD REVIVAL

IMAGINE



NOW TO GOD WHO BY THE POWER AT WORK WITHIN
US IS ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH ABUNDANTLY FAR MORE
THAN ALL WE CAN ASK OR IMAGINE...
EPHESIANS 3:21



BISHOP AMY CURRENT
SEIA SYNOD - ELCA



BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY
METRO CHICAGO SYNOD - ELCA



RACHEL KURTZ
MUSICIAN

 **SATURDAY
MAY 20**
10:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

 **GRAND VIEW
UNIVERSITY
DES MOINES**

SCAN ME



- WORSHIP
- INSPIRATIONAL MUSIC & SPEAKERS
- LEARN ABOUT VARIOUS MINISTRIES
- BRING A CHAIR OR BLANKET
- RAIN OR SHINE (INDOORS IF RAIN)
- FOOD AVAILABLE
- ALL AGES, ALL ARE WELCOME
- FREE! NO RSVP NEEDED

PRESENTED BY:



Southeastern Iowa Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

LET'S GO



HIKING

Thursday, May 18 @ 6:30 PM
(Weather Dependent)

Meet at the Shelter House of the
Hoover Library and Museum.
We will have a short devotional, talk
about future hikes and then take a walk
through the prairie.