



The Resurrection of Our Lord

April 1, 2018 A.D. † 10:15 a.m.

In The Name of Jesus

Divine Service – Setting One [adapted]

AS WE GATHER

Today's Worship Focus: Come to the Feast

Thoughts for Meditation: We regularly gather with family and friends on special occasions, celebrating with special meals, be they catered receptions or backyard barbecues. Then each event ends and we return to our daily routines. However, there is one banquet that has no end. It is the eternal feast of victory of our Lord Jesus Christ. It began with His resurrection. Now, each time we gather around bread and wine, His body and blood, we are joining “angels and archangels and all the company of heaven.” And one day we shall gather with them at “the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom.” Today, we observe our Lord’s resurrection, guaranteeing a place in His kingdom for all the faithful. Even now the feast is ready; come to the feast!

Our Old Testament Reading for the day, our sermon text, like the liturgical focus, reminds us that all this happens God’s way, on God’s terms, by God himself. It is on his appointed mountain, Mount Zion, where all will be gathered in this victory that he has accomplished for the whole world. The Epistle clarifies further that Jesus is the Christ, the one who lived, died, and rose again for us all. He is the Hope of Zion, the one who makes the feast of Zion possible. He is also the firstfruits of the fulfilled promise, the beginning of a family celebration that will include peoples from every tribe and nation. (See Acts 10 and Rev 7:9-17.) It is this Good News that saves us all and gives us an enduring hope that can never be dashed.

The dominant theme of celebration and receiving the victory of Jesus Christ explodes on Easter morning with the liturgical verse from the Ancient Church: “He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!” And because he lives ... we can live also! The “Alleluias” that were silenced because of Lent and Good Friday give way to the proclamation of victory on Easter morning. The call of Easter Day as well as the Easter season is the call to look to Jesus Christ in all things. For in him, Lent gives way to Easter, and our lives are secure in his hands in all circumstances.

Easter is not about the Easter Bunny! Though many would see Easter as a time for hunting eggs, hiding baskets, eating candy, and celebrating family, Easter is truly about the resurrection of our Lord. On this day Jesus, crucified and entombed, rose from death and validated the sacrifice He made for sin on the cross. Though there may be no harm in pursuing some of the secular Easter activities, there is great benefit in immersing ourselves in the community of faith as it celebrates that Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Color of the Day: Gold - for divinity. This is the color for Easter Sunday, the “Queen of Feasts” and White - the festival color of the Church. It is reserved for celebrations that reflect themes of purity, light, innocence, holiness, and redemption, including special events in Jesus’ life as His Birth, Baptism, Transfiguration, and Resurrection.

THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The Paschal Candle in the Chancel symbolizes the presence of the risen Christ among us. Throughout the Easter season, it will remain in the chancel and lighted for worship as a reminder that Christ is our Resurrection Light that shatters the darkness of sin and death. The paschal candle is placed at the right side of the altar (denoting Christ’s presence at the right hand of the throne of God) as the pastor faces the people. At Ascension (or the Sunday after), the candle will be extinguished and moved to the baptismal font for use at baptisms and at funerals. The Paschal candle is decorated with the following symbols: Alpha and Omega (Christ is unchangeable, the beginning and end of all things); and Five nails (the wounds of Christ bring us healing).

PRAYER TO AID YOUR WORSHIP PREPARATION

Lord God, revealed to Moses in a burning bush, to Israel in a cloudy pillar, to Isaiah on a lofty throne: help us in our worship to stand before You as on holy ground, seek the company of Your grace, hear and obey the voice of Your Word. Remove from us all hindrances to proper confession and forgiveness, to attentive hearing and obedience, to sincere praise and thanksgiving, that we may go forth with Your benediction; through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

GREETING and EASTER ACCLAMATION

- P** The Lord be with you!
- C** And also with you!
- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

✠ Confession and Absolution ✠

i PROCESSIONAL HYMN..... “Jesus Christ is Risen Today” #457 (G)

Please remain standing, facing the Processional Cross, turning as it passes by. ① Also, tradition suggests bowing as the cross passes by as an outward act of reverence and respect for the cross and the sacrifice our Lord made on the cross.

① Symbolically the procession, “with the cross of Jesus going on before” (from the hymn “Onward Christian Soldiers,” LSB 662) is a powerful suggestion of the Christian life, following Christ wherever He leads.

EASTER PROCLAMATION and INVOCATION

- P** Rejoice, now, all heavenly choirs of angels, praise mysteries divine with exultation;
C **for the victory of so great a King, sound forth the trumpet of salvation.**
- P** Exult, O earth, enlightened with such radiance; and, made brilliant by the splendid, eternal King,
C **know that the ancient darkness has been banished; let seas and oceans, hills and trees rejoice and sing.**
- P** Be glad with them, O Church, the bride of Christ clothed with the brightness of such light,
C **and let this house with joy resound, our voices praise Christ's glorious might.**
- P** Join me now, friends near and dear, to praise God's glorious, gracious love:
C **to Father, Spirit, risen Son be honor here and in heaven above.**

CORPORATE CONFESSION

- P** Even on this festival day, 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** In repentant faith, we come before our Lord to confess our sin.
Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.
- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
All **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.**

ABSOLUTION^①

- P** The last enemy to be destroyed is death, and Jesus has won the victory over sin, death, and the devil, and through Him, your sins are forgiven. As a servant of my Lord Jesus Christ, in His stead and by His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

^①The Scripture Teaches (*St. John 20:23*): We should receive the Pastor's absolution as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven. "It is not the voice or word of the man who speaks it, but it is the Word of God, who forgives sin, for it is spoken in God's stead and by God's command" (Augsburg Confession XXV 3).

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

✠ Service of the Word ✠

INTROIT and GLORIA PATRI^① *Exodus 15:2a, 6, 13, 17-18; antiphon: Ex. 15:1b*



- P** I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed | gloriously *
The horse and its rider he has thrown in- | to the sea.
- C** The LORD is my strength | and my song; *
and he has become my sal- | vation.
- P** Your right hand, O LORD, glorious | in power. *
Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the | enemy.
- C** You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you | have redeemed. *
You have guided them by your strength to your ho- | ly abode.
- P** You will bring them in and plant them on your own | mountain*
the place, O Lord, which you have made for | your abode,
- C** the sanctuary, O Lord, your hands have es- | tablished. *
The LORD will reign forever and | ever.
- All** Glory be to the Father and | to the Son *
and to the Holy | Spirit.
As it was in the be- | ginning, *
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
- P** I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed | gloriously *
The horse and its rider he has thrown in- | to the sea.

KYRIE^② ~ *Lord, have mercy*.....Pages 152-153

HYMN OF PRAISE - "*This is the Feast*"Page 155

^①“Introit” is pronounced “in-troh-it” & Latin for “he enters.” Here the Pastor enters the Chancel with the reading/chanting of these Psalm/Scripture verses. “Gloria Patri” is Latin for “Glory be to the Father” which is acclamation of praise before the final antiphon (a refrain that begins and concludes the Introit).

^②“Kyrie” is pronounced ‘keer-ee-ay’ – shortened from the Greek phrase *Kyrie Eleison* (“Lord, have mercy”) and reminds us of pleas for mercy like the one recorded in *Matthew 15:22*

P (♪) The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P (♪) Let us pray.

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.



C A - men

MINISTRY OF MUSIC - Adult Choir “Alleluia, For Christ The Lord is Risen”

*The reading of Scripture is a time of **awe-filled attention and reverence**. Please refrain from private conversations until a Hymn or the Voluntary (music during the offerings). If you absolutely must leave the Sanctuary during the Readings or Sermon, please remain in the Narthex or in a back pew until the next hymn. Thank you for your courteous and respectful revering of God’s Word! That Almighty God would even give us His Word to read and hear, is a gracious gift to be received with humble gratitude. “The LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.” (Habakkuk 2:20 ESV)*

OLD TESTAMENT READING **Isaiah 25:6-9**

An eternal banquet will celebrate victory over death.

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
 a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
 of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.
⁷And he will swallow up on this mountain
 the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations.
⁸He will swallow up death forever;
 and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,
 and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,
 for the LORD has spoken.
⁹It will be said on that day,
 “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.
 This is the LORD; we have waited for him;
 let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.” (ESV)

^①The “Collect” is a short prayer which ‘collects’ or summarizes the thoughts of the day. The Collects for every Sunday come to us from the rich treasury of the church’s heritage.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL^① and **VERSE** *adapt. from St. Matt. 28:7; Heb 2:7; Psa 8:6; 2 Tim. 1:10b*

P Christ has risen from the dead.

C **[God the Father] has crowned Him with glory and honor,**

P He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

C **He has put all things under His feet.**

P [Christ Jesus] abolished death

C **and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.**

EPISTLE **1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

Jesus' resurrection is news of utmost importance.

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand,² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you— unless you believed in vain.

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But 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. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed. (ESV)

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

^①“Gradual” comes from the Latin “gradus” meaning ‘step’. In the ancient church these Psalm & Scripture verses were chanted from the steps of the Altar. It is a response to the First Lesson and a bridge to the Second Lesson.

SEQUENCE HYMN “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” #465

1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds In praise of love that
still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song
of glo - ry here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!"
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

² Eternal is the gift He brings,
Therefore our heart with rapture sings:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Now still He comes to give us life
And by His presence stills all strife.
Christ has triumphed! He is living!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

³ Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;
Set heart and will on things above
That we conquer through Your triumph;
Grant grace sufficient for life's day
That by our lives we truly say:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

! THE GOSPEL PROCESSION

During the final stanza the processional cross and torches move to the center of the congregation. Please remain standing, facing the Cross as it leads the Gospel Processional into the Nave.

⁴ Adoring praises now we bring
And with the heav'nly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
Be to the Father and our Lord,
To Spirit blest, most holy God,
All the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt. LASST UNS ERFREUEN
Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Köln, 1623 Text: © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress
Tune: Public domain

The Gospel is read from among the people to symbolize the Living Message among us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 16TH chapter.



C Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY ✝ GOSPEL^① Saint Mark 16:1-8

Eyewitnesses of the resurrection.

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” ⁴And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large.

⁵And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. ⁶And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.” ⁸And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. (ESV)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to you, O Christ.

Once the cross is returned to its place you may be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY “Alleluia! Jesus is Risen” #474 (G)

^①In the “Gospel” we hear a reading from the New Testament accounts of Jesus’ life and message. In Lutheran Worship we believe that in the Reading of the Gospel Christ is in our midst, and so we stand to honor His presence. We also sing short verses before (to greet Christ) and after (to offer our joyful praise) the reading.

THEME: "THE EASTER FEAST OF VICTORY"

Listening Guide

- I. Easter _____ (v 6)
- II. Easter _____ (v 7)
- III. Easter _____ (v 8)
- IV. Easter _____ (v 9)

i PROFESSION OF OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH^① The Nicene Creed Page 158

A1 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,

^① Creedal statements where bowing is appropriate are underlined. Single underlines indicate the bowing of the head, double underlines indicate bowing at the waist.

**Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 Who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian^① 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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

P Lord, in Your mercy, **C** Hear our prayer.

OFFERINGS and ATTENDANCE REGISTRATION

The Offering is an act of worship for members and friends of Bethlehem, moved by God’s love to support this ministry. Guests should not feel obligated to participate.

A MATTER OF IMPORTANCE

Please Note: If you are visiting and have not already done so, please read HOLY COMMUNION - A CLARIFYING WORD on Page 12 of this worship folder.

YOUR PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENT

“Father, I believe that You sent Your Son, Jesus, as my Savior from sin. I repent of my sins and ask Your forgiveness. I believe the Risen Christ is really present in this Sacrament and that with the bread and wine I receive His True Body and Blood. In accordance with the pure doctrine taught at this altar, I dedicate myself anew to You regular worship, study of Your Word, faithful witness and loving service. With the help of Your Holy Spirit, make this my conviction and intention. Amen.”

“Lord, it is true that I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. Yet I am in need and desire Your help and grace. So I come with no other plea except that I have heard the gracious invitation to come to Your altar. I am unworthy, but You have assured me I shall have forgiveness of all sins through Your body and blood which I eat and drink in this sacrament. Amen, dear Lord; Your word is true. I do not doubt it. Let Your will be done. Amen.”^②

Other prayers may be found on the inside front cover of the Hymnal, “Lutheran Service Book.”

i OFFERTORY^③ - “What Shall I Render To the Lord”Page 159

+ Service of the Sacrament +

PREFACEPage 160

① *Christian*: the ancient text reads “catholic,” meaning the whole Church as it confesses the wholeness of Christian doctrine.
 ② “Luther’s Prayers,” ed. Herbert F. Brokering, Augsburg Publishing House, © 1994 Augsburg Books. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 ③ The “**Offertory**” is a Scripture based hymn which is sung as we prepare to bring our tithes and offerings to God. In doing so we are reminded that the offering of monetary offerings is a public testimony that we have first “*given [ourselves] to the Lord*” (2 Corinthians 8:5)

HOLY COMMUNION - A CLARIFYING WORD



Bethlehem congregation confesses and affirms what the Bible teaches, namely that in this sacred meal Jesus Christ is truly present with His body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine, given for the forgiveness of sins.

Our Church practices Closed Communion^①, the accepted practice of the Church since the Apostolic age. Participation in the Lord's Supper at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, where Lutheran teaching and practice are the definitive marks of our identity, is a privilege ordinarily reserved for confirmed members, in good standing, of congregations in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and synods with whom we are in Altar Fellowship (in North America: Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti, Lutheran Church-Canada and American Association of Lutheran Churches). Such individuals have been instructed and through faith confess the teachings of these Synods as the true and correct exposition of Holy Scripture.

The most loving and honest practice, when this instruction has not been received and/or this confession cannot be made, is for an individual not to commune. The intent of this practice is not to offend but to honor and obey the Word of Christ. If an individual would find it meaningful to come forward during the distribution to receive a spoken blessing, the officiant can be signaled to that effect by keeping your hands beneath the communion rail.

Since participation in this Sacrament is based on complete agreement and unity in all doctrine, and since Christian Churches vary widely in their teachings even about the Lord's Supper, **first time visitors desiring to commune are asked to speak to the Pastor prior to participation in and reception of the Blessed Sacrament.**

Lutherans who are inactive (i.e., not currently members in good standing), who have not communed in the last six months or more, and/or guests who are formerly "Missouri Synod" should speak to the Pastor prior to communing also. Scripture teaches that pastors are shepherds and overseers, who have divine authority and "a terrible responsibility" being held "**accountable** for [the] flock" (Ezekiel 34:10), especially when it comes to distributing the Lord's body and blood. Our thanks to you for honoring the Scriptural teaching and practice.

All communicants are asked to Register by signing the Registration sheet in the Narthex. Please note that in registering you affirm that you have examined yourself (1 Cor. 11:27-28; 2 Cor. 13:5) that you acknowledge, confess, and repent of your sins (which includes the sin of irregular worship), and by God's grace, as the Catechism also teaches, intend to change such sinful behavior in thought, word, and deed and live a godly life in accord with God's Word. If this is not your intent and you commune, you do so untruthfully and will not receive the Lord's Supper to your spiritual benefit, but to your great harm (1 Cor. 11:29).

For those who have not espoused the doctrines of the Lutheran Church (or those Lutherans who are inactive) and wish to receive the body and blood of Jesus as He reveals Himself to us in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, the essentials of teaching, learning, and confessing can be obtained from the Pastoral Ministry at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church. Inform the Pastor of your desire and he will assist you.

Communicants are ushered forward by rows. Please receive the host upon an open palm. The Chalice (or common cup) is available at every table. The Duty Elder will offer the individual cups and is followed by the Pastor who will offer the Chalice. You may direct questions to the Pastor or Duty Elder.

That which we value highly, we administer faithfully!

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Prayers for use before and after the reception of the Sacrament may be found on the inside front cover of our Hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*.

^①**Closed Communion** is the Scriptural and historic practice of limiting participation in the Lord's Supper to those who have been catechized (instructed) and examined in the truths of the Christian faith and who have promised to believe, teach and confess all that the church in which they will commune believes, teaches and confesses.

EASTER SUNDAY-THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD **APRIL 01, 2018**

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: *Steadfast in the Word, Bethlehem Lutheran Church shares Christ and serves people with friendship in His love in all of God’s world.*

WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH! We extend a most joyous welcome to all who are worshipping today. We are confident the Lord will reveal Himself to you through this Divine Service so that you may know the joy of His presence in your life. To our guests: If you have any questions about the Christian faith or about Lutheran worship and practice, please ask the Pastor, one of our Elders, or any of our members. God bless you in Christ Jesus!

WORSHIP NOTES: The Chasuble is a Eucharistic Vestment which the Pastor puts on before preparing the Sacramental vessels. It is a visual mark indicating that in the transition from the Service of the Word to the Service of the Sacrament something extraordinary is about to take place. The use of such a vestment is in keeping with both Lutheran tradition and practice; as our Lutheran Confessions state (*Ap XXIV*).

AS WE COME INTO THE SANCTUARY - let us be sensitive to the needs of those who use the quiet and reverence of the Prelude as a time to prepare their hearts and minds for the Divine Service. **ALSO:** Out of respect for God’s House and courtesy for other worshippers, please turn off all cell phones. Please also encourage one another to show respect to *God, His Word, our fellow-worshippers,* and *our Pastor* by limiting movement during Scripture Readings, Sermon & prayers. Thank you.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY: “Leviticus: Life in the Blood” -- Holiness. What is it? Leviticus shows how God goes to great lengths not only in defining true holiness, but also in sharing His holiness with his redeemed and ransomed people.

THANK YOU to all who helped prepare the wonderful Easter breakfast this morning!

EASTER LILIES: Thank you to all who purchased lilies to decorate our Chancel for Easter Service: Pastor and Peggy Adler [in memory of loved ones], Jeff and De Anne Atkinson, Jody and Mary Bowden, Jim and Neva Broad, Gil and Mary Lou Daughtrey (2), Butch and Connie Eppeland, Don and Lori Fortner [in memory of Marjorie Smith], Burl and Debbie Gruetzner [in memory of grandparents], Tonya Haddock, Devin and Melanie Jackson, Aaron and Matthew Jackson, Dot James, George and Betty Nelson, Chaplain and Betty Ristvedt, Lela Sands, Paul and Pat Stephenson [their parents], Paul and JoAnn Tugwell, Steve and Mary Unk and Anne Yarbrough.

MATTHEW JACKSON’S Eagle Scout project is scheduled for Saturday, April 7TH. If you are interested in helping Matthew with his project, please see him, Devin or Melanie.

A SPECIAL VOTER’S MEETING will be held after the Divine Service next Sunday, April 8TH. We have an opportunity to obtain a pipe organ at a very low cost.

ACTIVE SHOOTER SEMINAR Saturday, April 14TH from 10am to 12pm here at Bethlehem. If you would like to attend or have any questions, please see Steve Unk.

NEWSLETTER –The **APRIL** edition of *The Bethlehem Star* newsletter is in your mailbox in the narthex. Make sure you have picked up your copy.

THANK YOU: “Dear friends, thank you for the wonderful donation to the food pantry. We appreciate your hard work in the Chili Supper. God Bless.” Palestine Community Food Pantry.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE: I apologize for the confusion with the large print bulletins last Sunday. Thank you for grace!

NEW CATECHISM: If you ordered the new Small Catechism and have not yet paid for it, PLEASE do so. If you are not sure, contact the office. The cost of each book is \$15. Thank you!

LUTHERAN WITNESS: If you have not yet paid for your Lutheran Witness subscription, please do so. The cost is \$13.65. The office needs to balance the accounting books with the bill received. Thank you!

PORTALS OF PRAYER devotion booklets for April through June are on the shelf in the narthex. Make sure you have one and pick up an extra copy for a friend!

“RENT A YOUTH”: The youth are once again offering their services. This project provides an opportunity for middle and high school students, (grades 6 through 12), to assist older adults in completing routine light-duty household chores AND to foster fellowship between older adults and the youth in our church. If you have any questions, please see Yanneth Harris.

YOUTH FUNDRAISER: BELC youth are selling Yankee Candles to raise funds for Higher Things. If you would like to help, see one of the youth and they will be happy to show you a catalog.

GREETING CARDS: Are you looking for a beautiful card for special occasions? The ladies of the LWML are selling greeting cards for a 50 cent donation towards MITES. Cards are located on the rack in the narthex.

A SCHOLARSHIP FUND has been established for Aaron Jackson’s college expenses. Aaron is attending Concordia University/Seward, NE to prepare for full-time Church Work as a Minister of Music. If you would like to contribute, please indicate on your check and place it in the offering plate. You can also send Aaron an encouraging note at: Concordia University, Aaron Jackson, 800 North Columbia Ave., Seward, NE 68434-1500.

STEWARDSHIP VIEWPOINT: (St. John 20:1) – “Now on the first day of the week ...” All is made new by the Resurrection of Jesus! Even the day of worship has transitioned from the Old Testament’s Saturday Sabbath to the Lord’s Day of the New Testament. For the Lord has made all things new: He has begun a new week for a new creation in rising from the dead as the New Adam. We are also made new in Him – a new heart, a new life, new desires, a new outlook toward God: all this comes from our Risen Lord’s grace.

LIFE QUOTES: “Jesus has really, truly, physically been raised from the dead! And God stakes His entire reputation on these historical Easter facts! Luke was no liar, the women were not delusional, and the angels are no myth. God proclaims His Easter truth to us so that we may know and believe that in Jesus all our sin is forgiven, death has gone to die, the devil has been defeated, and life lasts forever!” *Pastor Jonathan Kruschel, St. John Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota • www.lutheransforlife.org*

ABOUT THE COVER: The women walked to the tomb and fretted about who would roll away the stone. They arrived and saw the stone had been rolled away already. An angel then spoke to them and said, “He has risen” (St. Mark 16:6). Those were the very words the women needed to hear. Those are the same words we need to hear often to remind us of Jesus’ promise of His resurrection for our salvation. “He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

OUR STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEK			
	OFFERINGS		ATTENDANCE
General Offering	\$3307.56	Sunday School	37
[<u>Needed per week:</u>	\$2,668.00]	Divine Service	77
Building Fund	\$50.00		
[<u>Needed per week:</u>	\$350.00]	Maundy Thursday (03/29)	51
Lent VI	\$547.74	Communion	48

<h2 style="text-align: center;">OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY THIS WEEK</h2>		
Sunday (04/01) Acolyte/Crucifer & Torch Bearers: Organist: Altar Guild: Duty Elder:	8:30 AM	The Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Day)
	10:15 AM	Easter Breakfast (No Sunday School)
		Divine Service (Setting 1) / Holy Communion
		Jessica Bowden, Christopher Harris and Kristen Harris
		Mary Bowden
Wednesday (04/04)	5:15 PM	Choir Practice
	6:00 PM	Potluck Supper
	7:00 PM	Bible Classes
Saturday (04/07)		Matthew Jackson's Eagle Scout Project
Sunday (04/08) Acolyte: Organist: Altar Guild: Duty Elder: After Church:	9:00 AM	Easter 2 (Quasimodo Geniti)
	10:15 AM	Sunday School & Bible Classes
		Divine Service (Matins)
		Sara Kimbrough
		Mary Bowden
		Sandy Smith & Natalie Byrd
		Jim Broad
	Special Voter's Meeting / LWML Meeting	

IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

National Leadership and Military: including members Kyle Lawson and Kyle Shepherd, as well as Robert Garcia [Juanita's son], and Jeremy Stafford [Marcy Hogan's nephew]

Health needs - Members: Albert Harris (3/4), George Nelson; **Friends:** Joan Smith (3/25) [Dorothy Jackson's niece], Marlene Thompson (3/25) [Tammy Pike's mother]

Homebound - Members: Dorothy Jackson, Martha Kaudelka, Ardelle Samford, Johnnie Weaver ...

Comfort: family and friends of Andrew Hill [son of Pastor Art and Kim Hill, Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler]

Celebrating this week: Birthdays: Jessica Bowden, Vicki Howard, Kelly Lawson, Johnnie Weaver... **Baptismal Birthdays:** Rev. Adler, Kyle Koehler

All who commune

NOTE: New prayers requests are in **BOLD**. Prayers submitted will stay on the prayer list for two weeks unless updated. Please inform the Pastor and the Church Office regarding the status of submitted prayers so we may be timely and up-to-date in petitions to our gracious God.

TO ADD PETITIONS TO OUR PRAYER CHAIN CALL LEA ROSIER AT (903) 729-1879 or (903) 391-5678

Note: The Letters in parentheses after the Hymn number indicate hymns selected because of direct connection to the Propers (i.e., Scripture Readings) for the day ... OT=Old Testament, FR=First Reading, SR= Second Reading , Ps=Psalm; V=Verse; E=Epistle, G=Gospel. Hymns with no such indication are hymns that, while having no direct connection to the Propers, still support the theme of the day.

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BETHLEHEM EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
 1515 South Loop 256 † Palestine, TX 75801
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Sunday School: 9:00 AM
 Adult Bible Class: 9:00 AM
 Divine Service: 10:15 AM

“To Give Light to Those who Sit in Darkness”

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 info@belctx.org

Rev. David L. Adler,
 Pastor