



**BETHLEHEM UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Sunday, March 31, 2024
Easter Sunday**

Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver

Organist: Polly Jeanty

Liturgist: Will Mathes

If listening from your car, please tune to 101.3 FM

***= Please rise in body or spirit**

CENTERING BREATH PRAYER: as you inhale, say the first part of the prayer to yourself, and say the second part as you exhale. Repeat 5x

Hallelujah! The Lord is Risen! :: He is risen, indeed!

RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANTHEM

“This Glorious Easter Day”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

O Day of Resurrection, we lift our hearts with joy!

Christ has led us from death to life. Hallelujah!

O Day of Resurrection, we will with hope!

Christ has led us from earth to heaven. Hallelujah!

Christ is risen from the dead. Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! He is risen indeed.

***OPENING PRAYER:**

L: God of Resurrecting power,

P: **you lift our hearts with joy
when we see the tomb is empty.**

L: God of Resurrecting hope,

P: **you fill us with excitement
when we hear that Christ is risen.**

L: God of Resurrecting love,

P: **you embrace us with courage
when we trust in the power of new life
that you promise in the Risen Christ.**

ALL: **We offer you all glory, honor and praise
with hearts overflowing in Jesus' name.**

OPENING HYMN #196 all "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of Resurrecting joy,
we confess it's not easy to sustain Easter hope.
We let discouragement, fear and frustration to settle in
and we let anger and anxiety turn our hearts away from you.
Resentment and disappointment cling to us
and we forget your great mercy and love. Forgive us.
Restore within us the joy and hope you promise us
in Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen.**

(time of silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ –
**And Christ died for us; Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us,
Christ prays for us.**

Believe the good news of the gospel.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free for new life by God's
resurrecting grace. Hallelujah!**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #571 "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death for ever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!

² **Let Israel say,**
‘His steadfast love endures for ever.’

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

¹⁵ **There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:**
‘The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;

¹⁶ the right hand of the LORD is exalted;
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.’

¹⁷ **I shall not die, but I shall live,**
and recount the deeds of the LORD.

¹⁸ The LORD has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.

¹⁹ **Open to me the gates of righteousness,**
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹ **I thank you that you have answered me**
and have become my salvation.

²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ **This is the LORD’s doing;**
it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ **This is the day that the LORD has made;**
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

RESPONSE #277

“This is the Day”

John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.’ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’ When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.” ’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

SOLO

“Worthy is the Lamb”

Laura Mueller

SERMON

*HYMN #210 vs. 1-3

“Now the Green Blade Riseth”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE...THE LORD’S PRAYER

Petitions end with:

Resurrect, renew and revive your people, O God. **Hear our 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY (Jingle Change goes to OCWM: Our Church's Wider Mission)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE Tune "Old Hundredth"

**Let trumpets sound and voices sing!
Let all on earth their praises bring!
For Christ has conquered sin and death
And given life eternal breath.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of Resurrecting Grace, we offer our gifts with grateful hearts, recognizing how much you have given us in Christ, and what that gift has cost. Empower these gifts to spread the hope and joy we feel today in the world you love, in the name of your greatest gift, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

(God's table is open to ALL, regardless of affiliation or membership. Please hold the elements until all have been served and we will partake together. All bread is gluten free. The inner circles are grape juice, the outer rings are wine.)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE STORY OF THE TABLE

CHOIR "How Beautiful"

THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

On this joyful Easter Day, ...with all the saints before us and beside us, in heaven and on earth, to raise the song of your unending greatness:

**Holy, Holy, Holy God of love and Majesty,
The whole universe speaks of your Glory, O God Most High.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the Highest!**

Receive our praise and joy this day, O Christ...,
and so we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again

Spirit of Life, rising in us and around us,...the love we share in your name.

CHOIR "How Beautiful"

BREAKING OF THE BREAD – POURING OF THE CUP

DISTRIBUTION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER (poem)

**Christ be with us; Christ within us;
Christ behind us; Christ before us;
Christ beside us; Christ to win us.
Christ to comfort and restore us.**

**Christ beneath us, Christ above us,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love us,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger
wherever we go in your name. Amen**

*CLOSING SONG #206 all "He Lives"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PIZZA PARTY with ICE CREAM SUNDAES

Sunday, April 14 following worship service

Everyone is invited

See the sign up sheet in the fellowship hall

Sponsored by Merry Christians

- Bethlehem's Loads of Love Laundry Ministry has seen an increase in clients and cost in recent months. We are currently aiding TWO clients with medical conditions that result in large amounts of soiled laundry. Your financial support of the program is needed to continue providing this important service in our community. The donation jug is located near the double doors to the sanctuary.
- Summer Camp time is Approaching! Daycholah Center and other UCCI camps are booking for campers and ALSO hiring staff for the summer! (Perfect for college students!) Please let Pastor Randy if you'd like more information about summer camp. Or go to ucci.org

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS -See flyers in fellowship hall for more details

- Saturday, April 6. – Women's day at Zion Lutheran, New Holstein.
- Thursday, April 25 – Smoked Pork Chop Dinner – 4p-6:30p – Saron UCC
- Saturday, April 28 - AYCE Potato and Buttermilk Pancake Supper – 3p-6p – Zion Lutheran, New Holstein -

2024 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team

Elder/President - Steven Voland (920)286-0162 or svoland44@gmail.com

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or trabefamily5@gmail.com

Elder - Lee Watson (920)562-0588 or lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us

Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 rossw@forhealthycows.com

Deacon/Secretary - Kathy Bowe (920)894-7243 LandKBowe@outlook.com

Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 srumpff@tm.net

Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 jm59umland@gmail.com

Pastor - Randy Kopenhagen (920)286-2531 randynmel5@gmail.com



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Families who have lost loved ones:

William Baldwin (Randy's uncle)
Ronnie Hickman
Dale Christel

Those struggling with health issues:

Nancy Zimmermann	Brad Westphalen
Nancy Henschel	Gary Steinhardt
Mason Kannell	Jaxxen Kane
Sarah Arnold	Tom Brickbauer
Heidi Konen	Marie Rietbrock
Brenda Voland	Crystal
Darlene Horneck	Renee
Helen Henning	Dana
Tom Lefebber	Mary Beth Molitor
Jessica Horneck	Dawson Horneck
Jamie	

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

Other Concerns:

Those affected by war and violence around the world: Ukraine, Gaza, Haiti, Sudan, Myanmar
The family and friends of 3 year-old Ellijah Vue, Two Rivers.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 3/31: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Easter Sunday Worship w/ Communion

Monday 4/1:

Tuesday 4/2:

Wednesday 4/3: 6pm Confirmation Class; *~Happy Birthday Nicole Watson, Tyler Hanson, and Sheri Wilhams, and Ann Moore!*

Thursday 4/4: *~Happy Birthday Greg Schultz!*

Friday 4/5:

Saturday 4/6: *~Happy Birthday Lily Watson!*

Sunday 4/7: 8am Sunday School; 8:30am WISE; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion; *~Happy Birthday Marie Mueller!*

March Pantry Items:

Box of Pasta, Noodle, Rice or Crackers