

April 19, 2026 | 8:30am



# Bethlehem

Lutheran Church & Preschool

Third Sunday of Easter



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LARGE PRINT

# Order of Worship

Third Sunday of Easter | 8:30 am | April 19, 2026

## Welcome and Announcements

## Invitation to Worship

## Opening Hymn *(Please Stand)*

*Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear*      LW #197

Lord, open now my heart to hear, and through Your Word  
to me draw near;  
Preserve that Word in purity that I Your child and heir may  
be.

Your Word it is that heals my heart, that makes me whole  
in ev'ry part;  
Your Word of joy within me sings, true peace and  
blessedness it brings.

To God the Father, God the Son, to God the Spirit, three in  
one,  
Honor and praise forever be now and through all eternity!

## Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy  
Spirit.

C: Amen.

## Confession

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth  
is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will  
forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination*

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

**Absolution**

C: Amen.

**Kyrie**

*page 179*

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

## Hymn of Praise

*This is the Feast*

*page 182*

P: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

C: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
Whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength

And honor and blessing and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all  
creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the  
Lamb forever. Amen

This is the feast of victory for our God,

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia,  
alleluia.

## Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray together:

C: Glorious Father, You are the revealer of mysteries and truth.

We ask that You would give us the Spirit of wisdom and of  
revelation, so that we may trust in You more fully and follow  
You more closely. Enlighten us with Your Truth and help us to  
grow in our knowledge of the hope we have in Jesus. It is in  
His name we pray. Amen.

## First Reading

*(Please Sit) Psalm 119:17-24*

- <sup>17</sup> Deal bountifully with your servant,  
that I may live and keep your word.
- <sup>18</sup> Open my eyes, that I may behold  
wondrous things out of your law.
- <sup>19</sup> I am a sojourner on the earth;  
hide not your commandments from me!
- <sup>20</sup> My soul is consumed with longing  
for your rules at all times.
- <sup>21</sup> You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones,  
who wander from your commandments.
- <sup>22</sup> Take away from me scorn and contempt,  
for I have kept your testimonies.
- <sup>23</sup> Even though princes sit plotting against me,  
your servant will meditate on your statutes.
- <sup>24</sup> Your testimonies are my delight;  
they are my counselors.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

## Second Reading

*Ephesians 1:15b-23*

...<sup>15</sup> because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, <sup>18</sup> having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup> that he

worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

**Holy Gospel**                      *(Please Stand)*                      **Luke 24:13-35**

<sup>13</sup> That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. <sup>16</sup> But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> 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 happened. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even

seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” <sup>25</sup> And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup> So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, <sup>29</sup> but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” <sup>33</sup> And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, <sup>34</sup> saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

## Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of

Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for \*us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(\* "us men" means "all people")

Children's Message (*Please Sit*) Eric Oswald, DCE

Hymn of the Day

*Who Are You Who Walk in Sorrow* LSB #476 tune: LW #90

Who are you who walk in sorrow down Emmaus' barren road

Hearts distraught and hope defeated. Bent beneath grief's crushing load?

Nameless mourners, we will join you, we who also mourn our dead.

We have stood by graves unyielding, eaten death's bare,

bitter bread.

Who is this who joins our journey, walking with us stride  
by stride?

Unknown Stranger, can you fathom depths of grief for One  
who died?

Then the wonder! When we told you how our dreams to  
dust had turned,

Then You opened wide the Scriptures till our hearts within  
us burned!

Who are You? Our eyes are opened in the breaking of the  
bread--

Christ, the victim, now the victor living risen from the  
dead!

Great Companion on our journey, still surprise us with  
Your grace!

Make each day a new Emmaus; on our hearts Your image  
trace!

Who are we who travel with You on our way through life to  
death?

Women, men, the young, the aging, wakened by the Spirit's  
breath!

At the font You claim and name us, born of water and the  
Word.

At the table still You feed us, host us as our Risen Lord!

**Sermon**

*Opened Eyes*

Pastor Phil Alexander

## Gathering of our Tithes and Offerings

*Bringing tithes and financial gifts to the Lord is an act of worship. These offerings help to accomplish ministry both here at Bethlehem and around the world. May God bless your response of faith.*

Please join our members in signing the Red Friendship Register in your pew. Thank you!

## Prayers of the Church

*Many of our prayer concerns and needs can be found at the end of this service folder.*

## Lord's Prayer *(Please Stand)*

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.

## Words of Institution

### Agnus Dei

*page 191*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Distribution of Holy Communion *(Please Sit)*

*see information on inside cover page*

## Distribution Hymns

### *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing* LW #129

Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!  
Now is the triumph of our King!  
To all the world glad news we bring:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord of life is ris'n this day;  
Bring flow'rs of song to strew His way;  
Let all the world rejoice and say:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory  
That love, that life which cannot die,  
And sing with hearts uplifted high:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Your name we bless, O risen Lord,  
And sing today with one accord  
The life laid down, the life restored:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

### *The Strife O'er, the Battle Done*

LW #143

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The strife is o'er the battle done; now is the Victor's  
triumph won;

Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!

The pow'rs of death have done their worst, but Christ their  
legions has dispersed.

Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

The three sad days have quickly sped, He rises glorious  
from the dead.

All glory to our risen head! Alleluia!

He broke the age-bound chains of hell; the bars from  
heav'n's high portals fell.

Let hymns of praise His triumph tell. Alleluia!

Lord by the stripes which wounded You from death's sting  
free Your servants too

That we may live and sing to You. Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

### **Communion Blessing** (*Please Stand*)

P: Now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus  
Christ strengthen and preserve you in true faith unto life  
everlasting.

C: Amen.

### **Post Communion Prayer**

P: We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have  
refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You  
that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the  
same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one  
another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives  
and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and  
forever.

C: Amen.

## Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with His favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

## Closing Hymn

*Abide with Us, Our Savior*

LW #287

Abide with us, our Savior, nor let Your mercy cease;  
From Satan's might defend us, and give our hearts Your  
peace.

Abide with us, our Helper, sustain us by Your Word;  
Let us and all Your people to living faith be stirred.

Abide with us, Redeemer, O Light, eternal Light;  
Your truth direct and guide us to flee from error's night.

Abide in princely bounty with us, large-hearted Lord,  
Our lives with grace and wisdom enriching through Your  
Word.

Abide as our protector among us, Lord, our strength;  
Let world and wily Satan be overcome at length.

Abide among us always, O Lord, our faithful friend,  
And take us to Your mansions when time and world shall  
end.

## Sending

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

**Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear**

Text: Johannes Olearius, 1611-84; tr. Henry L Lettermann, b. 1932  
Tune: J. Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1543  
Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014552

**Abide with Us, Our Savior**

Text: Josua Stegmann, 1588-1632; tr. Composite, alt.  
Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1560-1615  
Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014552

**Who Are You Who Walk in Sorrow**

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923-2007  
Tune: Williams Moore, fl. 1830, arr. Kelly Dobbs-Mickus, b. 1966  
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**Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing**

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872-1955, alt.  
Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570-1615  
Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014552

**The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done**

Text: Symphonia Sirenum, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832-1909, alt.  
Tune: Giovanni P. da Palestrina, 1525-94, adapt.  
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