

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."*

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
9:00 am Sunday, April 19, 2026

Pastor David Johnson

TODAY'S REFLECTION



Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

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**

“Thine is the Glory” page 9

▲ **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, **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 WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

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

The First Reading is from Acts 2:14a, 36-41

“Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent

and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may³ be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” So 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.**

▼ **God’s Word from the Psalms (NRSV)**

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

I love the Lord because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

Then I called on the name of the Lord, “O Lord, I pray, save my life!” What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord;

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.

O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds.

I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,

in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

Praise the Lord!

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

The Second Reading is from 1 Peter 1:17-23

If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person’s work, live in fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. You 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.**

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

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 24:13-35

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then 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?" He 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, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But 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. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and 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. Some 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." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 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. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. 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?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

▼ *Children's Sermon*

▼ *Sermon—God's Word Applied to Life*

▼ *Hymn of the Day*

"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" 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*

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 brief silence

Living Savior, just as you journeyed with the disciples to Emmaus, accompany us on our journey of faith. Gather us at your table, that we recognize you in the breaking of the bread.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, you provide for the needs of all creation. Bless the fields that are being prepared for planting, and send favorable weather so that the soil may yield an abundant harvest. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of justice, where leaders abuse power, confront them and call them to repentance.

Where there is corruption, bring integrity; where there is violence, sow peace.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Healing Savior, your resurrection brings hope to a hurting world. Heal those who are sick especially for those we name before you now (either in silence or out loud). Strengthen the weary, give courage to the despairing, and comfort the dying.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Gracious One, you have made us your own through the gift of baptism. Unite us in genuine love for one another and uphold this community in your name.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Eternal Light, we give thanks for all who have nurtured your church's life in ages past.
Bring us at last with them to the brightness of your glorious presence.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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. **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 and Presentation of the Gifts**

Mission Designation April—June—**Fortune Lake**

▼ **Offering Prayer**

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.**

▼ **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 new life.
Receive the risen Lord.

Let Us Break Bread Together



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

▼ **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**

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.**

THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

▼ **Closing Hymn**

"He Is Exalted" 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.

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Thine Is the Glory



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-



vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain



where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
 to thy home a - bove.



Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Words and Music by
Helen H. Lemmel

D G D/A

1. O soul, are you wea - ry and trou - bled? No light in the
 2. Thru death in - to life ev - er - last - ing He passed, and we
 3. His Word shall not fail YOU - He prom - ised; Be - lieve Him, and

6 A7 D D E7/B

dark - ness you see? _____ There's light for a look at the Sav -
 fol - low Him there; _____ O'er us sin no more hath do - min -
 all will be well: _____ Then go to a world that is dy -

12 A/C# D A/E E7 A Bm7 A7/C# CHORUS D

-ior, and life more a - bun - dant and free! _____ Turn your
 -ion- for more - than con - q'rors we are! _____
 -ing, His per - fect sal - va - tion to tell! _____

18 A A#°7 Bm D7/A G G#° A°us

eyes up - on Je - sus, look full in His won - der - ful face; _____

24 A D A7/E D/F# A7 Bm D7/A

— And the things of earth will grow strange - ly

28 G Gm/Bb D/A A7 D

dim in the light of His glo - ry and grace. _____

He Is Exalted 2x

Words and Music by
Twila Paris

VERSE

F F/A B \flat B \flat /C C 7

He is ex - alt - ed, the King is ex - alt - ed on _ high, _ I will praise _ Him.

5 F F/A B \flat C/B \flat B \flat /C C D^{sus} D

He is ex - alt - ed, for - ev - er ex - alt - ed, and I will praise His name! _

CHORUS

11 Gm Dm/F C/E C F Am B \flat F/A Gm Dm/F

He is the Lord, _ for - ev - er His truth shall reign. Heav - en and

16 C/E C F Am B \flat F/A

earth _ re - joice in His ho - ly name. _

19 Gm B \flat /F E \flat B \flat /C F

He is ex - alt - ed, the King is ex - alt - ed on high! _

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

ONLINE BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH OFFERING DONATIONS

are available following these easy steps from our secure Website or Facebook Page

norwaybethany.org: Click the donate button on the upper right side of the page to directly access Bethany's secure PayPal Account.

facebook.com/BethanyLutheranChurchElca: Click the "Shop Now" button on the upper right corner to directly access Bethany's secure PayPal Account.

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	10:30 am Women's Bible Study via ZOOM 6:00 pm Confirmation Classes
Thursday	7:00 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study in Great Room 11:00 am Women's Bible Study in Conference Room 6:30 Pub Theology

Copyright Permissions:

- From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2005 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #46211
- OneLicense.net License #A-722709
- CCLI—Christian Copyright Licensing #11270064
- New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.