

Welcome to Bethania Lutheran Kirke



Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

9:30 a.m.

BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:

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

Order of Worship for Sunday, April 7, 2024

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

GATHERING

(Please rise)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Acts 4)

P: We gather in the name of the risen Lord.

C: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

P: We gather as sisters and brothers of the resurrected one.

C: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

P: We gather to share our faith and to worship God.

C: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

P: We gather to proclaim the good news of Easter!

C: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

PROCESSIONAL & GATHERING HYMN

"Now The Green Blade Rises" # 148

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,

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 Acts; chapter 4, verses 32 through 35.

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

OUR SECOND LESSON is from the book of First John, chapter 1, verse 1 through chapter 2, verse 2 .

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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. John the 20th chapter.

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

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Judeans. Jesus came and stood in their midst. "Peace be with you," he said. ²⁰With these words, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were overjoyed when they saw the master. ²¹"Peace be with you," Jesus said to them again. "As the father has sent me, so I'm sending you."

²²With that, he breathed on them. "Receive the holy spirit," he said. ²³"If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; any you hold fast are held fast."

²⁴One of the Twelve, Thomas (also known as Didymus), wasn't with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples spoke to him. "We've

seen the master!" they said.

"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands," replied Thomas, "and put my finger into the nail-marks, and put my hand into his side — I refuse to have faith!"

²⁶A week later the disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut. Jesus came and stood in their midst. "Peace be with you!" he said. ²⁷Then he addressed Thomas. "Bring your finger here," he said, "and inspect my hands. Bring your hand here and put it into my side. Don't be faithless! But faithful!"

²⁸"My Lord," replied Thomas, "and my God!"

²⁹"Is it because you've seen me that you have faith?" replied Jesus. "God's blessing on people who don't see, and yet have faith!"

³⁰Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which aren't written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may have faith that the Messiah, the son of God, is none other than Jesus; and that, with this faith, you may have life in his name.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

(Please be seated)

MESSAGE

(Please rise)

HYMN OF THE DAY -

"We Walk By Faith" # 675

With One Voice—Blue Hymnal

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: Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, fire fighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain *especially* Jeff & Sue, Anita, Grete, Heather, Bettie, Bonnie, Marilyn, Kathy, Gene, and all those we name in our hearts. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you. Grant us your peace amid our fears. 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)

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: It is our duty and our joy to give you thanks and praise,
Lord God of heaven and earth,

because you are continually renewing your work of creation
and transforming it to show your glory through resurrection.

P: Forgiving God, your Son's disciples cowered behind locked doors;
and yet in him you visited them on the evening of resurrection
and breathed on them the Spirit of peace.

Breathe that Holy Spirit upon us now,
that your church may know the power of your forgiveness
and these gifts of bread and wine may be 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."

P: Lord and God, intimate savior of our lives
and cosmic ruler of the universe,
in Jesus you are the substance of things hoped for
and the knowledge of things unseen.
Visit any who struggle under the shadow of doubt;
minister among all who suffer beneath the claims of oppressive rule;
resurrect your children, your church, and your earth.
Bless those who have not seen and yet have faith,
and shape your wounded body the church
to let the world see you through its scars.
Lift every voice to sing your Easter glory,
until the day when all stand before your throne,
in eternal communion with one another and with you,
ever one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. 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 -

"I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light" # 649

With One Voice—Blue Hymnal

(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: Go now with the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

C: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

P: Go to share your faith and your lives.

C: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

P: Go to proclaim the good news of Easter.

C: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

SENDING HYMN -

“Thine Is The Glory” #145

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

Lector: Anne Woodward

Communion Assistants: Jeff & Calaway Alderson

Acolyte Offering Presenter & Building Host: Jeff Alderson

WORSHIP LEADERS NEXT WEEK (Sunday 4/14):

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Nuechterlein

Lector: John Barnes

Communion Assistants: John & Robin Barnes

Acolyte Offering Presenter & Building Host: John Barnes

Coffee Hour: Altar Guild

Altar Flowers: Open

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.



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**

Cans FOR K-9's

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



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.

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



Glenn M. Melgaard passed away on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. Funeral Services will be held at Bethania Lutheran Church on Wednesday, April 10th, 2024. Visitation at 10:00 a.m and Funeral at Noon. Followed by a luncheon in fellowship hall. Please keep the Melgaard family in your prayers.

The Bethania Council will be meeting this Tuesday, April 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the Hearth Room.

The Church Office currently will not have Office hours. You may leave a voicemail or call Cathi on her cell (listed in the directory) if you need anything. Cathi is working from home but comes in once a week to run the bulletins and to do things she cant do from home.



THIS WEEK AT BETHANIA....

Sunday, April 7, 2024 - Easter Sunday

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

10:30 a.m. –Coffee Hour

Monday, April 8, 2024 -

Office Closed

Tuesday, April 9, 2024 -

Office Closed

Wednesday, April 10, 2024 -

Office Closed

Funeral Services for Glenn Melgaard

Thursday, April 11, 2024 -

Office Closed

Friday, April 12, 2024 -

Office Closed

Sunday, April 14, 2024 -

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

10:30 a.m. –Coffee Hour