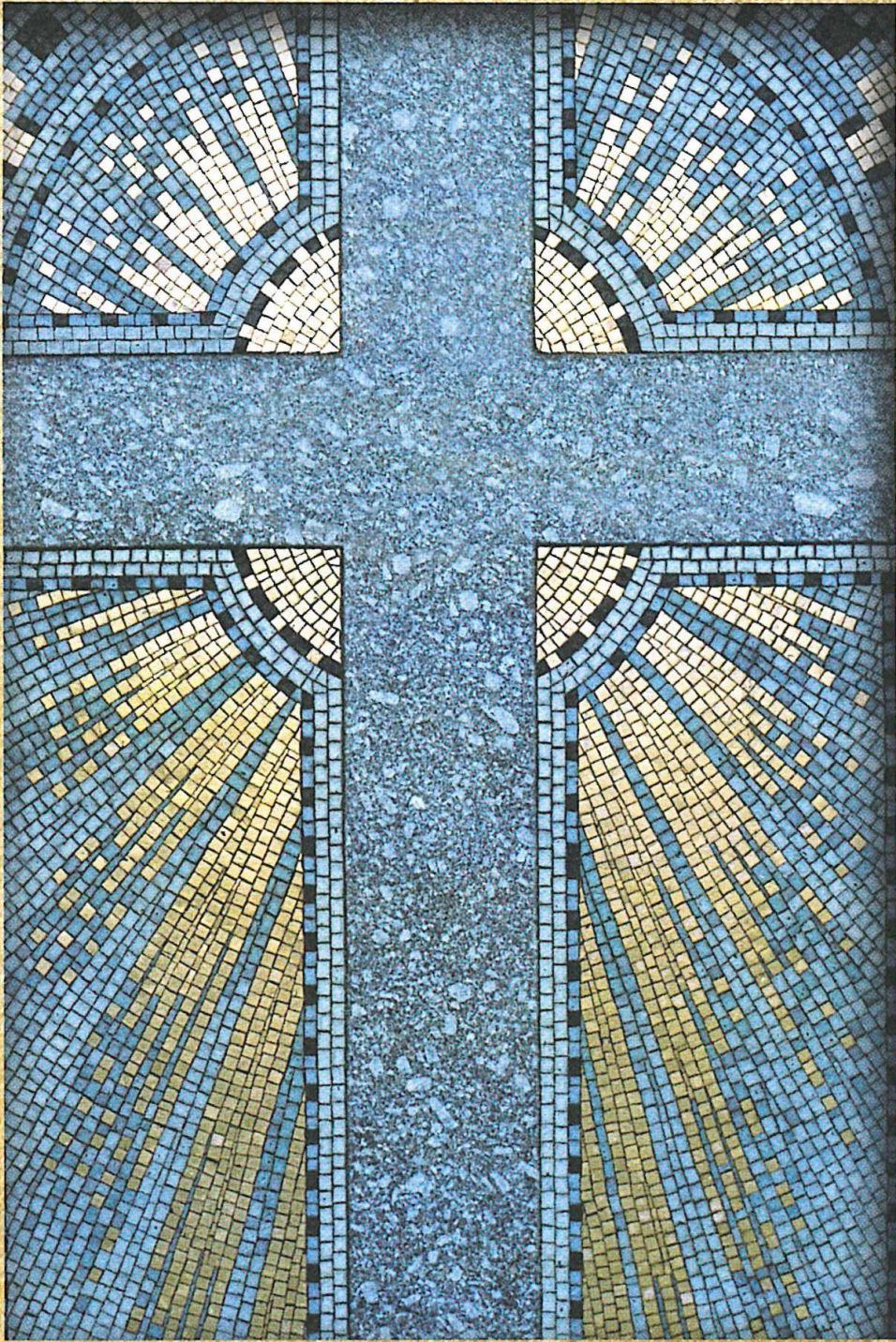


ALLELUIA!

CHRIST IS RISEN!



CHRIST IS RISEN!

ALLELUIA!



+ Easter Sunday +
April 9, 2023

AS WE GATHER

Ever since Pontius Pilate worried that someone would steal the body of the crucified Jesus and claim that He had risen from the dead, many have doubted and called the resurrection a lie. But Jesus is risen bodily from the dead. Today, the Holy Church throughout the world boldly testifies to the fact that Christ is risen. Still, this fact remains an article of faith. Such faith is not a result of mere imagination, however, but is the very creation of God the Holy Spirit by the mighty Word of God handed down to us by the testimony of many witnesses. The resurrection is the fact of God's love. He really is risen! Alleluia!

REGARDING COMMUNION

After his resurrection, the crucified but now-living Jesus appeared to his disciples and said to Thomas (who had his doubts that Jesus could really be alive again): 'Touch my pierced hands and feel my wounded side; stop doubting and believe.'

We come to the Lord's Table with our own doubts and worries, fears and sorrows, often lingering on uncertainty and the realities we think are beyond change. Our Lord points us to his unchanging yet life-changing reality—he has died, he has risen, he will come again. His Holy Supper is the place where we encounter his saving, risen, and healing Body and Blood ... as he said: 'Those who feed on my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.' **Since Christian denominations have differing understandings of Holy Communion, if you are not a member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation and have not communed here before, we ask that you speak with the pastor or elder prior to communing with us the first time. Those not communing are invited to cross their arms over their chests and approach the pastor for a blessing during the distribution. Also, if certain factors prohibit you from partaking of regular wine, non-alcoholic wine is available in the center circle of the tray. If you would like to begin sharing this sacred meal with us on a regular basis, please ask the pastor for a time of faith instruction and formation.**

***If you are in need of a gluten-free wafer for Communion,
please let Pastor or an Elder know.***

Liturgical Color:

White is the color of purity and is associated with festivals of Christ and his Church

Prelude Rich Vanderburgh (early), Jerrode Marsh (late)

(Prayer request cards will be collected by an usher passing through the aisle.)

All will be asked to rise and turn to face the processional cross at the back of the Nave.

Pastoral Welcome

Processional Gospel **Matthew 28:1-10**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Collect of the Day *(spoken in unison)*

O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy. Grant that all our sin may be drowned through daily repentance and that day by day we may arise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Processional Hymn..... "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" #457



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to-day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which He endured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a-bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
Un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise e - ter - nal as His love; Al - le - lu - ia!



Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
Now a - bove the sky He's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise Him, all ye heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



Suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
Sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
Where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

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Divine Service, Setting One

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross † may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Confession and Absolution.....page 151

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God . . .

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn "Scatter the Darkness, Break the Gloom" #481



1 Scat - ter the dark - ness, break the gloom; Sun, re - veal an
2 Bear - ing the stan - dard from on high As the Lamb of
3 Ban - ners of tri - umph, be un - furled! Trum - pets, sound through-



emp - ty tomb Shin - ing with joy for all our sor - rows,
God to die; He who for us, so cruel - ly treat - ed,
out the world! Cry - ing and sighs, give way to sing - ing:



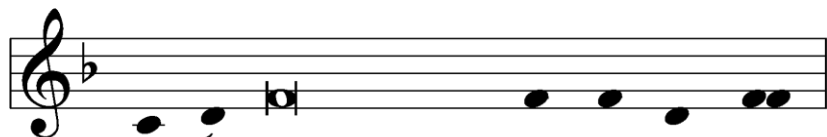
Hope and peace for all to - mor - rows, Life un - e -
Lives a - gain— our foes de - feat - ed! Where is your
Life from death, our Lord is bring - ing! Let there be-



clipsed by doubt and dread: Christ has ris - en from the dead!
sting, O death and grave? Christ has shown His strength to save!
gin the ju - bi - lee— Christ has gained the vic - to - ry!

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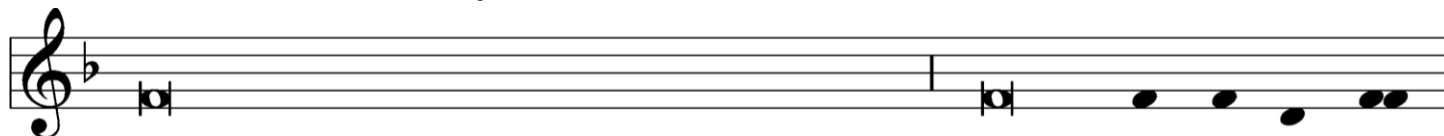
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A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



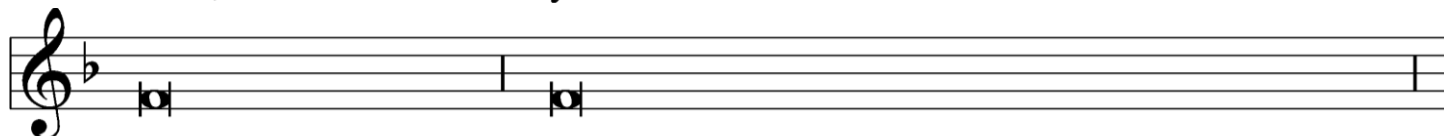
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



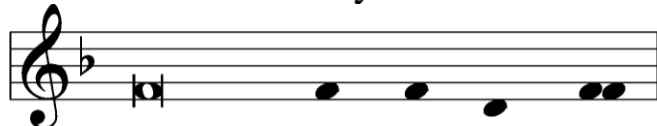
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



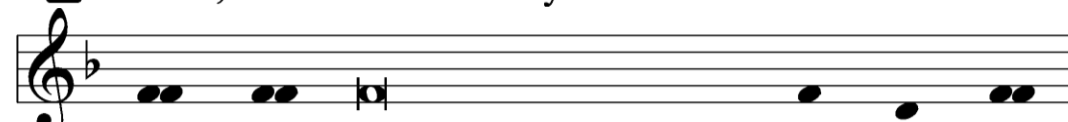
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

C A - men.

This is the Feastpage 155

Refrain

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb _____ who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutationpage 156

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Collect of the Day (*spoken in unison*)

Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord’s resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

Old Testament Reading **Jeremiah 31:1-6**

“Behold, I create new heavens
and a new earth,
and the former things shall not be remembered
or come into mind.
But be glad and rejoice forever
in that which I create;
for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy,
and her people to be a gladness.
I will rejoice in Jerusalem
and be glad in my people;
no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping
and the cry of distress.
No more shall there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not fill out his days,
for the young man shall die a hundred years old,
and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.
They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
They shall not labor in vain

or bear children for calamity,
for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD,
and their descendants with them.

Before they call I will answer;
while they are yet speaking I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb shall graze together;
the lion shall eat straw like the ox,
and dust shall be the serpent's food.

They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain,"

says the LORD.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn..... *"He is Arisen! Glorious Word", #488*

He is a - ris - en! Glo - rious Word! Now rec - on - ciled
is God, my Lord; The gates of heav'n are o - pen.
My Je - sus did tri - um - phant die, And Sa - tan's ar -
rows bro - ken lie, De - stroyed hell's fierc - est weap - on.
O hear what cheer! Christ vic - to - rious, Ris - ing glo - rious,
Life is giv - ing. He was dead but now is liv - ing!

Epistle Reading Colossians 3:1-4

For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia!" #466 (1-3)



1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.
2 For three long days the grave did its worst
3 The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear!



Re - jice and praise Him, al - le - lu - ia.
Un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.
You look for Je - sus who is not here.

For our Re - deem - er burst from the tomb,
 He who gives life did death un - der - go;
 See for your - selves the tomb is all bare;

E - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.
 And in its con - quest His might did show.
 On - ly the grave cloths are ly - ing there.”

Refrain

Let us sing praise to Him with end - less joy;

Death's fear - ful sting He has come to de - stroy.

Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

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Children's Song (*late service*) “*I've Been Redeemed*”

Children's Message

Choir Anthem “*Vicit Agnus Noster*” (*Our Lamb Has Conquered*)
 (*Michael Card*)

Sermon “*Following Our Passover Lamb*”

Please rise.

Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
 the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth
 and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father,
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Please be seated.

Offering..... Jerrode Marsh, Isaac Seo

Please rise.

Prayer of the Church

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** . . . who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

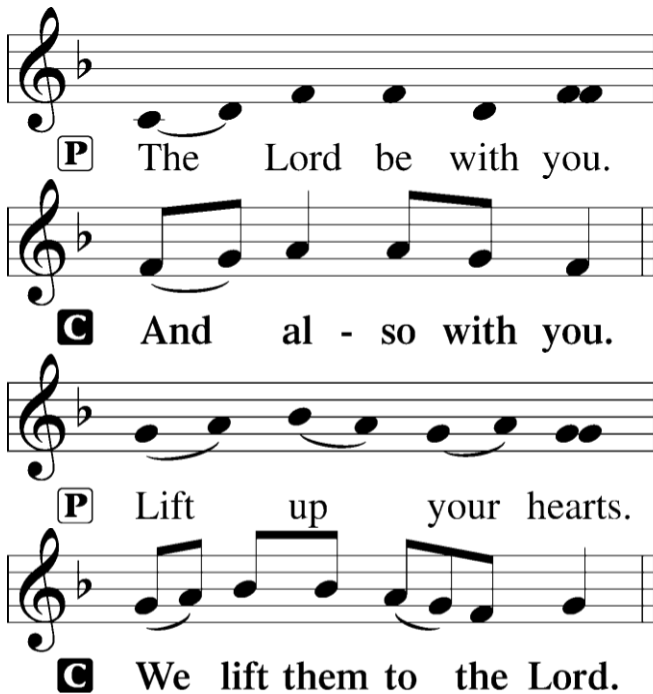
Offertorypages 159-160



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

Communion Liturgypages 160-163

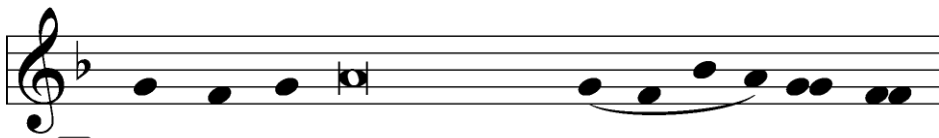


P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and beneficial . . . evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus.....*page 161*



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who

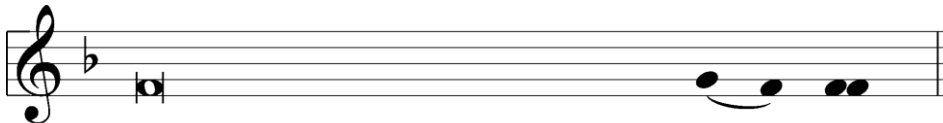


comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

P Blessed are You . . . one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Pax Domini.....*page 163*

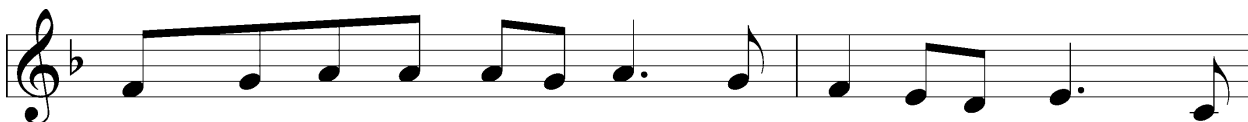


P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei.....*page 163*



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the

Communion Distribution

(For standing, continuous distribution: Approach the pastor for Christ's bread & Body or a blessing then step to the left for Christ's wine & Blood—by common or individual cup—and then return to your seat ready to go and make known the joy and peace of Jesus' presence.)

Instrumental Selection Lorraine Miller, Isaac Seo

Communion Hymns "The Day of Resurrection" #478

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil That we may see a - right
 3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, Let earth its song be - gin,
 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, All praise to God the Son,

The pass - o - ver of glad - ness, The pass - o - ver of God.
 The Lord in rays e - ter - nal Of res - ur - rec - tion light
 Let all the world keep tri - umph And all that is there - in.
 All praise to God the Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One!

From death to life e - ter - nal, From sin's do - min - ion free,
 And, lis - t'ning to His ac - cents, May hear, so calm and plain,
 Let all things, seen and un - seen, Their notes of glad - ness blend;
 Let all the ran - somed num - ber Fall down be - fore the throne

Our Christ has brought us o - ver With hymns of vic - to - ry.
 His own "All hail!" and, hear - ing, May raise the vic - tor strain.
 For Christ the Lord has ris - en, Our joy that has no end!
 And hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry As - cribe to God a - lone!

Communion Hymn *"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"* #461



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com - fort
 2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -
 3 He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to
 4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; He lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who
 ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious
 plead for me a - bove; He lives my hun - gry
 guide me with His eye; He lives to com - fort



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.
 in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
 soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.
 me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>5 He lives to silence all my fears;
 He lives to wipe away my tears;
 He lives to calm my troubled heart;
 He lives all blessings to impart.</p> | <p>7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
 He lives, and I shall conquer death;
 He lives my mansion to prepare;
 He lives to bring me safely there.</p> |
| <p>6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
 He lives and loves me to the end;
 He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
 He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.</p> | <p>8 He lives, all glory to His name!
 He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
 Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
 I know that my Redeemer lives!</p> |

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Communion Hymn *"Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen"* #474



<p>1 Al - le - lu - ia! 2 Walk - ing the way, 3 Je - sus the vine, 4 Weep - ing, be gone; 5 Cit - y of God,</p>	<p>Je - sus is ris - en! Trum - pets re - Christ in the cen - ter Tell - ing the We are the branch - es; Life in the Sor - row, be si - lent: Death put a - Eas - ter for - ev - er, Gold - en Je -</p>
---	---



sound-ing in glo - ri - ous light! Splen-dor, the Lamb, Heav - en for-
 sto - ry to o - pen our eyes; Break-ing our bread, Giv - ing us
 Spir - it the fruit of the tree; Heav - en to earth, Christ to the
 sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright. Cher - u - bim sing: "O grave, be
 ru - sa-lem, Je - sus the Lamb, Riv - er of life, Saints and arch-

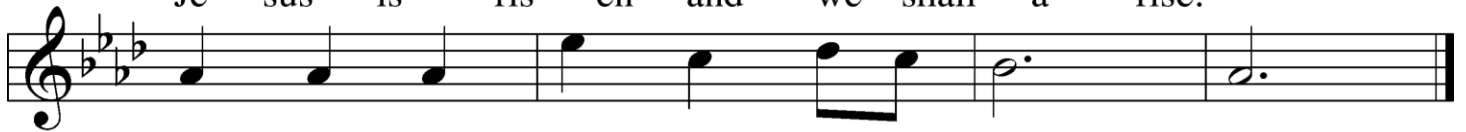


ev - er! Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 glo - ry: Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 peo - ple, Gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 o - pen!" Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 an - gels, Sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

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Please rise.

Post Communion Canticle "Thank the Lord" page 164



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom - is - es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy



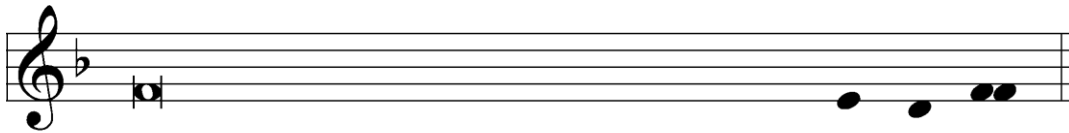
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Post Communion Collect..... page 166

P Let us pray.

C Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction..... page 166



P 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.

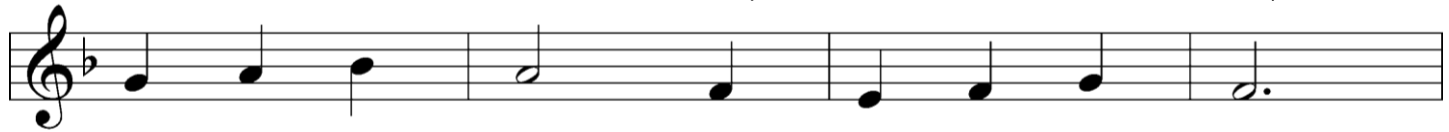


C A - men.

Sending Hymn..... "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia" #466 (4-5)



4 "Go spread the news: He's not in the grave;
5 Christ has a - ris - en; He sets us free;



He has a - ris - en this world to save.
Al - le - lu - ia, to Him prais - es be.



Je - sus' re - deem - ing la - bors are done;
Je - sus is liv - ing! Let us all sing;

E - ven the bat - tle with sin is won.”
 He reigns tri - um - phant, heav - en - ly King.
Refrain

Let us sing praise to Him with end - less joy;
 Death’s fear - ful sting He has come to de - stroy.
 Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!
 Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

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Dismissal (Bethlehem’s Mission)

- P** Grow in Christ,
- C** Live in Love and Share the Faith!

Postlude Rich Vanderburgh (early), Jerrode Marsh (late)

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The Men’s Club will be handing out *hot cross buns* today in lieu of their traditional Easter breakfast. The *hot cross buns* were made by Warrensburg’s own Green Truck Bakery. Make sure to read about the religious history and significance of these rolls, and to thank the men for making this treat possible!

Did you know that we have a nature trail—Bethlehem Woods? The trailhead is at far end of our back yard (behind and to the right of the garden). If you’re looking for a place to have a spring walk today or this week to see the spring wildflowers and reflect on Jesus’ resurrection, this is a good place to consider. There is some uneven and hilly terrain, and, as always, consider the weather.

Next week's readings:

First: Acts 5:29-42; Epistle: 1 Peter 1:3-9; Gospel: John 20:19-31

Attendance Last Saturday: 31

Total Offering: \$6,048.25

Home Use: \$5,405.25

Attendance Last Sunday: 98

Missions: \$365.00

Benevolences: \$278.00

Serving us today:

Elders..... Willie Crespo, Jack Easterwood, Alan Miller

Musicians Rich Vanderburgh (Early), Jerrode Marsh (Late)

Lorraine Miller, Isaac Seo, Bethlehem's Choir

Altar Committee..... Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Erika Freeman, Mary Creswell

Peggy Hoyer, Lynn Lowe, Cindy Smith

Flower Committee Lana Vanderburgh (Chair), Penny Humphrey

This Week's Schedule

Today 2:30 p.m. Country Club Care Center Service

Monday 9:30 a.m. Exercise Class

10:00 a.m. Moms and Tots

7:00 p.m. Mary Martha Guild Meeting

Tuesday Circuit Pastoral Conference in Concordia

9:30 a.m. Quilting

7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. Exercise Class

10:30 a.m. Bible Study Resumes

7:00 p.m. Scout Parent/Leader Meeting

Thursday 9:30 a.m. Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School

1:00 p.m. Games and Cards Group

Friday 9:30 a.m. Exercise Group

Saturday 11:00 a.m. Trustees' Meeting

5:30 p.m. Holy Communion

Sunday 8:00 a.m. The Lutheran Hour broadcast on 96.9

9:00 a.m. Radio Broadcast 98.5 (can also be heard at
www.blchurch.com, under the Sermons tab)

9:15 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Class

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion/Adult Confirmation

12:00 p.m. Elders' Meeting

3:00 p.m. Youth Host Circuit Volleyball Tournament Here

Prayers

Prayers of Rejoicing For Our Adult Confirmands received as communicant members of Bethlehem next Sunday: Peggy Forstad, Dan and Patricia Lockhart, Sondra Privett, and Jimmy and Sonia Smithers.

Prayers of Rejoicing For Our Youth Catechumens who will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday next month. Anna Florida, Morgan Holmberg, Aedan Pederson, and Neil Tebbenkamp.

For Sustenance, Healing, and Provision—We remember those who are dealing with illness, are homebound or in nursing homes, are undergoing and recovering from surgery, as well as going through hospitalization and rehabilitation: Charlie Becker, Mel Bockelman, Paula Brewer, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Bob & Barbara Compton, Marion Droege, Wilma Gertz, Karen Haase, Mary Johnson, Miriam Kurz, Wanda Kreisel, Ron McComas, Janet Mudd, Judy Pierce, Maryanna Savery, Ben Smith, Denny Spanton, Rose Steitz, & Joe Zeman.

For Military Members—We remember all service and support personnel who are deployed and stationed away from us and their families: Andy Burden, Ty Carter and Chance Hillsman.

For Jonathan and Bridgette Sharp as they finish their time at Concordia Seminary and prepare for upcoming pastoral and deaconess calls this April 26! The service will be livestreamed.

Prayer Requests & Spiritual Care—If you would like to make a prayer request, contact Pr. Joel or email the church office. Also, if you're feeling the strain, feel free to call or text Pr. Joel or contact your elder or the church office. We rely upon the Holy Spirit and his gifts in Christ during every time of uncertainty, and can never be thankful enough for the gift of each other!

Special Days for Members This Week

Birthdays—Lori Sloan-9th, Paula Brewer-10th, Mason Chapman-10th, Alyssa Crespo-12th, Gabriel Crespo-14th.

Worship Services and Faith Discussion

Saturday Services start at 5:30 p.m. Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m. Sunday's Services are live on Facebook and YouTube and the webpage at blchurch.com.

Sunday School and Christian Education

Wednesday Bible Study—We will resume on **April 12 at 10:30 a.m.** and pick up where we left off in Zechariah.

Sunday Bible Study (normally 9:15-10:10 a.m. in the conference room) will not be held on Easter Sunday but will resume the following. Join us as we continue our study and discussion of *Clearly Christian: Following Christ in This Age of Confusion*.

Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings downstairs for ages Preschool through 12th grade. We invite all children of the congregation (and outside too!) to come and be a part of this time set aside for growing together in Christ.

Vacation Bible School—Mark your calendars for **June 23-25!** Those wanting to help with reading, crafts, music, games, snacks, etc., please get in touch with Ellen Pederson.

Youth

The First Ever Circuit Youth Sand Volleyball Tournament to be hosted at Bethlehem happens next Sunday, **April 16th from 3 to 5 p.m.!** All junior and senior high youth are invited to join with youth from as far as Marshall and as close as Emma, plus wherever else! Come be a part of it, and let's hope the weather allows.

Music

Choir Practice will resume on **Wednesday, April 19, from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.** in the conference room. The first half-hour is dedicated to fellowship, then a full one-hour rehearsal. All previous and **prospective** choir members are invited to attend. Please give this opportunity prayerful consideration to strengthen our church and the unified Body of Christ through songs of faith.

Bob Bennett in concert at Bethlehem again! Six years to the date after he was last here, Bob will be here for a community-wide concert on **Sunday, April 23 at 2 p.m.** This will be our Shine! (Matthew 5:16) event for this year, especially fitting since that verse is what Bob has signed with his name for decades. Admission will be food items to donate to the Food Center. Start spreading the word! And if you're not familiar with this superb California guitarist/singer-songwriter, look up his website (www.bobbennett.com) and give a view/listen (through YouTube or such), especially to "Hand of Kindness," "Man of the Tombs," and "I Know that My Redeemer Lives." He'll also be singing some in our weekend services! ***Let Pr. Joel if you'd like to help welcoming, ushering, and collecting the donations that day, and he'll make sure you get your own special blue Shine! shirt!***

Fellowship and Opportunities to Serve

Mary Martha Guild will meet on **Monday, April 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.** Judy Schache and Karon Harding will be presenting a prayer service for the program for the evening.

The Lunch Bunch will meet again at the Community Center on **Thursday, April 20 at 10:30 a.m.** Please be here early so we can discuss a few things before lunch.

Exercise Class happens at **9:30 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays** in the Fellowship Hall. This class is low impact exercise open to anyone, men or women. For more information, contact Judy Smith.

The Games and Card Group meets on **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Youth Room downstairs. Anyone, men and women, are welcome to come. If you have any questions, please contact Melvin Theroff.

The Quilting Group meets on the **second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.** (September through May). Anyone is welcome to help with this project. No special sewing skills are needed. Bring your own lunch. If you have any questions, please contact Georgia Luker.

Earth Day—Everyone is welcome to meet and help others with whatever needs to be done on our Bethlehem Community Vegetable Garden and surrounding greenspace on **Earth Day—Saturday, April 22 from 10 a.m. until 12 noon.** As our thanks for coming out, we'll have garden and yard giveaway items to encourage your planting, growing, and cultivating wherever you happen to live.

Garden & Greenspace—Thanks to all who've helped over the past few weeks and are chomping at the bit to make up for rained out work days! Keep your eyes and ears open for upcoming opportunities as we enter spring officially this week. If you're looking for something to do on **Saturday mornings between 10 a.m. and noon** (and maybe a bit before and after), you'll generally find someone in our churchyard who'd be happy to have help.

This & That

The Katy Trail medical mobile unit continues to be in Warrensburg each **Tuesday from 9am-3pm.** If you know someone who has medical needs and would benefit from *affordable or free healthcare* (thanks to a generous Bethlehem donor), *along with prescription help as well*, please pass on this information! The unit is located behind the food pantry at **137 E. Culton Street Warrensburg.** First Presbyterian Church is currently hosting a **free lunch** at that time (with others, such as us, donating the ingredients). **The lunch is served from 11:30am-1pm.** All are welcome. Most insurances are accepted. **Call 877-733-5824 to schedule an appointment.**

Country Kitchen Cards—We have Country Kitchen Cards. Stop by the office if you would like to purchase one. They are \$10 and you get 10 buy-one- get-one free meal deals. All proceeds go to the youth group. Thanks for your support!

Ongoing thanks to those who generously give to the Bethlehem Emergency Fund, which enables Pr. Joel to assist members and certain people in the community who are in crisis situations. Much appreciation for your good support in shining the light of Christ! If you'd ever like to hear some of the stories from how these funds have been used, just ask Pr. Joel.

2023 Elders

Willie Crespo (last name begins A-F) 660-679-8121, crespo6fam@gmail.com

Ricky Bertels (last name begins G-K), 660-262-8080, rick1janice2@gmail.com

Jack Easterwood (last name begins L-O) 660-678-2045, easter.egg2380@gmail.com

Alan Miller (last name begins P-Z) 660-909-1764, alormiller@aol.com



**If all Jesus had to do was die,
then why is Easter such a big deal?**

Easter is a very important day. Easter is the day that we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

After Jesus was crucified, His disciples were very sad. It seemed like their God and friend had been defeated and killed. They had forgotten that Jesus told them that He would rise from the dead. They must have thought Mary Magdelene was crazy when she told them that Jesus had appeared to her at the tomb where He was buried. But her story was true! Jesus was alive! He had risen from the dead!

Later, Jesus appeared to His disciples many times to prove it. And that's just what He did, *He proved it!* By His resurrection, He proved to the world that He was victorious over death and paid for our sins completely. Now, the first words you hear in church on Easter Sunday are: "The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

EASTER LILY DEDICATIONS

Amy Martin
To the Glory of God

Jerry and Karon Harding
In Honor of:
Our 5 grandchildren

Rohn and Georgia Luker
To the Glory of God:
For his glorious gift to believers

Don and Teresa Hillsman
In Memory of:
William J. Hillsman (their son)

Ben and Cindy Smith
In Memory of:
Cheryl Middaugh & Frank Smith
(Ben's mom and brother)
Paul and Mark Easley
(Cindy's father and brother)

Rick and Susie Mills
In Memory of:
Dick & Sadie Mills
(Rick's parents)
Bud & Mildred Wheeler
(Susie's parents)

Alan and Lorraine Miller
In Memory of:
Robert and Joanne Miller (Alan's parents)
Darrell and Alice and Curtiss Carlson
(Lorraine's parents and brother)

Peggy Forstad
In Memory of: Aaron Forstad
and Paul Forstad
(her son and husband)

Roy and Judy Schache
In Memory of:
Schache and Loth Families

Cody Droege
In Memory of:
Andy Droege (her husband)

Dorothy Anderson
To the Glory of God

Darlene Laubenstein
To the Glory of God

Melvin Theroff
In Memory of:
Pris Callison (his wife)

Willie and Julie Crespo
In Memory of: Carie Dickey (friend)
and George Kee (Grandpa)

Ricky and Janice Bertels
In Memory of:
Eugene Bertels (Ricky's dad)

Larry and Karen Haase
In Memory of:
Albert & Alvena Haase
(Larry's parents)
Kenneth & Mary Egbert
(Karen's parents)

Sue Cottrill
In Memory of:
John A. Cottrill (her husband), Lawrence
and Marie McMullin (Sue's parents)
Irvin and Virginia Cottrill (in-laws)
Irvin Lee Cottrill (brother-in-law)

Bill and Pat Brasel
In Memory of:
Clay Epperson (their grandson)
"Dude" Brasel (Bill's brother)
Brenda Cowgill (Pat's sister)

Peggy Hoyer
In Memory of:
Kimberly Carter
(her granddaughter)

MaryAnn Hein
In Memory of:
Ralph Hein (her husband)

Carol Kurz
In Memory of:
Pr. Rudy Kurz (her husband)

Duane and Rebecca Limback
In Memory of: Our parents

SueAnn Carter
In Memory of: My deceased family members
Thank you again SueAnn for providing the flowers for the Easter Cross

Easter Bible Trivia Quiz

- 1. What was the name of the prisoner the people wanted released instead of Jesus?**
a. Barnabas b. Haman c. Barabbas
- 2. What kind of crown was placed on the head of Jesus?**
a. Crown of jewels b. Crown of nails c. Crown of Thorns
- 3. What did Jesus say would cry out as He rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday?**
a. the stones b. the angels c. the earth
- 4. How many pieces of silver did Judas trade the life of Jesus for?**
a. 25 b. 30 c. 35
- 5. Who was the first person to see the risen Christ?**
a. Mary Magdalene b. Mary mother of John Mark c. Mary of Rome
- 6. How many times did Peter deny Christ after he abandoned the Lord?**
a. two times b. three times c. four times
- 7. When Jesus died there was darkness in the land. How long did it last?**
a. three hours b. three days c. three weeks
- 8. Where did the angel tell the women to go and see the risen Savior?**
a. Mount of Olives b. Galilee c. Mount Carmel
- 9. When Jesus saw the disciples after His resurrection, what did He ask them to bring at the Sea of Tiberias?**
a. Sheep b. Fish c. Leaven Bread
- 10. What is the name of the prayer which Jesus taught his disciples?**
a. A Prayer of Supplication b. Intercessory Prayer c. The Lord's Prayer
- 11. While in the wilderness, Jesus was tempted to turn what into loaves of bread?**
a. Stone b. Wood c. Sand
- 12. Which disciple cut off the ear of the high priest's servant in an attempt to protect Jesus from being taken as a prisoner?**
a. Andrew b. Philip c. Peter
- 13. In repentance Judas returned the money to the priests that he was given as the price of betrayal of the Lord and then did what?**
a. hanged himself b. jumped in the river c. stabbed himself
- 14. When Jesus entered Jerusalem during what is known as His Triumphal Entry, what animal was He riding on?**
a. A camel b. A horse c. A donkey
- 15. What moved the object in front of the tomb door?**
a. the object moved itself b. the earthquake c. an angel
- 16. Which of the Twelve Apostles did not believe that Jesus was risen?**
a. Andrew b. John the Beloved c. Thomas



Contact Information

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 607 N. Maguire, Warrensburg, MO 64093

Our Mission

· Grow in Christ · Live in Love · Share the Faith

Our Vision

To be a community of believers, disciples, and servants while we deepen our personal faith and reach others for Christ.



Rev. Joel R. Kurz

Tuesday & Thursday: 8am–5pm, Wednesday & Friday: 10am-5pm

Otherwise by appointment

Office: 660-747-6742

Cell Phone: 660-441-5710

Email: pastor@blchurch.com

Website: www.blchurch.com Facebook: [blcwarrensburg](https://www.facebook.com/blcwarrensburg)

Office Manager:

Cindy Smith

Monday–Friday: 8am-5pm

660-747-6742

officemanager@blchurch.com

Bookkeeper:

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 9am-11am

Thursday: 9am-11am

financial@blchurch.com

Please note that Bethlehem Lutheran Church has a closed-circuit video system. This allows for live streaming on the web, viewing of the service on screens in the building and helps to enhance our security. Please see a trustee or an elder if you have any questions.

Easter Bible Trivia Answer Key

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