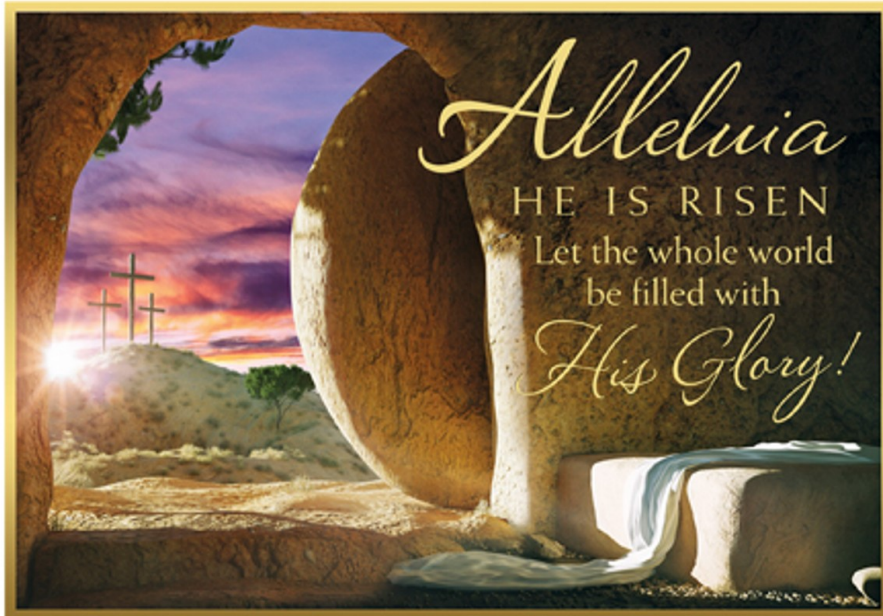


# Welcome to Bethania Lutheran Kirke



*Easter Sunday*

March 31, 2024

9:30 a.m.

BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:

<http://www.bethanialutheran.org/bulletins/>

**Order of Worship**  
**for**  
**Sunday, March 31, 2024**

Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS**

**GATHERING**

*(Please rise )*

**CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 118)**

**P:** Come, give thanks to our God.

**C:** God's steadfast love endures forever.

**P:** God is our strength and might and salvation.

**C:** God's steadfast love endures forever.

P: Because of this love, we shall not die.

**C: This is God's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

P: This is the day that our God has made,

**C: let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

P: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**C: Christ Is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

## **PROCESSIONAL & GATHERING HYMN**

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" # 151

*Lutheran Book of Worship—Green Hymnal*

## **SALUTATION**

L: 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: Let us pray,

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

*(Please be seated)*

## WORD

**OUR FIRST LESSON** is from the book of **Isaiah**; chapter 25, verses 6 through 9.

*More than 700 years before Christ, the prophet Isaiah proclaims the good news of God's salvation and calls all people to rejoice! God will make a rich feast for all people. God will wipe the tears from their eyes. And most importantly, God will destroy death itself.*

<sup>6</sup>On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

<sup>7</sup>And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

<sup>8</sup>he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the LORD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup>It will be said on that day,  
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.  
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**OUR SECOND LESSON** is from the book of Acts, chapter 10, verses 34 through 43.

*Peter crosses the immense religious and social boundary that separates Jews from Gentiles in order to proclaim the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, so that God's forgiveness in Jesus' name would reach out to all people.*

<sup>34</sup>Peter began to speak to the people: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus<sup>x</sup> Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That mes-

sage spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

L: This is the Spirit speaking to the church.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*(Please rise)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 16th chapter.

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

## **GOSPEL: John 20:1-18**

*This morning begins with confusion: the stone has been moved and the tomb is empty. Disciples arrive, then angels, and finally Jesus himself. Out of the confusion, hope emerges, and a weeping woman becomes the first to confess her faith in the risen Lord.*

<sup>1</sup>Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup>So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup>The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup>and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup>for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples returned to their homes.

<sup>11</sup>But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup>and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup>They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." <sup>14</sup>When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to

her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).<sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"<sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you O Christ.**

*(Please be seated)*

## MESSAGE

*(Please rise)*

## HYMN OF THE DAY -

(to the tune of LBW143)

**Earth, Earth, Awake!** (ACS 937)

Sung to tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN (LBW 143)

- 1 Earth, earth, awake! Your praises sing!  
Greet with the dawn your risen King! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Bright suns and stars, your homage pay!  
Life reigns again this Easter day!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

- 2 All nature sings of hope reborn!  
Christ lives to comfort those who mourn! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
First fruit of all the dead who sleep!  
Promise of joy for all who weep!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 3 Winter is past; the night is gone!  
Christ's light, triumphant, brings the dawn! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Creation spreads its springtime bloom!  
Life bursts like flame from death's cold tomb!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 4 Praise we the Father, Spirit, Son!  
Praise we the vict'ry God has won! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise we the Lamb who reigns above!  
Praise we the King whose rule is love!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

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## **EASTER UNISON PRAYER**

P: Let Us Pray,

**C: O God of Easter joy,  
we come this morning  
with glad shouts of acclamation.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ is risen, indeed.**

**May this time of worship  
help us to truly and fully experience this Risen Christ.**

**May we be transformed.**

**transformed into your butterfly people,  
winging through the earth  
with messages of beauty, hope and life.**

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER SONG**

(WOV# 751)

O Lord, hear my prayer,

O Lord, hear my prayer:  
when I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer,

O Lord, hear my prayer:  
come and listen to me.

## PRAYERS

P: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

P: Holy God, we pray for the body of Christ, the church. Where the church is persecuted, protect it. Where the church is privileged, grant it humility. Where the church is fractured, heal it. Guide us all to embody Christ's love in the world. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Life-giving God, we pray for the earth, your good creation. Join our prayers with branches lifted in praise and roaring waters of new life, that together we may proclaim Easter hope. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Merciful God, we pray for all peoples and nations. Free oppressed communities from occupation, exploitation, and abuse. Teach leaders your way of justice. Empower peacemakers and all who work to end violence and strife. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Liberating God, we pray for people everywhere who long for good news. Roll away the stones that keep people from living with dignity and wholeness. Breathe new life and hope into people struggling to make it through each day. We pray especially for Jeff & Sue, Anita, Grete, Heather, Mike, Bettie, Bonnie, Marilyn, and all those we name

in our hearts . God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Loving God, we pray for this community of faith and for your Spirit in our midst. Feed us at your Easter table and fill us with your wisdom, that we may serve and care for others. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Eternal God, we remember those who have gone before us in death. Renew our trust in your promises, that we live with joyful courage and compassion. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **PRAYER SONG (repeated)**

(WOV# 751)

O Lord, hear my prayer,

O Lord, hear my prayer:

when I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer,

O Lord, hear my prayer:

come and listen to me.

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

**C: And also with you.**

*(Shaking of hands and sharing the peace with one another)*

## OFFERTORY

(WOV #761)

### *Refrain*

Now we offer you, our Father,  
with the bread and with the wine  
all our joys and all our sorrows,  
all our struggles and our time.

In these gifts we see our oneness  
throughout city and the field,  
and we find a life of solace  
where the scars of strife are healed.     *Refrain*

## OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray,

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world,

through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

**C: Amen**

## INTRODUCTION TO THE MEAL

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 him thanks and praise.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Thanks and praise fill our hearts, Almighty God,  
for you are the Lord of creation and new creation.  
Joy and gladness are our song, redeeming God,  
for in your conquest of death we see the destiny of every hope in you.  
Come among us in the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that your children may be blessed with power and grace,  
and that this bread and cup may become for us  
the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;  
who, on the night in which he was betrayed, took bread,  
blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying,

"Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying,

"Drink of this, all of you: this cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
which is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

Hope and glory are our breath, merciful God,  
for you have rolled away the stone of despair,  
the stone of oppression, the stone of lament, the stone of grief,  
the stone of death, the stone of sin, the stone of fear.

Come and stand among us and breathe on us your peace,  
breathe on us your power, breathe on us your abundant life,  
that all who labor, all who stumble, all who hunger,  
and all who fall shall meet you in the breaking of the bread  
and be lifted up by your touch.

Shape your church to be your risen body;  
make our scars beautiful like your scars,  
make our lives life-giving like your life,  
and make our communion holy with your saints,  
until you come again in glory  
and we eat with you in your kingdom,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, ever one God. Amen.

P: Let us join our hands and hearts together in the prayer that our Lord  
taught us to pray:

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: 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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The risen Christ is made known to us  
in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's table.

*(Please be seated)*

## SHARING THE MEAL

*For in person, come up the center aisle, receive your communion wafer, carefully dip your wafer into the wine. If grape juice/ covid safe is preferred let the assistant know.  
For at home using plain bread/crackers and wine/grape juice.*

## COMMUNION HYMN - "This Is The Day" # 262 (TFF)

This is the day, this is the day  
that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;  
we will rejoice, we will rejoice  
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.  
This is the day that the Lord has made;  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.  
This is the day, this the day that the Lord has made..

*(Please rise)*

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

L: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

L: Let us Pray,

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love.

Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

**C: Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope  
✠ bless you now and always.

**C: AMEN!**

## **SENDING HYMN -**

“Christ Is Risen, Alleluia” #131

*Lutheran Book of Worship –Green Hymnal*



## **RECESSIONAL**

A: We follow the cross of Christ into the world.

Congregation turns as the cross passes them—so they are facing the back of the church)

## **DISMISSAL**

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God.

## **POSTLUDE**

### **TODAYS WORSHIP LEADERS:**

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Nuechterlein  
Brad Larsen

Lector:

Communion Assistants: Anita Neilsen & Brad Larsen

Building Host, Acolyte & Offering Presenter: Brad Larsen

Coffee Hour: Open

Altar Flowers: Easter

### **WORSHIP LEADERS NEXT WEEK (Sunday 4/7):**

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Nuechterlein

Lector: Anne Woodward

Communion Assistants: Jeff & Calaway Alderson

Acolyte Offering Presenter & Building Host: Jeff Alderson

Coffee Hour: Open

Altar Flowers: Open

Remember the food pantry. Suggested items: Canned dinners, Peanut butter, toilet paper, hygiene items, soup, and pastas.



If you have anyone you would like to have added to the prayer chain **please contact Kelly Imhoff at 262-554-1558 or by email: [bethaniaprayer-chain@wi.twcbc.com](mailto:bethaniaprayer-chain@wi.twcbc.com)**

### COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED

Please consider hosting coffee hour. The coffee will be started by the building opener. Treats maybe store bought or homemade.

The Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board outside Pastors office.

### EMPTIES FOR CASH

*"one persons junk is another persons treasure"*

- ★ Bring in your empty inkjet cartridges—black or color.
- ★ Do not put any tape on the cartridge.
- ★ Place your empty cartridge in a zip type plastic bag. (ex: zip lock)

Bethania will receive \$2 per cartridge.

**NO Toners please.**

### Cans FOR K-9's



We are collecting aluminum cans to help support the Racine County K-9 program.

The Flowers on Easter are Given to the Glory of God and In Honor of  
my two (2) Wonderful children, Kim & Tom by their mom, Anita  
Nielsen.

The Flowers on Easter are Given to the Glory of God and In Memory of  
My mom, dad and Baby Helen by Brad  
Family Members by Erik & Grete Hansen  
Loved ones by Shelly & Jeff Alderson  
Our grandparents, Alan and Irma Anderson by Annika and Erick  
Nielsen

My son Jaime who passed away last year on Easter Monday  
(4/11) by Bonnie Jensen

My grandma, Peg Mickelsen by Willy Mueller

Our Parents, Scott & Pam Kechter by Vicki Thiery

My parents, Jim & Shirley Woodward by Anne Woodward

My parents, Curt & Barb Helling by Cathi Webster

My husband Keith by Cathi Webster

My Grandchildren Grace Nemath and Clarence Webster by  
Cathi Webster

Loved ones by Jacque Majeed



# THIS WEEK AT BETHANIA....

Sunday, March 31, 2024 - Easter Sunday

**9:30 a.m. – Worship In Person & on Facebook Live**

**10:30 a.m. –Coffee Hour**

Monday, April 1, 2024 -

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.—Office Open

Tuesday, April 2, 2024 -

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.—Office Open

7:00 p.m.—Church Council meeting, hearth room

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 -

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.—Office Open

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.—Thread By Thread OPEN

Thursday, April 4, 2024 -

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.—Office Open

Friday, April 5, 2024 -

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.—Office Open

Sunday, April 7, 2024 -

**9:30 a.m. – Worship In Person & on Facebook Live**

**10:30 a.m. –Coffee Hour**