



## BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 21ST, 2024

8:30 AM & 10:45 AM

*+ indicates to stand in body or spirit;  
bold print indicates congregational responses*

### ✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!" arr. Ellen Coman

WORDS OF WELCOME

+ AN EASTERTIDE THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (10:45)

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
by whose hand we are given new birth,  
by whose speaking we are given new life. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are welcomed, restored, and supported  
as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the water, the mystery, and the life.

O God, you are the river of life; **you are the everlasting wellspring.**

In mercy and might you have freed us from sin and death **and raised us with Jesus.**

In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, **and in them we are born anew.**

Through these waters, **each of us is called and gifted for ministry,  
in the church and in the world.**

Glory to you, O Lord, for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,  
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.

Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism  
and the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.  
Empower our witness to your resurrection.  
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all. Amen.

+ GATHERING HYMN "Come Away from Rush and Hurry" VT #9



1. Come a - way from rush and hur - ry to the still - ness of God's peace;  
2. In the pas - tures of God's good-ness we lie down to rest our soul,



from our vain am - bi-tion's wor - ry, come to Christ to find re - lease.  
from the wa - ters of God's mer - cy we drink deep-ly, are made whole.



Come a - way from noise and clam - or, life's de-mands and fren-zied pace;  
At the ta - ble of God's pres-ence all the saints are rich - ly fed.



come to join the peo-ple gath-ered here to seek and find God's grace.  
With the oil of God's an - noint - ing in - to ser - vice we are led.

+ APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold.  
Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you,  
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ANTHEM (10:45) "I Like Bananas"

## ✠ WORD ✠

### A READING 1 JOHN 3:16-24

A reading from the 3rd chapter of First John.

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

<sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

### + 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.

### + HOLY GOSPEL JOHN 10:11-18

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

<sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father.

And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold.

I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

<sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.

<sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S HOMILY & HOMILY

+ HYMN OF THE DAY "Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen" ELW #548

### A THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM & VOLUNTEERS (8:30)

Paul tells us that there are varieties of gifts and varieties of activities, but it is the same Spirit who activates all of them.

There is no insignificant work that is done among us.

All our efforts are important ways by which we live out and are blessed in our baptismal callings and by which our ministry flourishes.

Today we recognize the work done at Bethel by so many faithful and dedicated volunteers, giving thanks for how they build up the body of Christ and share God's love with neighbors near and far. We give thanks for God's help and guidance, and for making the Spirit manifest among us in such a variety of ways.

*(Don't be modest – all volunteers stand in body or spirit!)*

It is not only what you do,  
but how you connect and love  
that can transform a role or task into a gift from God.

God bless your duty and joy for this community and the impact you can have.

God bless your showing up and the details of your doing.

God bless your willingness to fail and learn from the process.

God bless your humility and humor in the heart of what you do best.

God bless your flexibility about the details and the outcomes alike.

God bless your observations about who else might be invited to help.

God bless your stepping back so another can participate more fully.

God bless your openness to a process of becoming together.

For these are gifts from God. And so are you.

*(Volunteers may sit.)*

Almighty God, you have called us into fellowship as a community of Christ in this place, and you have blessed us and enriched our lives through your Word and the sacraments.

You strengthen and inspire us with your Holy Spirit to live lives of mutual love and service to the world.

For all this, and, above all, for the gift of your Son and our salvation, we give our heartfelt thanks and praise.

**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

For those who lead and those who follow;  
for councils and committees and chairs:

**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

For prophets and seers, for the teachers and preachers and aides  
in Confirmation and Bethel U,

at Hangtime and on trips,  
in Sunday School and Limitless classrooms:

**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

For those who plan and those who guide;  
for those with wisdom and those with inspiration:

**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

For ushers and greeters, for assisting ministers and readers,  
for acolytes and sacramental ministers, for musicians and choirs:

**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

For bread bakers and altar guild,  
for those who tend to aesthetics and those who tend to logistics:

**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

For those who make coffee and bring treats,  
for those who prepare meals and those who wash up:

**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

For cleaners and dusters, for maintainers and fixers,  
for those who send zoom links and those who set up tables and chairs:

**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

For the helpers who answer phones and greet visitors with a smile,  
for counters and record keepers, for letter editors and envelope stuffers:

**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

For those who represent the church at Habitat construction sites,  
stocking food shelves or sorting clothes for the CAC,  
or through care packages for TORCH alumni;  
for makers of crosses and quilts,  
for those who write cards or bring meals,  
for those who visit and for those who call:

**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

For the fellowship and prayer that supports and undergirds all our efforts,  
**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit  
you have knit these your servants into the one body of Christ.  
Look with favor upon them in their commitment to serve in Christ's name.  
Be in minds and in hands and in words  
that they might extend the shelter of your love to the world.  
Give them courage, patience, and vision.  
Help and guide us all in our Christian vocation  
of witness to the world and service to others. **Amen.**

**HYMN OF DEDICATION** *"Lord, Be Glorified"* ELW #744

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

### + SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

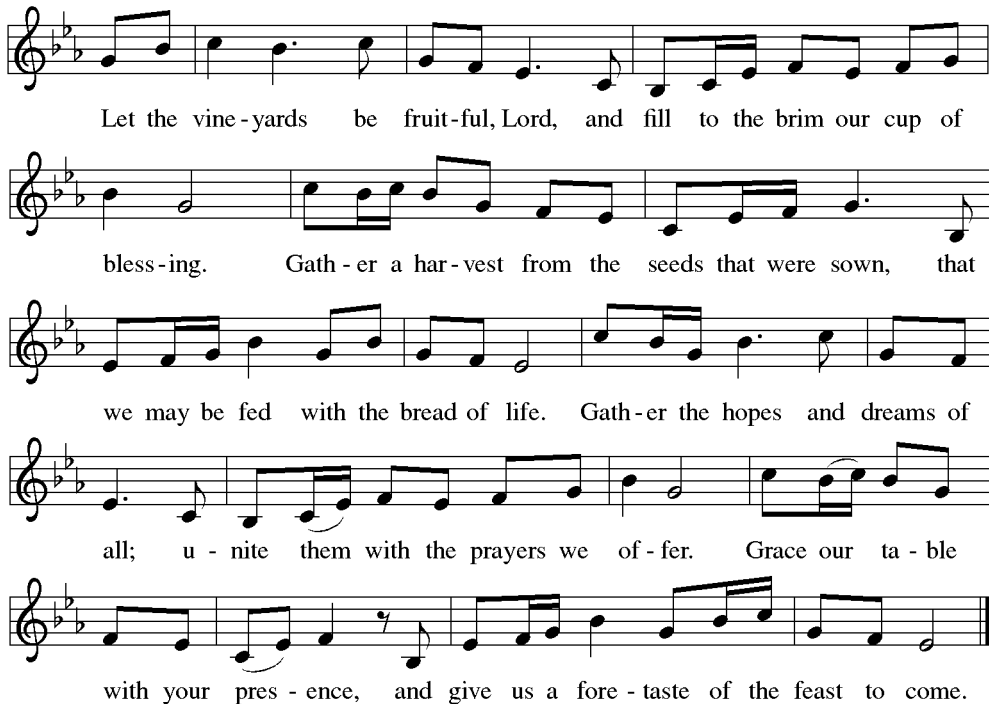
### OFFERING

We pass the peace of Christ beyond our congregation and this moment through our offerings of time, talent, and treasure. Use this QR code for a one-time gift or to schedule an automatic donation through Breeze. Online giving cards (in the back of hymnal), checks or cash may be placed in the offering plates as they are passed.



**ANTHEM (8:30)** *“My Shepherd”* arr. Anna Laura Page & Jean Anne Shafferman  
**(10:45)** *“Risen”* Shawna Edwards

### + OFFERTORY

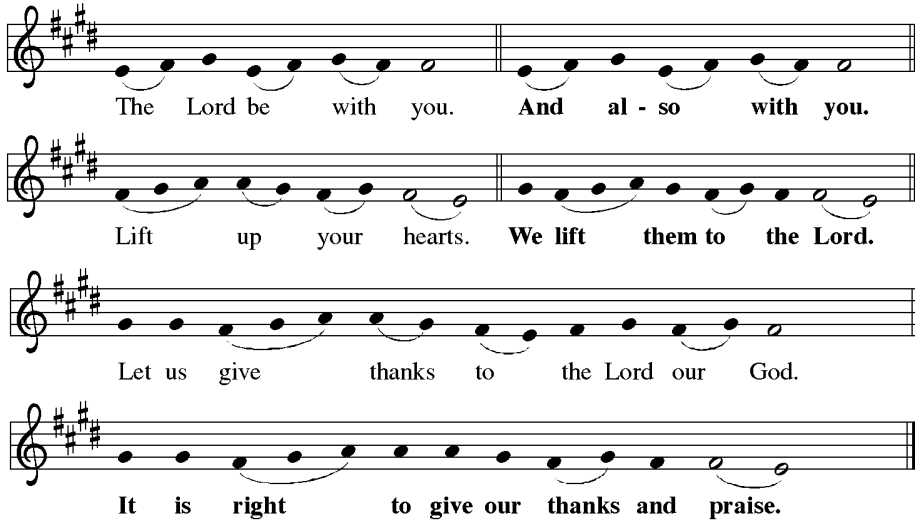


Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

### + OFFERTORY PRAYER

## ✠ MEAL ✠

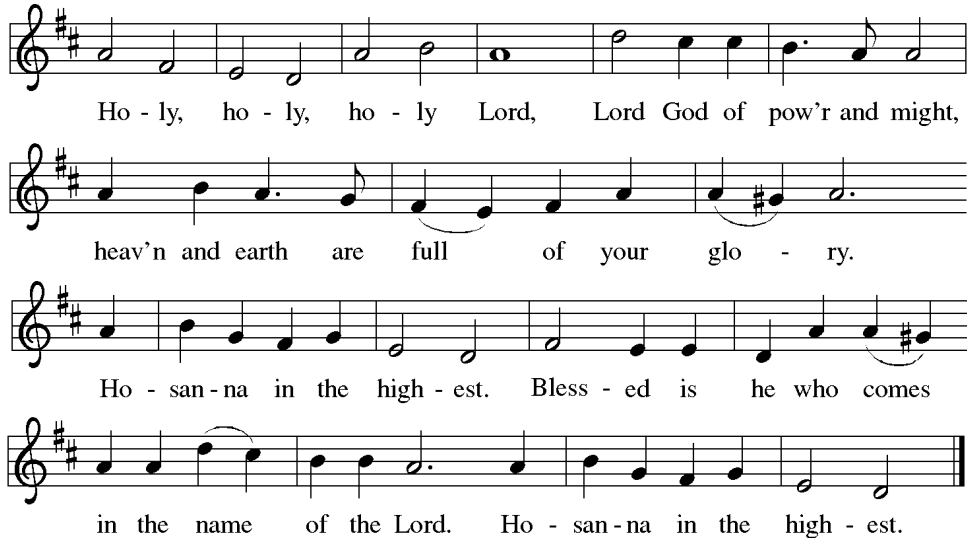
### + GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### + EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.





**HOLY COMMUNION HYMN** *“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”* ELW #502

**+ TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

**+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Blessed are you, Eternal God;  
**through this holy meal you have joined us to yourself and to one another.**  
Blessed are you, Incarnate God;  
**you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into yours.**  
Blessed are you, Breath of God,  
**as we go forth, set us free to follow where you lead. Amen.**

**✠ SENDING ✠**

**+ BENEDICTION**

Inhale: God is alive.  
Exhale: And God’s breath is freedom.  
May the Source of Life liberate you  
from deadened senses and death-dealing self-interest.  
May the Word of Life beckon you into the next chapter.  
May the Breath of Life, of grace, of wisdom,  
sing in your inmost being this day and always. **Amen.**

**+ SENDING HYMN** *“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!”* ELW #385

**+ DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**  
You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.  
Go in peace. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE** *“Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!”* arr. Brenda Portman

## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Pastor Inger Hanson & Pastor Ben Schori

Acolytes: (8:30) Teddy Waters (10:45) Olive Perryman

Assisting Minister: (8:30) Janice Lehmkuhl (10:45) Christina Schwietz

Ushers: (8:30) Bruce Dueffert, Harley Foster, Larry Narhi, Dale Turnacliff

(10:45) Denise Halvorson, Marie Halvorson, Chad Jenkinson

Readers: (8:30) Catherine Engle (10:45) Paula Mathison

Sacramental Ministers: (8:30) Beth Christensen, Judy Code, Maryann Kaul, Carol Lysne, Phil Ruud

(10:45) Barb Farmer

Altar Care: (set) Carol Cole (clean) Carol Cole

Church Choir Director: Peter Schleif

Sunday School Children's Choir Grades 2-5: Scott & Elga Broughton

Vocal Duet: Christina Schwietz & Megan Engel

Keyboards: Megan Engel

A/V Technicians: Sam Dwyer, Sebastian Jenkinson, Boden Jenkinson, Nathan Hoekstra, Brent Kivell

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

*"Come Away from Rush and Hurry"* Text by Marva J. Dawn; © 1999 Marva J. Dawn.

Music: Gregg DeMey, © 2008 Re>Create Music,  
admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources

The Eucharistic prayer is cobbled from Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher's

*Eucharistic Prayers* © 2016 William B. EerdMans Publishing Company

The Benediction draws from Cole Arthur Riley (@BlackLiturgies) and Pastor Jeff Shrowder  
(United Church of Australia—<http://thebillabong.info>). Used with permission.

We are using ELW Setting Four for our liturgy.

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**SUNDAY ATTENDANCE & FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT**

April 14th	in person attendance
8:30 am	202
10:45 am	79
Total	281

Offering—General Operating Budget	2024 Budget monthly goal: \$80,771
April 6th online giving	\$10,874
April 13th online giving	\$2,829
Plate Offering March 31 & April 7	\$30,628
April 20th online giving	
April 27th online giving	
Plate Offering April 14 & 21	
<i>Plate Offering April 28 (to be counted in May)</i>	
April Total	\$44,331

**2024 Financial Status**  
**(YTD as of end of March)**

Income received	\$223,502
Expenses	\$248,886
Net Deficit	\$25,384

**Offering Counters Needed!**

Did you know that twice per month, three wonderful Bethel volunteers gather to count offerings and other income received? We have a great group of volunteers but we do need more, especially with the summer travel season just around the corner! We will provide training. The time commitment is once or twice per month for approximately two hours per time. According to audit "best practices," neither the Treasurer nor the Finance Assistant can perform this task. We could really use more volunteers!

Please contact Caroline Smith at [csmith@bethelnorthfield.org](mailto:csmith@bethelnorthfield.org) or Barb Fowler at [barbfowler50@gmail.com](mailto:barbfowler50@gmail.com)



**Thank you for all you do at Bethel!**

# THIS WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - 3 PM

## MONDAY

6:30 pm



Resonance Adult Bell Choir

## TUESDAY

9:00 am



Quilting Group

9:45 am

Staff Meeting

## WEDNESDAY

3:30 pm

Limitless

5:45 pm



Bistro

6:15 pm

Ring Forth Youth Bell Choir

7:00 pm



Church Choir Rehearsal

6th Grade Connections

Hang Time

8:05 pm



Brio Youth Bell Choir

## THURSDAY

8:30 am

Men of Bethel (Room 62)

9:30 am

FAB (Faith & Books) (Youth Room)

## SATURDAY

9:00 am



Adopt-a-Highway Clean Up

Gather at the Bethel parking lot right before 9:00 am and we will carpool to our site on Highway 3 N. and County Road 86. Please bring work gloves. Safety vests and bags will be provided. The cleanup is sponsored by the Creation Care Team. Please join us for 1 1/2 hours of care for God's creation.



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