

*Bethany Lutheran Church
Long Beach, California
562-421-4711*

Easter Sunday

*Celebrating the Resurrection of Our Lord
April 12, 2020*

+ God Gathers Us In His Presence +

WELCOME:

ENTRANCE HYMN: *“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”* LSB 457

I Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
Suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!

(Short interlude)

- 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

**3 But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
 Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
 Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
 Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

(Short Interlude)

**4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
 Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!
 Praise Him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!
 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

OPENING PRAYER—*(Easter Collect Martin Luther 1533)*

Leader: Almighty God, who through the death of Your Son has destroyed sin and death and through His resurrection has restored innocence and eternal life that we, being delivered from the power of the devil, may live in Your kingdom,

People: Grant that we may believe this truth with our whole heart,
 and being firm in faith,
 may praise and thank You throughout our lives and through eternity,
 through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Through Jesus' resurrection from the dead, a new day has dawned.
Yet, I admit that like those who came to the tomb that first Easter,
I have been slow to understand God's Word.
Like the disciples, who when they first heard that Jesus had risen,
I too must confess that I have failed to always trust God's promises.

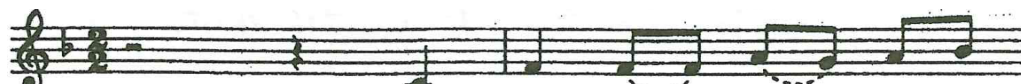
**People: I confess before the Lord, Who is resurrection and life,
and before all of you who will also return to dust,
that like those who left the graveside trembling and afraid,
I have often sought the living among the dead and so
I have returned, over and over again, to the same temptations,
addictions and actions which nailed Jesus to the cross.
For Your own name's sake, Lord Jesus, forgive me my sins.
As You live, give me life. As You have risen, cause me to rise.
Amen.**

Leader: Jesus is alive!
He has burst through the grave and broken down death's fortress.
This same Jesus has called me here to witness to the power
and truth of His resurrection.
Your forgiveness is certain
for sin, death and the devil are defeated because Christ is risen!


**People: He is risen indeed!
Alleluia!**

HYMN OF PRAISE:

"Lord of the Dance"



CHOIR MEN: 1. I danced in the morn - ing when the
CHOIR AND CONGREGATION: 2. I danced for the scribe and the
CHOIR: 3. I danced on the sab - bath and I
SOLO (or Choir): 4. I danced on a Fri - day when the
CHOIR AND CONGREGATION: 5. They cut me down and I



world was be - gun, and I danced in the moon and the
 Phar - i - see, but they would not dance and they
 cured the lame, the ho - ly to peo - ple with the
 sky turned black; it's hard to dance with the
 leapt up high, I am the life that will



stars and the sun, and I came down from heav - en and I
 would not fol - low me; I danced for the fish - er - men, for
 said it was a shame; they whipped and they stripped and they
 dev - il on your back; they bur - ied my bod - y and they
 nev - er, nev - er die; I'll live in you if you'll



danced on the earth. At Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
 James and John; they came to me and the dance went on.
 hung me high; they left me there on a cross to die.
 thought I'd gone, but I am the dance and I still go on.
 live in me; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

REFRAIN (after every verse): **CHOIR AND CONGREGATION**


Dance, then, wher - ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the



Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all wher - ev - er you may be,



and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

+ *God Gives Us the Gift of His Word* +

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: *Isaiah 65:17-25*

I will create a new heaven and a new earth.
Past things will not be remembered.
They will not come to mind.
Be glad, and rejoice forever in what I'm going to create,
because I'm going to create Jerusalem to be a delight
and its people to be a joy.
I will rejoice about Jerusalem and be glad about my people.
Screaming and crying will no longer be heard in the city.
There will no longer be an infant who lives for only a few days
or an old man who doesn't live a long life.
Whoever lives to be a hundred years old will be thought of as young.
Whoever dies before he is a hundred years old will be cursed as a sinner.
They will build houses and live there.
They will plant vineyards and eat fruit from them.
They will not build homes and have others live there.
They will not plant and have others eat from it.
My people will live as long as trees,
and my chosen ones will enjoy what they've done.
They will never again work for nothing.
They will never again give birth to children who die young,
because they will be offspring blessed by the LORD.
The LORD will bless their descendants as well.
Before they call, I will answer.
While they're still speaking, I will hear.
Wolves and lambs will feed together,
lions will eat straw like oxen,
and dust will be food for snakes.
"They will not hurt or destroy anyone anywhere on my holy mountain,"
says the LORD. – GW ®

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: *1 Corinthians 15:19-26*

If Christ is our hope in this life only, we deserve more pity than any other people.

But now Christ has come back from the dead. He is the very first person of those who have died to come back to life. Since a man brought death, a man also brought life back from death. As everyone dies because of Adam, so also everyone will be made alive because of Christ. This will happen to each person in his own turn. Christ is the first, then at His coming, those who belong to Him will be made alive. Then the end will come. Christ will hand over the kingdom to God the Father as He destroys every ruler, authority, and power.

Christ must rule until God has put every enemy under His control. The last enemy He will destroy is death. – GW ®

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

ALLELUIA VERSE: ***“Christ Triumphant”*** The Bethany Choir

HOLY GOSPEL: *Luke 24:1-12, 36-47*

Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb. They were carrying the spices that they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb. When they went in, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzled about this, two men in clothes that were as bright as lightning suddenly stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed to the ground.

The men asked the women, “Why are you looking among the dead for the living one? He’s not here. He has been brought back to life! Remember what He told you while He was still in Galilee. He said, ‘The Son of Man must be handed over to sinful people, be crucified, and come back to life on the third day.’” Then the women remembered what Jesus had told them.

The women left the tomb and went back to the city. They told everything to the eleven apostles and all the others. The women were Mary from Magdala, Joanna, and Mary (the mother of James). There were also other women with them. They told the apostles everything.

The apostles thought that the women's story didn't make any sense, and they didn't believe them.

But Peter got up and ran to the tomb. He bent down to look inside and saw only the strips of linen. Then he went away, wondering what had happened...

While they were talking about what had happened, Jesus stood among them. He said to them, "Peace be with you!" They were terrified, and thought they were seeing a ghost.

He asked them, "Why are you afraid? Why do you have doubts? Look at my hands and feet, and see that it's really me. Touch me, and see for yourselves. Ghosts don't have flesh and bones, but you can see that I do." As He said this, He showed them His hands and feet.

The disciples were overcome with joy and amazement because this seemed too good to be true. Then Jesus asked them, "Do you have anything to eat?" They gave Him a piece of broiled fish. He took it and ate it while they watched Him.

Then He said to them, "These are the words I spoke to you while I was still with you. I told you that everything written about me in Moses' Teachings, the Prophets, and the Psalms had to come true." Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. He said to them, "Scripture says that the Messiah would suffer and that He would come back to life on the third day. Scripture also says that by the authority of Jesus people would be told to turn to God and change the way they think and act so that their sins will be forgiven. This would be told to people from all nations, beginning in the city of Jerusalem. – GW ®

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *"Our Strength and Our Song"* The Bethany Choir

SERMON: **"What Are You Doing Here?"**

CONFESSION OF FAITH:

Leader: As a Christian your very life is a daily confession that Jesus, Who was crucified for your sin, has risen for your salvation.

(Second Article of the Apostles' Creed.)

People: **We 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Leader: What does this mean?

People: **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God,
begotten of the Father from eternity,
and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord,
Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person,
purchased and won me from all sins, from death,
and from the power of the devil;
not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood
and with His innocent suffering and death,
that I may be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom
and serve Him in everlasting righteousness,
innocence, and blessedness,
just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.
This is most certainly true.**

**+ *We Give Thanks for God's Word and
Sacrament* +**

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VOLUNTARY:

"Joyous Overture on Azmon & Duke Street" Bells, Trumpet & Organ
- arrg by J. Linker & J. McFadden

PRAYER:

Leader: O God, You gave Your only Son to suffer death for us, and by His glorious resurrection You delivered us from the power of the grave and promised us eternal life.

People: **Make us die to sin every day, Lord.
As we proclaim in our words that Jesus is alive,
may we also bear witness in our deeds that He,
Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, is alive in us.
Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER:

**Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.**

**+ *God Sends Us Forth for Lives of Love and
Service* +**

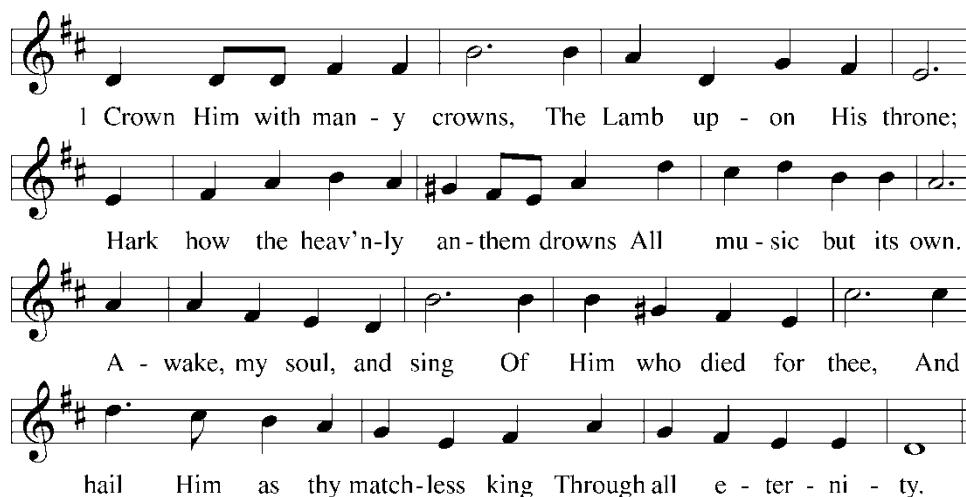
THE BLESSING:

Leader: Christ has broken through from death to life,
broken forth from the grave
and now lives to break down the barrier
between a Holy God and fallen humanity.
Break forth in joy,
declare and share the good news that Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed!
Alleluia!
Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN: “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

LSB 525



- 3 Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes At mysteries so bright.
- 4 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.
- 5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.

POSTLUDE:***“Overture” from Water Music***

Brass/Organ

- by G.F. Handel

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“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” LSB 457

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“Concertato on Lord of the Dance”—The Bethany Choir/Congregation

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“Christ Triumphant”—The Bethany Choir

~from *Easter Introit and Benediction*. Mark Patterson

“Our Strength and Our Song”—The Bethany Choir

~from *Easter Introit and Benediction*. Mark Patterson

“Joyous Overture on Azmon & Duke Street” Bells/Trumpet/Organ

Arrg. J. Linker & J. McFadden

“Crown Him with Many Crowns” LSB 525

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