

# Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 17, 2016



BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Joel F. Kluender

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5155 N. Pioneer Rd., Gibsonia (Hampton Twp.), PA 15044

HYMN— #234—*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

STAND

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.  
    For faithless worrying and selfish pride,  
    For sins of habit and sins of choice,  
    For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,  
You should cast me away from your presence forever.

**O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:  
I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY  
*Kyrie*

*Mark 10:47*

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life,  
hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith  
in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear  
our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: Amen.

1. All glory be to God on high!  
Your name, O Lord, we glorify;  
We praise you for your peace and grace,  
Your favor toward our fallen race.
2. Our grateful thanks to you we bring,  
**For your great glory, heav'nly King,**  
For all, O Father, you have done  
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son.
3. O Lamb of God, to you we pray.  
You take all human sin away.  
Have mercy, Lord; receive our prayer;  
**From God's right hand, your mercy share.**
4. You, Christ, are holy—Lord alone;  
**The Father's glory you made known.**  
We by your Spirit sing again:  
**"All glory be to God!" Amen.**

## THE WORD

### SALUTATION

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

### BE SEATED

### FIRST LESSON

*Acts 13:15, 16a, 26-33 (NIV)*

<sup>15</sup> After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent word to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have a word of exhortation for the people, please speak."

<sup>16</sup> Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: "Fellow Israelites and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me!

<sup>26</sup> "Fellow children of Abraham and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent. <sup>27</sup> The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. <sup>28</sup> Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. <sup>29</sup> When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb. <sup>30</sup> But God raised him from the dead, <sup>31</sup> and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people.

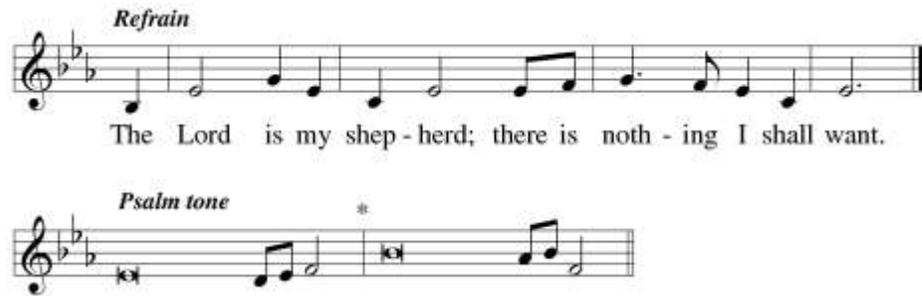
<sup>32</sup> "We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors <sup>33</sup> he has fulfilled for us, their children, by

raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm:

"You are my son; today I have become your father."

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 23



Refrain

The LORD is my shepherd,\*  
I shall not be in want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside quiet waters.  
He restores my soul;\*  
he guides me in paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,\*  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Refrain

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life,\*  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Revelation 7:9-17 (NIV)

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> And they cried out in a loud voice:

"Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

<sup>11</sup> All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> saying:

"Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever

and ever. Amen!"

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?"

<sup>14</sup> I answered, "Sir, you know."

And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup> Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. <sup>16</sup> 'Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,' nor any scorching heat. <sup>17</sup> For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; 'he will lead them to springs of living water.' 'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'"

#### VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. Alleluia. (*John 10:14*)

#### STAND

#### GOSPEL

*John 10:22-30 (NIV)*

M: The Gospel according to John chapter ten.

C: Glory be to you, O Lord.

<sup>22</sup> Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup> and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. <sup>24</sup> The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

<sup>25</sup> Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, <sup>26</sup> but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. <sup>27</sup> My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one."

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

#### BE SEATED

HYMN— #728—*Jerusalem The Golden* (see page 10)

SERMON (*sermon text Revelation 7:9-17*)

*"A Vision of Heaven"*

#### STAND

#### NICENE CREED

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and became fully human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

BE SEATED

OFFERING

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord Jesus, teach me to love others as you have loved me. Help me be more patient and alert to the needs of others, and always ready to serve them with the gifts you have given me.

Lord God, hear me as I speak to you about those near and dear:  
For all who travel: keep them safe.  
For all who are sick: heal them and make them strong.  
For all who are in pain: allow them to have relief.  
For all who are discouraged: let someone bring them cheer.  
For all who mourn losses: grant them understanding and recovery.  
For all who feel their hopes have been dashed through death: be the strong arm they need through Christ,  
who suffered death and rose again.

Dear Lord, let them know that nothing can separate them from your love in Christ Jesus.

Compassionate Savior, too often I forget how many in our world are homeless, poor, and hungry. In your mercy relieve their suffering and pain. Remind me that when I help a person in need I am serving you.

### *THE SACRAMENT*

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who rose from the dead in glorious triumph to bring forgiveness to the world and everlasting life to all who believe. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*Tune: Munich*

1. O holy, holy, holy Lord God, to You we pray,  
The heavens show Your glory, The earth Your works display.  
Hosanna! Come and save us, Lord God of hosts on high,  
And in Your grace and mercy Receive our fervent cry.
2. Hosanna in the highest! How truly blest is He  
**Who in God's name is coming To set His people free!**  
He comes to bring salvation And with His blood outpoured  
Deliver us from bondage—Hosanna, mighty Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.  
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.  
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.  
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts.  
**Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.**

C: Amen.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

C: 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.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

*Lamb of God*

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 sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - men.

BE SEATED

### **DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*(The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith. For this reason, we ask that only members of Bethany or other WELS or ELS congregations partake in this special meal.)*

HYMN 311—*Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness*

STAND

1. O Lord, now let your servant Depart in peace, assured:  
For I have seen your promised Incarnate, saving Word—  
A Light that will enlighten All gloom where Gentiles dwell;  
The brilliant, crowning glory Of those in Israel!

2. All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three-in-One;  
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,  
God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you give us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. We pray that through this precious gift of yourself you would feed our faith, nourish our hope, and strengthen our love that we might live as your people now, and as your guests forever at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN #322—*On What Has Now Been Sown*

# Jerusalem the Golden

1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With  
 2 Oh, sweet and bless - ed coun - try. The  
 3 The Christ is ev - er with them; The

milk and hun - ey blest - The sight of it re -  
 home of God's e - lect! Oh, sweet and bless - ed  
 day - light is se - rene. The pas - tures of the

fresh - es The wea - ry and up - pressed; |  
 coun - try That ea - ger hearts ex - pect, Where  
 bless - ed Are ev - er rich and green. There

know not, oh, I know not What joys a - wait us  
 they who with their lead - er Have con - quered in the  
 is the throne of Da - vid; And there from care re -

there. What ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, What  
 light For - ev - er and for - ev - er Are  
 leased, The shout of them that tri - umph, The

bliss be - yond com - pare: To sing the hymn un -  
 clad in robes of white, Je - sus in mer - cy  
 song of them that feast, To God en - throned in

end - ing With all the mar - tyr throng, A -  
 bring us To that dear land of rest, Where  
 glo - ry The Church's voic - es blend, The

midst the halls of Zi - on Re - sound - ing full with song,  
 sings the host of heav - en Your glo - rious name to bless,  
 Lamb for - ev - er bless - ed, The Light that knows no end.

*This twelfth century hymn, first conceived by Bernard of Cluny, depicts an idyllic, heavenly scene. The hymn is gloriously set to the English folk tune TITANIC D.*

TEXT: Bernard of Cluny, 12th century  
 TUNE: TITANIC D 76 76 76 D; GUSTAV HOLST, 1874-1934, alt.



# News And Notes

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## WELCOME!

Welcome to worship! We consider it a privilege to have you worship with us today. Guests, if there is anything we can do to make your worship more meaningful, please do not hesitate to ask us. May the Lord bless your worship!

## THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE

A special "thank you" to those who served their Lord by serving us this morning, our violinists, our organist, and our ushers. Thank you for edifying and beautifying our worship with your service.

## BETHANY'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 25-29

Bethany's Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 25—29, 2016. We will need volunteers to help with this annual outreach event. We are seeking help in planning/coordinating, teaching, cooking, and in helping/assisting. If you are willing and able to help, please consider setting aside one, several, or all of those days to be part of this ministry of Bethany Lutheran Church. Many hands are needed to make this go smoothly, as we anticipate somewhere between 25 and 30 students, which has been the norm in recent years. THANK YOU for considering this important ministry.

## WEST DEER COMMUNITY DAYS AUGUST 5 AND 6

Bethany congregation has in recent years manned a booth at West Deer Community Days, which this year will take place Friday and Saturday, August 5th and 6th. We will be looking for people who are willing to help us plan the event. This involves determining what we will do, what we will hand out, and how we will recruit volunteers. In recent years, many good community contacts have been made at this event. If you can help plan, let Pastor know, and if you would like to be the coordinator... that is all the better! Thank you,

## MARCH FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR BETHANY

In the month of March, total income from all sources (contributions, preschool, and interest) was \$8,053. Our weekly budget is \$2,540, and March was a four Sunday month, resulting in a \$2,107 monthly budget shortfall. These numbers are subject to review and approval at our April council meeting. Please keep this in your prayers.

## GRADUATION PARTY & FELLOWSHIP AT PARSONAGE

On Saturday, June 11th, all Bethany members are invited to fellowship at the parsonage with the Kluenders and their family to celebrate Hannah's graduation from Hampton High School. Please join us between 3:00 PM and 8:00 PM that day, as you are able. The more the merrier!

## LAST WEEK'S WORSHIP

In last Sunday's worship, \_\_ people were fed and strengthened by the Word of God.

# Our Walk For God

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THIS WEEK AT BETHANY...

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	7:00p Bible Study	7:00p <b>Elders' Meeting</b>				9:00a Adult Bible Study 10:30a Worship 12:10p Catechism
Happy Birthday Brendan Vioral!	Happy Birthday Kaelin Vioral!					

Serving next Sunday: Alter: J. Kluender Greeter: McCreary; Ushers: Team B