

BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

You have a place here!

*"Joyfully we profess our faith through God's unconditional love.
Here and now God dwells in all of our lives,
bears our sins on the cross, and forgives us all."*

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD: EASTER DAY

9:00 am Sunday, April 20, 2025

Pastor David Johnson

TODAY'S REFLECTION



"The last enemy to be destroyed is death," Paul writes. Today Christ is risen, and we gather together with astonishment and joy. Christ is risen, and we have been set free from the bonds of death. Christ is risen, and we are forgiven. Christ is risen, and with the women at the tomb and Peter, we are amazed. Let us rejoice: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

New Member Welcome!

All baptized and confessing believers are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

*We hope that your worship experience is spiritually fulfilling
and your day begins with our Lord's gifts of peace and joy*

▼ **Prelude Reflections for Meditation**

▼ **Welcome Greeting—Prayers and Praises**

▲ **Opening Hymn**

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” page 9

▲ Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

▲ **In Confession & Forgiveness for Easter Worship**

We serve a risen Savior yet we live as if in chains.

Forgive us, Lord that we are so hesitant to live the resurrection life.

Forgive us that we fail to show through word and action the truth that you loved
us into your kingdom through the glorious mystery of the Cross.

Forgive us that there is still fear in our lives that prevents us from achieving our
full potential. Draw us close. Open our eyes to the glory of the risen Christ, our
hearts to the wonder of the Cross and our hands to the service of your kingdom
where you have placed us, that your name might be glorified through our lives.

Amen.

God of resurrection
of life and death and rebirth
Renew our hearts and minds

God of promise
of all beginnings and all endings
Renew our hearts and minds

God of hope
of new growth and harvest
Renew our hearts and minds
(by John Birch, Faith and Worship Blogspot)

▲ **Absolution**

▲ Prayer of the Day

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. Amen.

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

▼ God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)

The First Reading is from Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 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. 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; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 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. 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. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

▼ God's Word from the Psalms (NRSV)

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say, 'His steadfast love endures forever.'

The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

'The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;

the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.'

I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.
I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.
 The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.
 This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

▼ **God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)**

The Second Reading is from 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

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

▲ **God's Word from the Gospel (NRSV)**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 24:1-12

Glory to you, O Lord.

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

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

▼ **Sermon—God's Word Applied to Life**

▼ **Hymn of the Day**

"Lamb Of God" page 10

▲ **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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 the Church**

Let us pray to our risen Savior on behalf of the Church, the world, and one another.

A brief silence

You have done gloriously, O Lord Jesus; you have risen victorious over our ancient foes – sin, death, and the devil. When this seems too good to be true, show us your wounded hands and side, and renew our faith. Fill us with the Holy Spirit, so we may believe, proclaim, share, and live this truth: that because death has no dominion over you, it shall not have dominion over anyone whom you have redeemed. Alleluia, risen Lord, **in your mercy hear our prayer.**

This day, your Church is adorned with beauty. Adorn it also, dear Lord, with your holiness and love. Make it resplendent with faith, hope, and charity. Clothe it in righteousness and truth. Make its worship a foretaste of your eternal marriage feast, shared with all who come in repentant faith. Alleluia, risen Lord, **in your mercy hear our prayer.**

Keep close to your heart all Christians who suffer persecution even on this holy day. Grant them the joy of your saving help. Purge the leaven of hatred from their tormentors. Hasten the day when together they adore you, their Lord and God. Alleluia, risen Lord, **in your mercy hear our prayer.**

Crown this congregation with joy, kindness, and praise for your victorious love. Give us grace to share the hope that is within us with gentleness and respect. Alleluia, risen Lord, **in your mercy hear our prayer.**

Graciously bless the guests and visitors among us this day. Kindle the hearts of those who do not yet believe that you have conquered sin and death in your own body. Grant them faith to know that you live to bestow upon them eternal life, forgiveness, and peace. Alleluia, risen Lord, **in your mercy hear our prayer.**

Let peace and righteousness kiss; let mercy and healing overflow; and let wisdom and faith abound throughout the world. Bestow joy, comfort and wholeness upon all people, especially those afflicted by human malice or natural catastrophe; and bring us all into a right relationship with you forever. Alleluia, risen Lord, **in your mercy hear our prayer.**

Keep safe all who risk their lives on behalf of others. Equip them with the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith, the sandals of peace, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit. Heal them when they fall. Fill their loved ones with confidence in your triumph over every foe. Alleluia, risen Lord, **in your mercy hear our prayer.**

Raise up all who sit in the shadows of pain, sorrow, and death. Bring comfort and forgiveness to those who cry out for mercy, *especially for those we name before you now (either in silence or out loud)*. Impart your life and love to them, so they may join us in the Psalmist's words, "I shall not die but live, and declare the works of the Lord!" Alleluia, risen Lord, **in your mercy hear our prayer.**

O risen Lord Jesus, those who died trusting you already experience that Easter morning that knows no end. Wipe away our tears, banish our doubts, and fill us with courage and joy. "Lord Jesus, from all evil forever make us free – from sin and from the devil, and all adversity; from sickness, pain and sadness, from troubles, cares and fears; and grant us heavenly gladness, and wipe away our tears. O, let us see in glory, your blest, redeeming face; and sing the old, old story of your amazing grace. Join us, with angels' voices, and saints, from great to least, 'til all the world rejoices, and with you, keeps the feast!" Alleluia, risen Lord, **in your mercy hear our prayer.**

Grant to us all that is in accordance with your will, dear Jesus, and accomplish your salvation among us; for you are risen from the dead and dwell in majesty with your Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

▲ **Sharing of the Peace**

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

Greet each other with a sign of Christ's peace.

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

▼ **Offering Prayer**

Risen One,
 you have gathered us around your table of grace
 along with these gifts we bring.
 Come among us again,
 breathe your life into us,
 and enliven us with this meal,
 that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

▼ **The Great Thanksgiving and 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,
 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;
 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 and Distribution of Communion**

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

▼ **Post Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in His grace until He comes again.
In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

▼ **Post Communion Prayer**

Living One,
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders,
sing of your glory,
and proclaim your risen life
to a wounded and weary world.
Amen.

THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

▼ **Closing Hymn**

"He Lives" page 11

▼ **Announcements**

Anyone is welcome to make announcements at this time

▲ **Blessing and Dismissal**

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father and the † Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1–3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, st. 4

Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

Lamb Of God

Words and Music by
Twila Paris

♩ = 52

VERSE

C G C G/B Am Fmaj⁷ C/E



1. Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide; But You have sent ____ Him from Your -
(2. Your gift of) love they cru - ci - fied; They laughed and scorned ____ Him as He ____
(3. I was so) lost I should have died; But You have brought ____ me to Your ____



side, ____ to walk up - on ____ this guilt - y sod, ____ and to be - come the Lamb of
died. ____ The hum - ble King ____ they named a fraud, ____ and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of
side ____ to be led by ____ Your staff and rod, ____ and to be called a lamb of



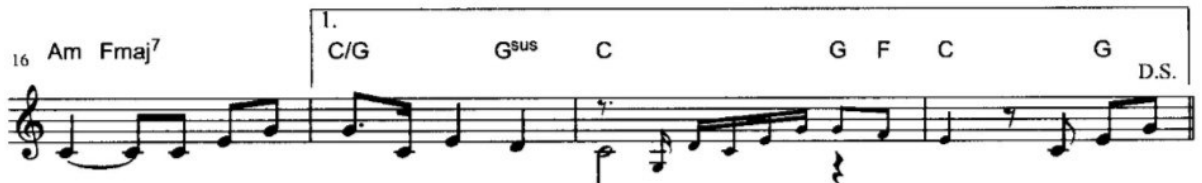
CHORUS

Am F G/F

God. 2. Your gift of God. Oh - Lamb - of - God, - sweet Lamb of



God. ____ I love the ho - ly Lamb of ____ God. ____ Oh, wash me in ____ His pre - cious



blood, - my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God. 3. I was so

He Lives

Words and Music by
Alfred Henry Ackley



1. I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, He's in the world to - day; — I
2. In all the world a - round me I see His lov - ing care; — And
3. Re - joice, re - joice, O Chris - tian, lift up your voice and sing — E -



know that He is liv - ing, what - ev - er men may say. — I see His hand of
though my heart grows wea - ry, I nev - er will de - spair. — I know that He is
-ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ, the King! — The Hope of all who



mer - cy, I hear His voice of cheer, — and just the time I need Him, — He's
lead - ing through all the storm - y blast; — The day of His ap - pear - ing — will
seek Him, the Help of all who find, — none oth - er is so lov - ing, — so



al - ways near. He lives, — He lives! — Christ Je - sus lives — to -
come at last.
good and kind.



-day! — He walks with me and talks with me a - long life's nar - row way. — He



lives, — He lives, — sal - va - tion to im - part! — You



ask me how I know He lives? He lives with - in my heart! —

CCLI Song # 17597

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Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

130 O'Dill Drive, Norway, Michigan 49870 www.norwaybethany.org
OFFICE PHONE 906-563-8472 EMAIL bethanyoffice@norwaymi.com

Pastor Dave Johnson

PHONE/TEXT 651-769-3365 EMAIL ftp565@yahoo.com

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MORE SPECIAL WAYS TO GIVE THROUGH YOUR TIME AND TALENTS

Sunday Worship Lectors and Communion Assistants are needed

Service Assistant to advance projected bulletin slides

Maintenance chores around the facility

Christian Education Volunteers

BETHANY WEEKLY EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday	9:00 am Worship, in the Great Room and Facebook Live-Stream/Video
Tuesday	9:00 am Community Coffee in Great Room 9:00 am Cover Girls in Classroom
Wednesday	10:00 am Women's Bible Study via ZOOM
Thursday	7:00 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study in Great Room 10:00 am Women's Bible Study in Conference Room

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