



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 21, 2024

9:30 AM



Bethel Lutheran Church
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Great Falls, MT 59404
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A congregation of the Montana Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Large print bulletins are available, please see the ushers for a copy.

As we gather for worship and prepare our hearts, we would ask that you please silence your cell phones for the duration of the service.

INTRODUCTION

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

ELW 531 The Trumpets Sound, The Angels Sing [1,3]

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

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.

KYRIE

Dakota Road Kyrie Eleison

R. Kyrie Eleison on our world and on our way.

Kyrie Eleison ev'ry day.

1. For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all. For this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! R.

2. That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor. That we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! R.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Dakota Road - Praise To You

R: Praise to you, O Great Creator, Maker of the land and sky.

Praise to you, O Living Water, hope and breath of ev'ry life.

*1. We are lost and we are longing, wand'ring in the wilderness,
Searching for your holy presence and the reason we exist. R*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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.

FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God

PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I
shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your
staff, they comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of
my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 3:1-7

God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Dakota Road Alleluia

R: Alleluia, alleluia, I am the light of the world. Alleluia, alleluia, I am the light of the world.

P: Those who follow me will not walk in darkness, those who follow me will have the light of life. R.

The holy gospel according to John the tenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 10:11-18

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

[Jesus said:] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 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 the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE AND SERMON

Pastor Brenda Frelsi

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 778 The Lord is My Shepherd [1,5]

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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
God of grace. Hear our prayer.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

Dakota Road LH 135 Everybody's Got Something to Offer

R. Everybody's got something to offer young and old the prince and the pauper, everybody's got something to offer in the name of the Lord.

1. To the lost and lowly ones the message it is clear, we have all got a gift to give, our hands, our hearts, our tears. R.

2. To believers gathered here the message it is true, we have all got a gift to give in all we say and do. R.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. 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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Dakota Road LH 136 Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy tender, gentle God. Heaven and earth of full of You. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in Your name.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first taught us:

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 to Communion

The Lord's Table is open to believers of all Christian traditions. We believe that Christ comes to us in the bread and cup for the forgiveness of sins and new life. Gluten free wafers are available, please let your server know. Choice of red wine and white grape juice offered.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

BOB 65 Give Thanks

BOB 189 Renew Me

BOB 213 In the Potter's Hands

BOB 236 We Remember You [x2]

COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. 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.**

BENEDICTION

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 547 Sent Forth By God's Blessing

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!
And all God's children said: **Amen.**

SERVING TODAY

Accompanist	Connie Titcomb, piano;
Lay Assistant	Josie Delorit
Usher	Shannon Marr
Tech	Gabe Smith
Projection	Warren Johnson
Children's Church	Julia Elkin and Ava Fossen
Hospitality	Sandy Pepos
Counters	Stephanie Cummings and Shannon Marr

Flowers are given by Daren and Patty Braget in celebration of Rachael Stubbs birthday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We celebrate the **Fourth Sunday of Easter**.

We welcome and thank **Pastor Brenda Frelsi for preaching and presiding** in worship this morning. Join us after worship for a Q&A on the Call Process.

Thank you to **The Jubilate Choir led by Jeff Skogley** for singing in worship this morning.

After Pastor Brenda's information session we continue our **Adult Forum** on the second season of The Chosen.

Next Sunday, April 28th we will be joining Redeemer Lutheran Church for **Confirmation Worship service** at Redeemer, 332 Riverview 3 W, 10:00 am Pastor Steve VanGilder will be preaching and presiding. No worship at Bethel that day. Potluck for the Confirmands at Redeemer following the service.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday 4/23

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am

Wednesday 4/24

- 8th grade confirmation class in the Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm

Thursday 4/25

- Electric City Bible Chorale rehearsal at 7:00 pm

Friday 4/26

- Bethel office is closed.
- Aitz Chaim worship 5:30 pm

Saturday 4/27

- Aitz Chaim Passover Seder 4:30 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 4/28

- Worship service led by Pastor Steve VanGilder at Redeemer Lutheran Church 332 Riverview 3 W, Confirmation Worship
- Potluck at Redeemer to follow.

Tuesday 4/30

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am

Wednesday 5/1

- Electric City Chorale rehearsal 7:00 pm

Friday 5/3

- Bethel office is closed.
- Aitz Chaim worship 6:00 pm

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