



CONNECTED TO THE SCRIPTURES

The Third Sunday of Easter

BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | York, Nebraska

April 18, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship the Lord with us today. Large print hymnals and hearing assist devices are available upon request. Restrooms are located on the north side of the main level and in the lower level. If you have any questions or need assistance with anything please ask one of our ushers.

Connection cards: Visitors, or members with contact information changes, please fill out our online connection card at bethelyork.com, member connect tab, or scan this code.



SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

Worship Materials

The order of service and the hymns for today are printed for you in this folder. It is also in "Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal" which is in the hymnal rack on the back of each pew. Watching the theme and passage on the screen may help you prepare for worship.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Worship Leader
Pianist/Organist

Pastor Mark A. Haefner
Mrs. Deborah Owen

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SERVICE OF THE WORD

This service offers the congregation a form of worship that focuses on the proclamation of God's Word. Believers respond to this divine gift with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

OPENING HYMN

This Is the Threefold Truth | 406

1 This is the threefold truth on which our faith depends;
And with this joyful cry worship begins and ends:

Refrain:

Christ has died!

Christ is risen!

Christ will come again!

2 Made sacred by long use, new-minted for our time,
Our liturgies sum up the hope we have in him:

Refrain

3 On this we fix our minds as, kneeling side by side,
We take the bread and wine, take him, the Crucified:

Refrain

4 By this we are upheld when doubt or grief assails
Our Christian faith and love, and only grace avails:

Refrain

5 This is the threefold truth which, if we hold it fast,
Changes the world and us and brings us home at last:

Refrain

INVOCATION

please stand

M The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C **And also with you.**

CONFESSION

M We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

ABSOLUTION

M God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C **Amen.**

M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -

ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
 Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Let us pray.

O God, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Acts 4:8-12

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel, ⁹if we are being questioned today for a kind act that was done for the lame man, as to how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead! By him this man stands before you healed. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you builders, which has become the cornerstone^f

^f Psalm 118:22

¹²"There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved." (EHV)

M The Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM

118

Refrain

This is the day the Lord has made, let us re-
joice and be glad! This is the day the
Lord has made, let us re-joice and be glad!

Psalm tone

*
The LORD is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation.

The LORD is my strength and my song;*
he has become my salvation.

The LORD'S right hand is lifted high;*
the LORD'S right hand has done mighty things!

I will not die but live,*
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

Refrain

I will give you thanks, for you answered me;*
you have become my salvation.

The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone.*

the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day the LORD has made;*
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 2:12-3:6

¹²When I came to Troas to proclaim the gospel of Christ and a door was opened for me by the Lord, ¹³I had no rest in my spirit, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said good-bye to them and went on to Macedonia.

¹⁴But thanks be to God, who always causes us to triumph in Christ and reveals the fragrance of his knowledge through us in every place. ¹⁵Yes, we are the fragrance of Christ for God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. ¹⁶To some we are the odor of death that is a prelude to death, to the others the fragrance of life that is a prelude to life. And who is qualified for these things? ¹⁷To be sure, we are not like many who peddle the word of God for profit. Instead, in Christ we speak with sincerity in the sight of God, as men from God.

Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? ²You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. ³It is clear that you are a letter from Christ, delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on stone tablets but on tablets that are hearts of flesh.

⁴Such is the confidence we have through Christ before God. ⁵Not that we are competent by ourselves to claim that anything comes from us; rather, our competence is from God. ⁶He also made us competent as ministers of a new testament (not of letter, but of spirit). For the letter kills, but the spirit gives life.(EHV)

M The Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God!**

VERSE OF THE DAY

M Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Our hearts were burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us. Alleluia.

♪ **Whate'er the Word in times of old
Of future days and deeds foretold
Is all fulfilled while ages roll,
As traced on the prophetic scroll.**

CW 291

**Abiding, steadfast, firm, and sure,
The teachings of the Word endure.
Blest all who trust this steadfast Word;
Their anchor holds in Christ, the Lord.**

GOSPEL

Luke 24:36-49

please stand

M The Gospel according to Luke chapter 24.

³⁶As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

³⁷But they were terrified and frightened and thought they were looking at a ghost.

³⁸He said to them, "Why are you troubled? Why do doubts arise in your hearts?"

³⁹Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."⁴⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While they still did not believe it (because of their joy), and while they were still wondering, he said to them, "Do you have anything here to eat?"

⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish and some honeycomb. ⁴³He took it and ate in front of them. ⁴⁴He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms."

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He said to them, "This is what is written and so it must be: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.

⁴⁹Look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." (EHV)

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.



be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

This Joyful Eastertide | 160

1 This joyful Eastertide
Away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified,
Has sprung to life this morrow.
Refrain:
Had Christ, who once was slain,
Not burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;
But now is Christ arisen.

2 Death's flood has lost its chill
Since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill
My passing soul deliver.
Refrain

3 My flesh in hope shall rest
And for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west
Shall wake the dead in number.
Refrain

SERMON

Luke 24:44-49

please stand

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

maker of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING ***Please leave your offering in the plate provided in the entry or make use of one of the available online options on our website.***

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income. 1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M** O God of grace, mercy and peace: by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and by the faithful testimony of the apostles, you have given us assurance that our faith stands upon a most true and sure foundation.
- C** **Grant us the living witness of your Spirit through the word, that our hearts may rest firmly in this truth.**
- M** We thank you for your unspeakable gift of eternal life in your Son. Preserve and defend us from all assaults on our souls that we may hold fast to the confession of our faith.
- C** **Deliver us from doubt and despair. Save us from worldly wisdom and false learning.**

M We lift up our hearts in thanksgiving for your holy Word. Grant that we may be illumined by its heavenly light and instructed by its saving truth. And though we do not see Jesus with our physical eyes, help us to see him with the eyes of faith, lead us to love him and rejoice in him, and grant that we may receive the goal of our faith, the salvation of our souls.

C **Breathe upon your Church that it may faithfully preach your Word and proclaim the gospel of our risen Savior with courage and diligence in all lands and to all people.**

M Forgive the sins of your people, O Lord. Strengthen the doubting and the faithless. Bring back the forgetful and the wayward. And comfort the anxious and the distressed.

Special prayers of thanksgiving or intercession may be spoken here.

M Finally, as we go from this holy place today, grant to us all peace and rest according to your good will, and bring us finally to your heavenly kingdom.

C **We pray this in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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.**

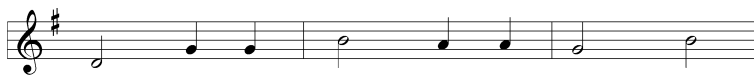
be seated



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints
 2 "Fear not! I am with you. Oh, be
 3 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path -
 5 "Through - out all their life - time my peo -



of the Lord, Is laid for your
 not dis - mayed; For I am your
 for re - pose I will not, I
 way shall lie, My grace all - suf -
 ple shall prove My sov' - reign, e -



faith in his ex - cel - lent Word! What
 God and will still give you aid; I'll
 will not, de - sert to his foes. That
 fi - cient shall be your sup - ply. The
 ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love, And



more can he say than to you
 strength - en you, help you, and cause
 soul, though all hell should en - deav -
 flames will not hurt you; I on -
 then, when gray hair shall their tem -



he has said Who un - to the
 you to stand, Up - held by my
 or to shake, I'll nev - er, no
 ly de - sign Your dross to con -
 ples a - dorn, Like lambs they shall



Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 right - eous, om - ni - po - tent hand.
 nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!
 sume and your gold to re - fine.
 still on my shoul - ders be borne."

The beloved words of this hymn are wed to its traditional American melody.

Text: *A Selection of Hymns*, London, 1787, alt.

Tune: FOUNDATION (11 11 11 11) Traditional American melody; Caldwell's *Union Harmony*, 1837.

PRAYER

[M] O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

[M] The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.



CLOSING HYMN

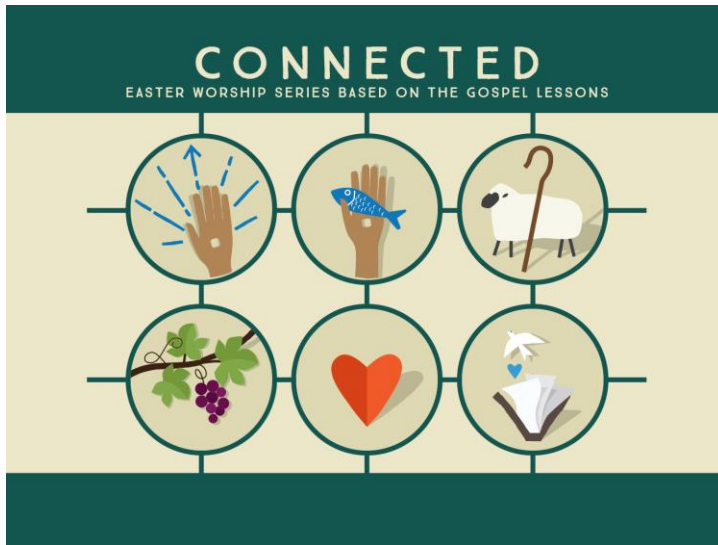
Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head | 536

1 Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's head, You are her one foundation.
In you she trusts, before you bows, And waits for your salvation.
Built on this rock secure, Your Church shall endure
Though all the world decay And all things pass away.
Oh, hear, oh, hear us, Jesus!

2 O Lord, let this your little flock, Your name alone confessing,
Continue in your loving care, True unity possessing.
Your sacraments, O Lord, And your saving Word
To us e'er pure retain. Grant that they may remain
Our only strength and comfort.

3 Help us to serve you evermore With hearts both pure and lowly.
And may your Word, that light divine, Shine on in splendor holy
That we repentance show, In faith ever grow.
The pow'r of sin destroy And evils that annoy.
Oh, make us faithful Christians.

4 And for your gospel let us dare To sacrifice all treasure;
Teach us to bear your blessed cross, To find in you all pleasure.
Oh, grant us steadfastness In joy and distress.
Lord, for your mercy's sake, Let us by grace partake
Of endless joy and glory.



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 10:30 AM Worship

Monday: 6:30 PM Catechism Online

Saturday: 10:30 AM Bible Information Class
Confirmation Practice
Bethel Workday
NELHS Workday

Sunday: 10:30 AM Worship with Communion, Confirmation
Elders Meet

Today is the 500th anniversary of Luther's famous confession at the Diet of Worms – "Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason... I am bound by the Scriptures I have quotes and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not retrace anything... I cannot do otherwise, here I stand, may God help me, Amen."

Bethel will have a workday on Saturday. The focus will be on leveling the dirt in the front of the church and preparing it for planting.

NELHS will have a workday on Saturday starting at 9 AM.

Confirmation is planned for next Sunday – our confirmands this year are Bri, Quinn and Lukas.

In our prayers:



Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bethelyork



Personal assisted listening devices are available.

Given to the Lord: Attendance: Worship 100 in person, Facebook Live 3, Engagements 52, Audio/Slide service 15. Offerings: For operating expenses, Given 2,769.90, Needed 2,856.06, Trinity 45.00. **To God be the glory!**

