

# 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."*

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**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**9:00 am Sunday, April 14, 2024**

*Pastor Dave Johnson*

## TODAY'S REFLECTION



The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

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*All baptized and confessing believers are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

# **THE GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

*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**

*“Open The Eyes Of My Heart” page 9*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

▲ **Confession & Forgiveness**

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**

Holy and righteous God,  
**you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, 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 3:12-19*

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. "And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

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

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

*Psalm 4*

Answer me when I call, O God of my right! You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

**How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?  
 How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies? Selah**

But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself;  
 the Lord hears when I call to him.

**When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent. Selah**  
 Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord.

**There are many who say, “O that we might see some good!  
Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!”**

You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound.  
**I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord,  
make me lie down in safety.**

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

*The Second Reading is from 1 John 3:1-7*

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

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

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

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 24:36b-48

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

▼ **Sermon—God’s Word Applied to Life**

▼ **Hymn of the Day**

*“Open Our Lives To The Word” 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**

Let us pray to our victorious Savior on behalf of the Church, the world, and all people.

*A brief silence*

Lord Jesus, we can’t imagine seeing you face to face. We can’t imagine looking at each other, and seeing you reflected in everyone’s face! Thank you for that promise. Give us grace, when it’s hard to see you in ourselves and each other, to cling to that promise. Let us catch a glimpse of your love shining through.

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

Make you Church in your image. In its words, let unbelievers hear your life-giving Word. In its deeds, let them see your love. In its worship, let them see your beauty. In its cross-bearing, let them see your life.

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

Give your persecuted sisters and brothers the grace to speak St. Peter’s words to their

tormentors: “You act in ignorance; repent, believe in him; and be forgiven.”

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

Make this congregation bold to proclaim you as our risen Lord. Help us to speak and act in ways that reflect your holiness and love to those around us.

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

Grant to our children your dearest blessings. Teach them to trust you with all their heart, and to find happiness in sharing your love with their friends and family.

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

Deliver all people from the powers of sin, evil, and death. Raise up leaders who seek to do your Father’s will. Especially we pray for our elected and appointed leaders, and for the welfare of this country. Establish your people in righteousness, liberty, and peace.

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

Look with kindness upon all who tend the land and feed the nations with the fruits of their labor. Make them wise and faithful stewards of your bounty. Grant sun and rain in due measure, and preserve your good land from blight, drought, flood, wind, and fire.

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

We pray on behalf of all whose needs of body, soul and mind are great. Today we remember *and pray for the needs of those we name before you now (either in silence or out loud)*. Change their suffering into patient endurance, and their sorrow into enduring hope. Transform shame, guilt, and despair into hope-filled repentance, and the power of death into living joy.

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

Lord Jesus, thank you for fulfilling your promises to those who died trusting in you. Comfort those who mourn. Walk with us each day. Transform us into your blest likeness. On that great day when we see you face to face, let us with perfect clarity see you also in the faces of all whom you have redeemed.

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

Grant to us all that is in accordance with your will, dear Jesus, and accomplish your salvation among us; for you are risen from the dead and dwell in majesty with your Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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.*

▼ **Offering and Presentation of the Gifts**

April—June Mission Designation

*Fortune Lake*

▼ **Offering Prayer**

Risen One,  
you call us to believe and bear fruit.  
May the gifts that we offer here  
be signs of your abiding love.  
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.  
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**

The risen Christ is made known to us  
in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's table.

▼ **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**

Shepherding God,  
**you have prepared a table before us  
and nourished us with your love.  
Send us forth from this banquet  
to proclaim your goodness  
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,  
our redeemer and friend.**  
**Amen.**

**THE SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

▼ **Closing Hymn**

*"Lord You Give The Great Commission" 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.**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

# Open The Eyes Of My Heart

Open the eyes of my heart Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You, I want to see You (repeat)

To see You high and lifted up  
Shining in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Open the eyes of my heart Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You, I want to see You (repeat)

To see You high and lifted up  
Shining in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy  
Holy, holy, holy  
Holy holy holy  
I want to see You

CCLI Song # 2298355

Paul Baloche

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# Open Our Lives to the Word

Text: Ray Makeever  
 Music: OPEN OUR LIVES, Ray Makeever  
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1 May our words, may our songs, may our wor - ship this night  
 2 May our griefs, may our woes, may the sor - rows we share  
 3 May our joys, may our smiles, may the gifts that we bring

fill up our hearts and give us new sight. May our  
 fill up our hearts and call forth our care. May our  
 fill up our hearts and stir us to sing. May we

prayers, may our praise give us light for our days, and  
 tears, may our fears be ac - cept - ed right here, and  
 serve, may we dance, may we all take that chance; and

o - pen our lives to the Word.  
 o - pen our lives to the Word.  
 o - pen our lives to the Word.

O - pen our lives to the liv - ing Word.  
 O - pen our lives to the liv - ing Word.  
 O - pen our lives to the liv - ing Word.

O - pen our hearts to the truth we have heard. May our  
 O - pen our hearts to the truth we have heard. May our  
 O - pen our hearts to the truth we have heard. May our

words, may our songs, may our wor - ship this night  
 griefs, may our woes, may the sor - rows we share  
 joys, may our smiles, may the gifts that we bring

o - pen our lives to the Word.  
 o - pen our lives to the Word.  
 o - pen our lives to the Word.

# Lord, You Give the Great Commission



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and  
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -  
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,  
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they  
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,  
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,  
 this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,  
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure  
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,



and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness  
 life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new  
 dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the  
 all that you so free - ly give. May your care and  
 may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the



to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:  
 fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:  
 world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:  
 mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:  
 cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:

## *Refrain*



With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991

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## 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

<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 am Worship, in the Great Room and Facebook Live-Stream/Video
<b>Tuesday</b>	9:00 am Community Coffee in Great Room 9:00 am Cover Girls in Classroom
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00 am Women's Bible Study via ZOOM
<b>Thursday</b>	7:00 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study in Great Room 10:00 am Women's Bible Study in Conference Room

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