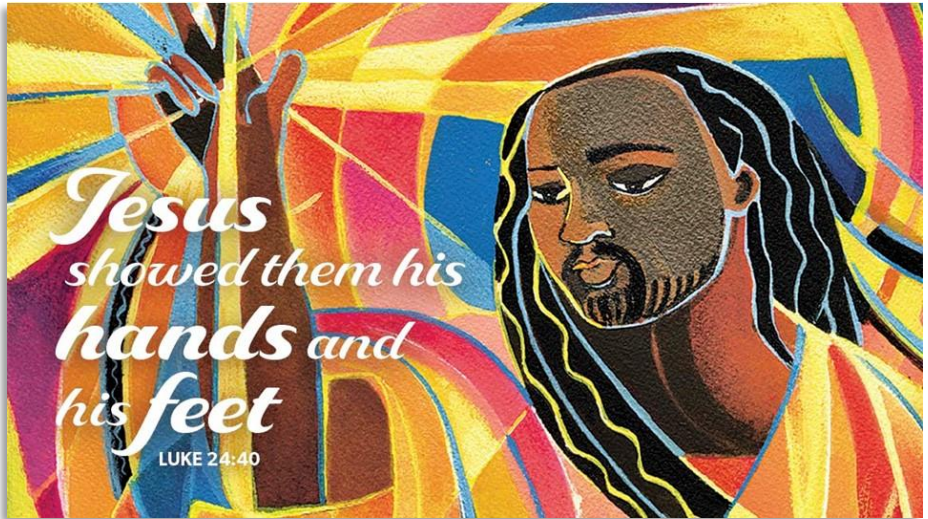




THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 14, 2024

9:30 AM



Bethel Lutheran Church
1009 18th Avenue SW
Great Falls, MT 59404
406-761-1543

Email: bethelgf.church@gmail.com
Website: www.bethelmt.org

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 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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

LH 215

Breathe on Me, the Breath of God

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. 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.

BETHEL HANDBELL CHOIR

FIRST READING: ACTS 3:12-19

After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.

[Peter] 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."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God

PSALM 4

Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me
and hear my prayer.

**"You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;
how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?"**

Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful;
the LORD will hear me when I call.

**Tremble, then, and do not sin;
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

Offer the appointed sacrifices,
and put your trust in the LORD.

Many are saying, "Who will show us any good?"

Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.

You have put gladness in my heart,
more than when grain and wine abound.

**In peace, I will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.**

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 Luke the twenty-fourth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: LUKE 24:36B-48

In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.

Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND SERMON

Pastor Steve Nelson

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 377 Alleluia! Jesus is Risen [1,2,3]

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.**

WORLD HUNGER PRAYER

Let us pray for the poor, hungry and neglected all over the world.
**May the nations and people who already enjoy
the abundance of creation hear their cries for daily bread.
Inspire works of compassion and lift up our hearts
to form partnerships so that the world may flourish and grow.
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 41 Come to the Table
BOB 46 Do This In Remembrance of ME
BOB 53 Feed Us Now
BOB 55 Feed My Lambs
W&P 156 What Have We To Offer

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 674 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

DISMISSAL

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

SERVING TODAY

Accompanist	Lynn Ryan, piano;
Lay Assistant	Chris Gleason
Usher	Patty Braget
Tech	Gabe Smith
Projection	Dave Scholten
Children's Church	Julia Elkin and Ava Fossen
Hospitality	Tamy Scholten
Counters	Patty Braget and Kelsey Johnson

Flowers are given by Mathias and Karolina Pepos in celebration of Sandy Pepos' birthday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

We welcome and thank **Pastor Steve Nelson** for preaching and presiding in worship this morning.

We lift up **ELCA World Hunger** and receive an additional offering in the wicker baskets.

Thank you to **The Bethel Handbell Choir** led by **Sharon Mueller** for performing in worship this morning.

Congregational Care Ministry meets after worship in the Gathering Place.

Worship Planning Committee meets after worship in the sanctuary.

Mark your calendar April 28th, **Confirmation Worship service** combined with Redeemer Lutheran Church at Redeemer, 10:00 am Pastor Steve VanGilder will be preaching and presiding. No worship at Bethel that Sunday. Potluck for the Confirmands at Redeemer following the service.

After worship today we continue our **Adult Forum** on the second season of The Chosen.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday 4/16

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

Wednesday 4/17

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

Thursday 4/18

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am

Friday 4/19

- Bethel office is closed.
- Great Falls Music Teachers Association Festival all day

Saturday 4/20

- Great Falls Music Teachers Association Festival all day

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 4/21

- Worship service led by Pastor Brenda Frelsi, Associate to the Bishop in person and live stream at 9:30 am
- Call Process Q&A with Pastor Brenda following worship
- Adult Forum The Chosen Season 2 in the Fellowship Hall following worship

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 Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am

Friday 4/26

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

Saturday 4/20

- Aitz Chaim Passover Seder 4:30 pm

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Worship Songs: Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen and Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ used with permission under One License #A704354. Breathe On Me, Breath of God used under public domain.