

resurrection  
**REALity**

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**WE WILL OVERCOME THIS BROKEN WORLD**

*Seventh Sunday of Easter*

# **BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH** | York, Nebraska

*May 12, 2024*

## **SERIES THEME: RESURRECTION REALITY**

St. Paul writes, “Christ has indeed been raised from the dead” (1 Corinthians 15:20). Big word: Indeed! Paul is stressing that we must not think of Jesus’ resurrection like a happy ending to another epic fable. The resurrection is not legend. It really happened. Easter is not just a holiday. Easter is history. On time’s infinite line, Jesus’ resurrection is the punctiliar moment that defines reality for us all. If Christ remained dead, he is a fraud and failure. But Christ has indeed been raised. So, the reality: Jesus is exactly what he claimed to be—the Son of God, our Lord and Savior. If Christ remained dead, then the grave is the final, ugly, rotten end of us all. But Christ has indeed been raised. So, the reality is Jesus’ resurrection proves that “all will be made alive” (1 Corinthians 15:22). The reality of the resurrection does not just change our future, but the way we look at life now. The greatest theologian of the early church, Augustine, called the season of Easter “a joyful week of weeks”—seven wonderful weeks, each seven glorious days long. In this glorious season, let us meditate upon the breath-taking implications of the resurrection reality.

## **THEME OF THE DAY: WE WILL OVERCOME THIS BROKEN WORLD**

This world is broken. Oh, certainly, we still see beauty in nature. By God’s grace, we have plenty of happy moments. But that does not change the fact that this world does not function the way God designed it to. It is dangerous, especially for God’s children. Jesus once promised that those who live for him will be hated (just as Christ was hated) by those who live for the world. The even greater danger: the priorities prompted by this broken world tempt the careless Christian to devalue that which truly matters. This world is very broken. For that reason, our gracious, living Lord promises that one day soon enough, he will take us to a better world. More, he promises that until that time, his Father will protect us, preserving our faith through the truth of his Word. This is the resurrection reality. By God’s grace, we will overcome this broken world.

**Worship Leader**  
**Organist/Pianist**

Pastor Andrew Frey  
Timothy Richert

## **Acknowledgments**

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## **The Service, Setting One (page 154 in Christian Worship 21)**

### **Hymn: 717 What Is the World to Me**

*Stand*

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### **Confession**

*CW 155*

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father,**

**we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.**

**We have done those things that we should not have done,**

**and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,**

**according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Lord, Have Mercy**

*CW 213*

Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful and answer me.

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

# Glory Be to God on High

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



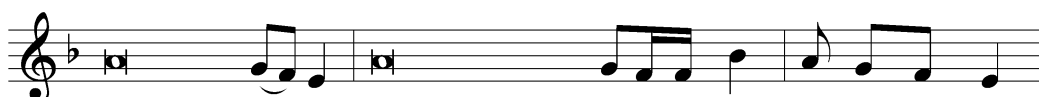
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



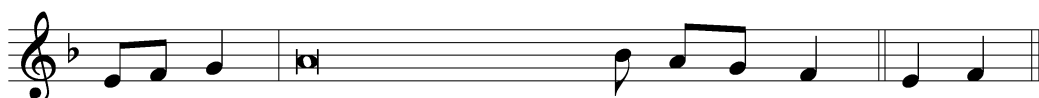
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son our Savior was taken up in glory and intercedes for us at your right hand. Through your living and abiding Word, give us hearts to know him and faith to follow where he has gone; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

### First Reading

*Acts 6:1–9, 7:2a, 51-60*

*Simply for proclaiming Christ, the Sanhedrin wanted to kill Stephen. Christ used their murderous intent to enable Stephen to overcome this broken world.*

### The Choosing of the Seven

<sup>1</sup> In those days, as the number of disciples was increasing, a complaint arose from the Greek-speaking Jews against the Hebrew-speaking Jews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

<sup>2</sup> So the Twelve called together the whole group of disciples and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup> Brothers, carefully select from among you seven men with good reputations, who are full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. We will put them in charge of this service. <sup>4</sup> But we will devote ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the word."

<sup>5</sup> This proposal pleased the entire group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas, a proselyte from Antioch.

<sup>6</sup> They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

<sup>7</sup> The word of God kept on spreading, and the number of disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly.

Also a large group of priests became obedient to the faith. <sup>8</sup> Now Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. <sup>9</sup> Some men who were from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia) rose up and disputed with Stephen. <sup>2</sup> Stephen said, "Gentlemen, brothers and fathers, listen! <sup>51</sup> "You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You always resist

the Holy Spirit! You are doing just what your fathers did. <sup>52</sup> Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who prophesied the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers— <sup>53</sup> you who received the law as transmitted by angels, but did not keep it.” <sup>54</sup> When they heard these things, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup> But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed up into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> He said, “Look, I see heaven opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

<sup>57</sup> But they screamed at the top of their voices, covered their ears, and rushed at him with one purpose in mind. <sup>58</sup> They threw him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses laid their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul.

<sup>59</sup> While they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!” <sup>60</sup> Then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” After he said this, he fell asleep.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm of the Day: 124- In front of the hymnal: Our Help Is in the Name of the LORD**

### **Second Reading**

*1 John 5:1–6*

*St. John explains that everyone born of God overcomes the world.*

### **Faith in the Incarnate Son of God**

<sup>1</sup> Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the God who has given birth also loves one who has been born of him. <sup>2</sup> This is how we know that we love the children of God: when we love God and keep his commands. <sup>3</sup> In fact, this is love for God: that we keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup> because everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is the one who overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. <sup>6</sup> This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ. He did not come by the water alone but by the water and by the blood. The Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

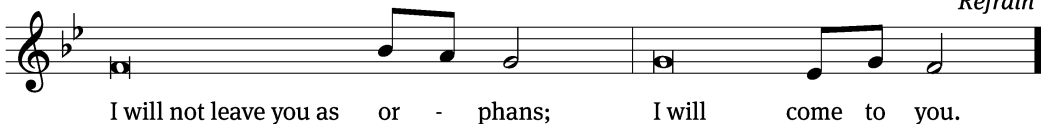
John 14:18



### Refrain



### Tone



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## Gospel

John 17:11b–19

*Jesus, our great high priest, prays that his Father would sanctify us with his truth and enable us to overcome the world.*

<sup>11</sup> Holy Father, protect them by your name, which you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I kept those you gave me safe in your name. I protected them and not one of them was destroyed, except the son of destruction, so that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

<sup>13</sup> "But now I am coming to you, and I am saying these things in the world, so that they may be filled with my joy. <sup>14</sup> I have given them your word. The world hated them, because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>15</sup> I am not asking that you take them out of the world, but that you protect them from the Evil One. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

<sup>17</sup> "Sanctify them by the truth. Your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you sent me into the world, I also sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> I sanctify myself for them, so they also may be sanctified by the truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## **Hymn of the Day: 446 Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense**

### **Sermon**

*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.**

*Be seated*

### **Prayer of the Church**

Lord of life, fill our hearts with joy during this Easter season for you have risen and conquered the grave. Imprint the message of victory on our hearts and implant it in our minds. Through the good news of your resurrection renew our hope and revive our faith. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**



By baptizing us into your name, you have connected us to your death and rising. You have put our sin to death and have given us a new life. Enable us each day to think of ourselves as dead to sin and alive to you, so that we may walk in newness of life in all we do. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

In this fallen world, death and sorrow surround us. Touch the hearts of those who grieve the loss of a Christian they love. Direct their eyes to your empty tomb and ease their pain by reminding them that their loved ones will one day rise again. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Lord, many people grieve without hope. Let the message of resurrection reach them and awaken faith in their hearts. Use us as your instruments to bring the word of life to their souls and the message of hope to their hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Stay by the side of all who are suffering. In your wise mercy, heal those who are sick, receiving treatment for illness, recovering from illness or surgery, or hurting in body or mind. [We pray especially for...*here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Remind them that your victory over death is a fact, and comfort them with your promise to raise them and give them and all believers new, glorified bodies like yours. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Risen Savior, feed our faith with the message of your resurrection. Come to us in your Word and in the feast of your Sacrament to sustain and strengthen us until we feast with you in eternal glory.

**Amen.**

## **Offering**

**Offering Hymn: 892 By All Your Saints Still Striving**

*sts. 1, 3*

## **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.**

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Blessing**

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.

**Amen.**

## **Hymn: 839 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me**

## ***NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS***

**Today:** 9:30 AM Bible Study and Sunday School, 10:30 AM Worship

**Sunday:** 9:30 AM Bible Study and Sunday School, 10:30 AM Worship and Communion

### **Basket for Christian Dressel and Madalyn Halterman's wedding**

The Ladies Aid has put out a basket for members to put cards for Christian and Madalyn's wedding to wish them God's blessings on their marriage at the end of May.

**CONNECTION CARDS:** Visitors or members with changes in contact information, please fill out a connection card online at [www.bethelyork.com](http://www.bethelyork.com) on the member connect tab or scan this code.



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