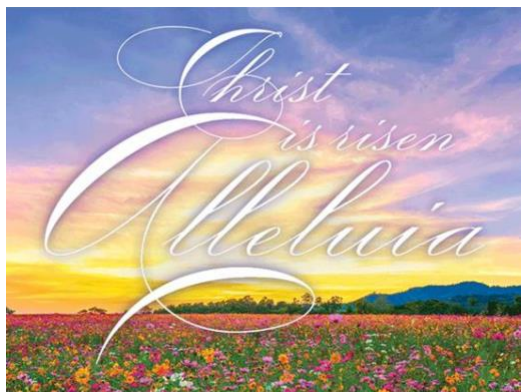


## Sunday, April 4 ~ Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day



*Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!*

Prelude: Rigaudon  
Easter Carillon  
*Dick DePasquale, trumpet*  
*Rich Baehr, trumpet*  
*Scott Quinlan, trombone*  
*Scott Hoffman, trombone*  
*Susan DePasquale, organ*  
Toccata from Fifth Symphony

André Campra/arr. Scott Sorenson  
Robert J. Powell

Charles Marie Widor

Gathering Words/Welcome and Announcements

### SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Find your Alleluias (from Transfiguration Sunday), gather your bells (from your Holy Week kit), and search for signs of new life to prepare a worship space in your home this Easter season. In addition to these items, a candle and bowl of water remind us of the new life we have received through our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection and our call to let our Christ light shine! Christ is with us wherever we gather, and by God's love and grace, we are one in Christ, across time and space. Throughout our worship, ring your bells each time you hear, speak, or sing the word "Alleluia!"*

Call to Worship:

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;

**God's mercy endures forever.**

The Lord is our strength and our song,

**and has become our salvation.**

We shall not die, but live

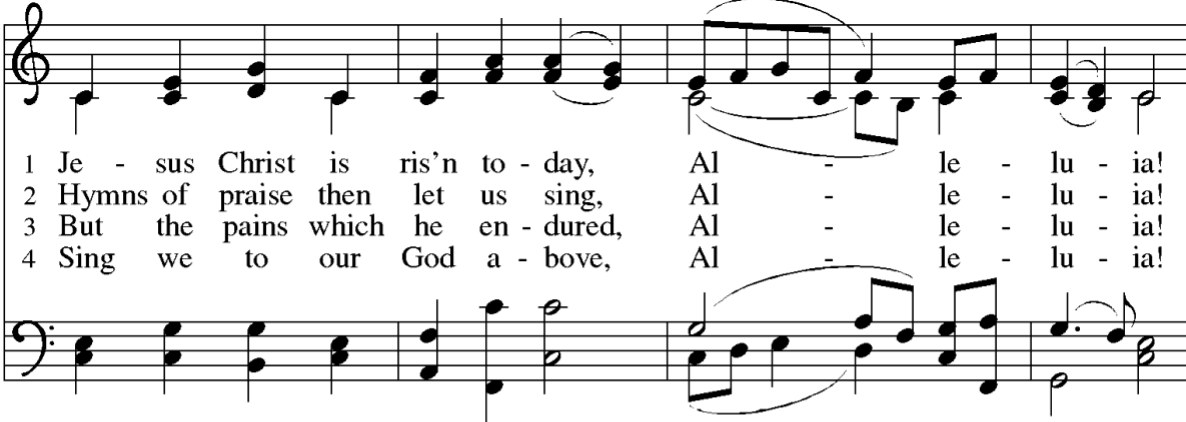
**and declare the works of the Lord.**

This is the day that Lord has made;

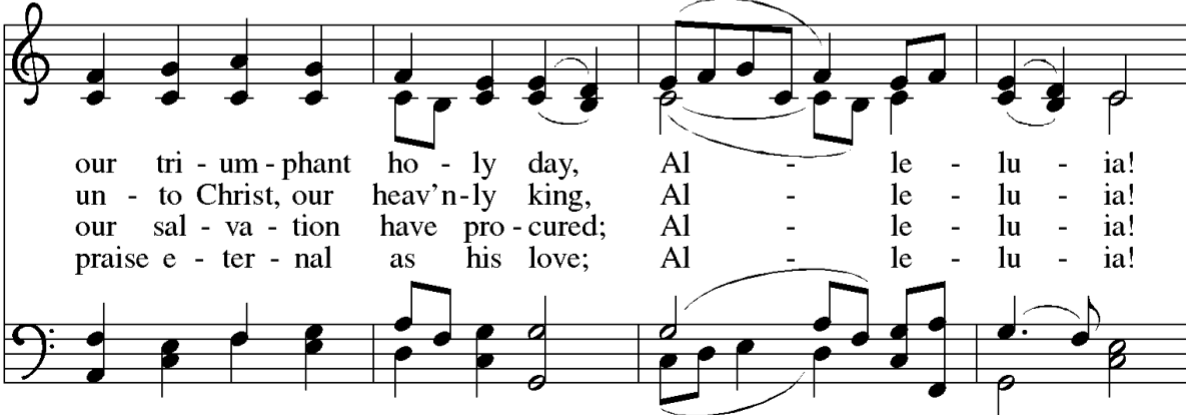
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

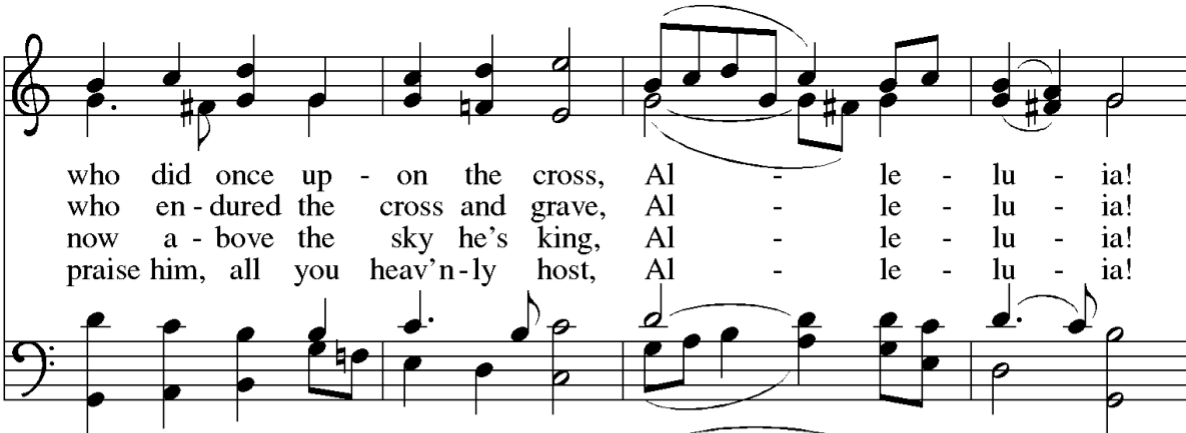
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



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 en - dured, 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 you 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!

Greeting:

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

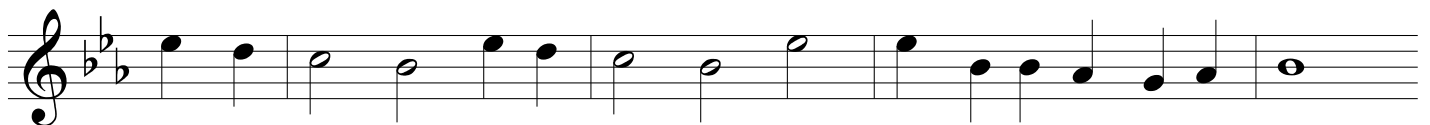
Hymn of Praise:

*Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*

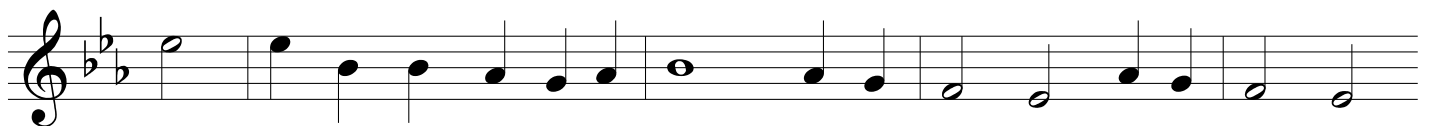
#367 vs. 1 & 4



Now all the vault of heav'n re-sounds in praise of love that still a-bounds:  
A - dor-ing prais-es now we bring and with the heav'n-ly blessed sing:



"Christas tri-umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of an-gels, loud and clear!  
"Christas tri-umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the Fa-ther, and our Lord,



Re - peat their song of glo-ry here: "Christas tri-umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
to Spir - it blest, most ho-ly God, all the glo - ry, nev-er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray. God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

Children's Moment

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

## Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

*The core of the Christian faith and Paul's preaching is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the earliest of his followers, so we experience the presence of the Risen One in the preaching of this faith.*

<sup>1</sup>Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been 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. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation:

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation. The first staff is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). The second staff is identical to the first. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the first staff, and 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the second staff.

The gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## Gospel: Mark 16:1-8

*The resurrection of Jesus is announced, and the response is one of terror and amazement.*

<sup>1</sup>When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. <sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" <sup>4</sup>When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who

was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” <sup>8</sup>So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Hymn of the Day: | <i>Thank You, God, for Easter's Story</i> |
|------------------|---|

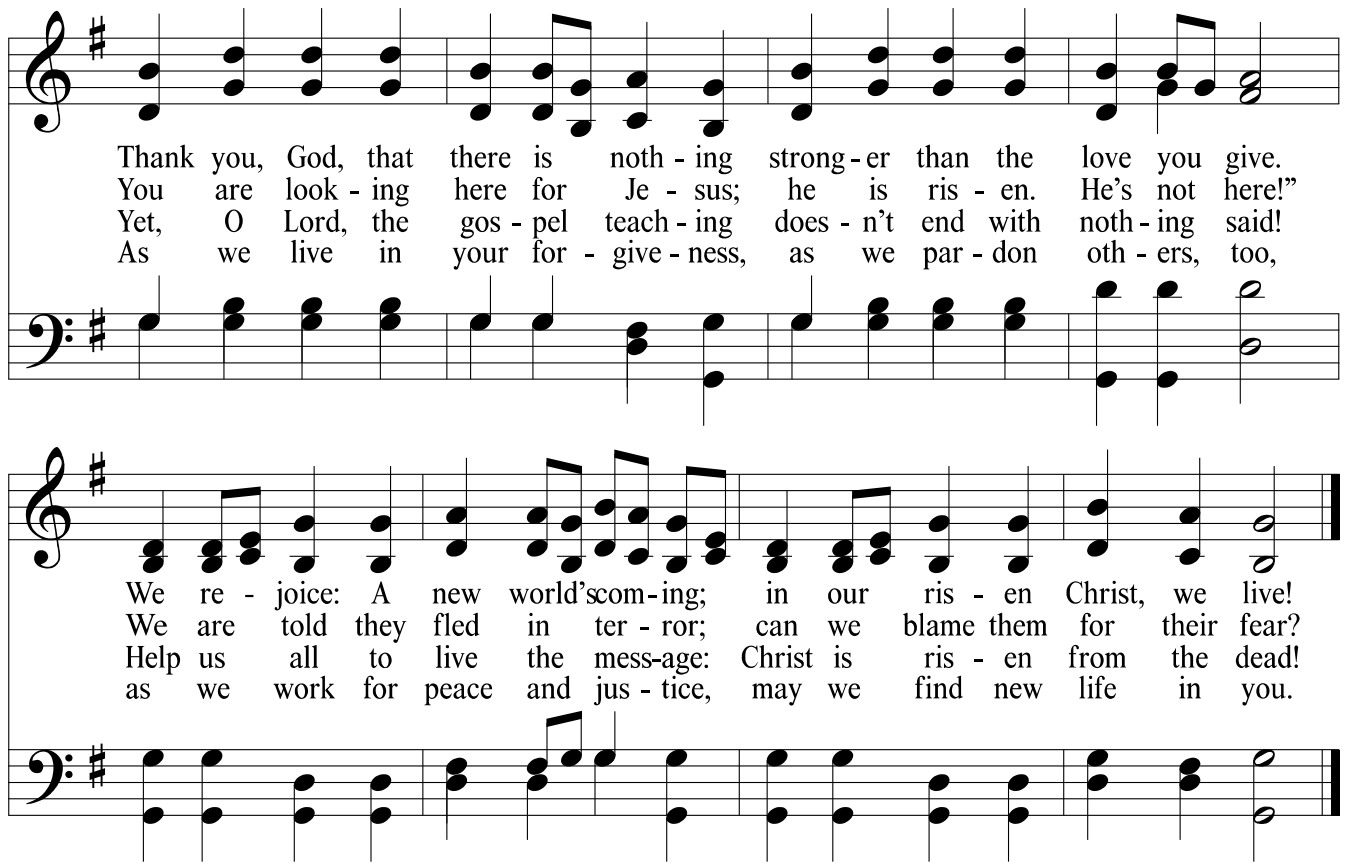
## Thank You, God, for Easter's Story

HOLY MANNA 8.7.8.7 D (“Brethren, We Have Met to Worship”)

1. Thank you, God, for Eas - ter's sto - ry: Christ is ris - en! Love has won!  
2. When the wo - men reached the gar - den, they found Je - sus had been raised.  
3. God, we know our own re - luc - tance to pro - claim what we've re - ceived.  
4. Through the years, the church has wit - nessed— Christ is ris - en! Love has won!

Death with all its power and fu - ry can't de - feat what you've be - gun!  
Some - one dressed in white spoke to them, say - ing, “Do not be a - fraid.  
We ad - mit to our own si - lence, won - dering if we'll be be - lieved.  
As we put our faith in prac - tice, may we tell what you have done.

*(Remaining music on the following page)*



Thank you, God, that there is noth - ing strong - er than the love you give.  
 You are look - ing here for Je - sus; he is ris - en. He's not here!"  
 Yet, O Lord, the gos - pel teach - ing does - n't end with noth - ing said!  
 As we live in your for - give - ness, as we par - don oth - ers, too,

We re - joice: A new world's com - ing; in our ris - en Christ, we live!  
 We are told they fled in ter - ror; can we blame them for their fear?  
 Help us all to live the mess - age: Christ is ris - en from the dead!  
 as we work for peace and jus - tice, may we find new life in you.

Biblical Reference: Mark 16:1-8

Tune: William Moore's *Columbian Harmony*, 1825

Text: Copyright © 2018 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

### The Prayers of the People:

*In the silences of our prayer you are encouraged to remember those whose needs are known to us listed below. You may also lift up the name of someone in need of prayer in the comments of our worship livestream.*

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

### *Brief silence*

Hallelujah, He is risen! Let His light shine over our world from one dark corner to another. Illuminate the communities who live in fear of hatred and racial prejudice; light the streets of Rochester where murders are becoming all too common; shine on the jury in Minneapolis as they strive to navigate the path toward justice, and be with all of our health care workers who are still in a battle with Covid. Help us be a reflection of Your light not only to those in our Bethlehem family but to those differ from us. Lead us with your guiding light to seek out injustice and give compassion to all those in our path. Hear us O God,  
**your mercy is great.**

Hallelujah, He is Risen! Let us all see Jesus in the faces of our Bethlehem congregation. This week we especially remember Amy and Hans, Amy and David (Stella), Chris and Meg, Mike (Lily and Olivia) and Shiellee. We give thanks that you also see us and know our needs. We also pray for our sisters and brothers in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. Hear us O God,

**your mercy is great.**

Hallelujah, He is Risen! We pray for comfort for those who grieve the loss of loved ones, especially the family and friends of:

- Cheryl (wife of Gerry, longtime friend of Bob) who died on 3/22

Bring your compassion and your healing touch to those who are ill, especially

- Michele a, niece of Toni, recovering from surgery on 3/23
- Waverly, friend of Phyllis as she seeks a kidney donor
- Those impacted by fires, hurricanes and other disasters
- Those who are involved with the ongoing work of caregiving for loved ones
- Those who are infected with or recovering from Coronavirus, and their caregivers

and those that we name silently or aloud.

*Silence*

Sit beside their caregivers and give them strength, love and stamina. Hear us O God,  
**your mercy is great.**

Hallelujah, He is Risen! Let the joy, the triumph and the miracle of the Resurrection echo throughout the World! Hear us O God,  
**your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **WE SHARE GOD'S MEAL**

The Peace:

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Greet those with whom you worship physically with a sign of peace, extend the peace of Christ through the comments section or text to those who are at a distance.*

## Offering

*Though we meet virtually, the ministry of God's people at BLC continues. Our worship is complete when we bring all of our resources to receive God's blessing and fulfill God's purpose. This time of uncertainty and reduced physical contact gives us ever more opportunities to share our abundance – of compassion, of time, and of material resources. If you are able, please continue your financial commitment to BLC.*



*If you would like to make a one-time gift electronically, scan the QR (quick response) code on the right and you'll be brought to BLC's mobile giving page. For recurring gifts, download the Tithe.ly app. Checks may also be mailed to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450.*

*Whatever form your offering takes, we give thanks to God for you and your generosity.*

### Offering of Music:

Christ is Arisen, Christians to the Paschal Victim

arr. William Braun

*Chancel Choir (Jim Jefferis, Director, Dick DePasquale and Rich Baehr, Trumpets  
Scott Quinlan and Scott Hoffman, Trombones)*

Offertory:

*Voices Raised to You*

#845 vs. 5



How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the



thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es

*(continues on the following page)*



gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. God of love,

**you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

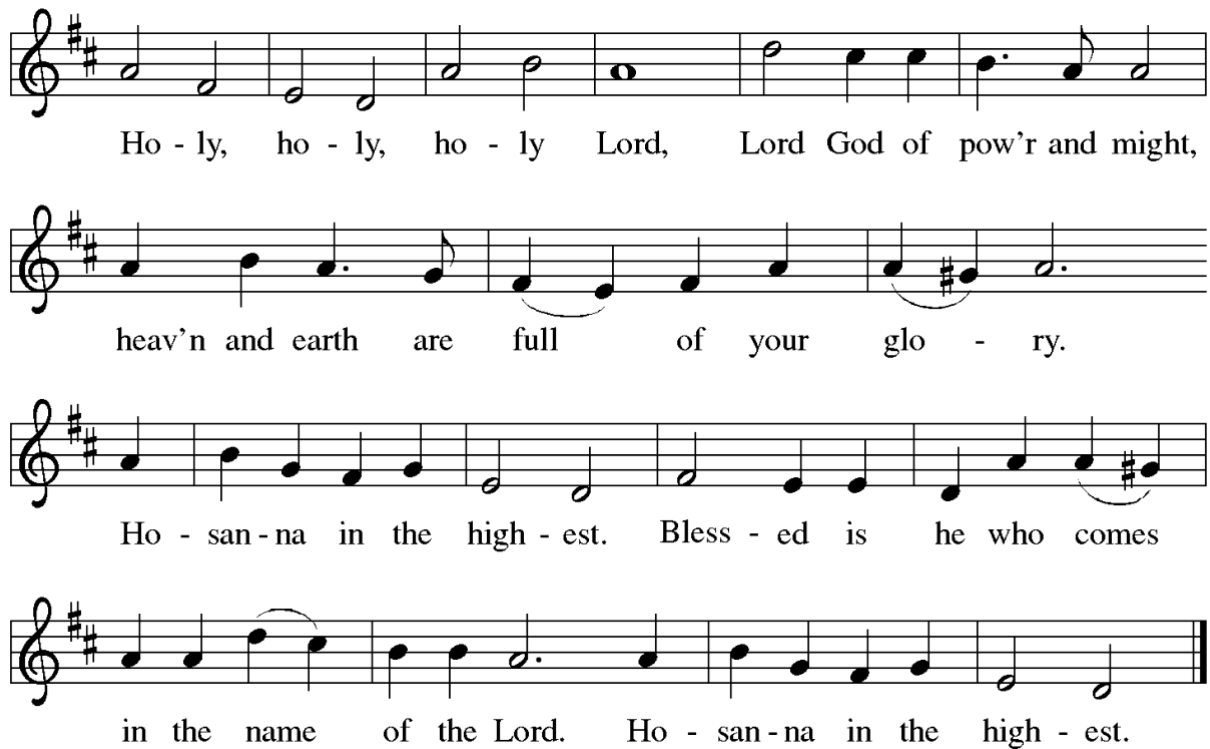
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;  
who in dying has destroyed death,  
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,  
with earth and sea and all their creatures,  
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 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.

Words of Institution:

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.  
 Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer:

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,  
 your kingdom come,  
 your will be done,  
 on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
 and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
 now and forever. Amen**

Invitation to Communion:

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

**Thanks be to God!**

The Communion:

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 peace, grant us peace.

*Distribution of Communion:*

*If you will not be communing at Bethlehem today, we encourage you to speak the words of Blessing at the end of today's service following the musical selections.*

*All are welcome to share in Christ's meal of forgiveness and grace. We invite you to make your way to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY until 11 am this morning. All participants are expected to wear masks. When you arrive, please use the main entrance of the church and ushers will direct you to the communion table. Those who need the assistance of the lift are welcome to use the Perrin Street entrance. When you are ready to receive the bread and wine, you may remove your mask. Children and others who do not commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available; please indicate your need to the worship assistant.*

*When you have received communion, you are invited to conclude today's liturgy with your household.*

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the  
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he  
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment  
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness  
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes  
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;  
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

*Refrain*  
 where thy bod - y lay.  
 death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring  
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Lift High the Cross

Sydney Nicholson

*Mike Koncilja, piano*

**Benediction:**

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen**

*The flowers that decorate the Sanctuary were given to God's glory by the following:*

**Daffodils:**

*The Antonoff Family in memory of Grandma June Sharp*

*Jim & Sherry Cook in honor of Pastor Amy Walter-Peterson & Pastor Hoffman  
and in memory of our parents, Rod & Jane Johnson and  
Howard & Myrtle Cook*

*Koosje Jeanotte in memory of Ardis Vokes, Marge Messner and Dolores Lynch*

*Michael Koncilja*

*Julie Thon*

*Hans & Amy Walter-Peterson in honor of the people of God at Bethlehem Lutheran Church*

**Hyacinths:**

*Sandy Goehle in memory of loved ones*

*Bailey Lintner in memory of Joan Monti*

*Bob & Judy Lohr in memory of Allen & Dorothy Lohr Edward & Loretta Baldasari*

*Kathy Moragne in honor of our Pastors*

*Karen Palermo in memory of my late husband and Jonathan's father Norm*

*Todd Schaeber in honor of Patricia Klenz*

*Cathy & Paul (Emma Pitts) Stewart in memory of Milton & Lorraine Pitts*

*Maribeth Wilke in memory of my mother Paula Hitchings and husband Mitch Wilke*

**Lilies:**

*The Antonoff Family in memory of Great Grandma Grace Garvey*

*Bob & Judy Lohr in memory of Allen & Dorothy Lohr Edward & Loretta Baldasari*

*Karen Palermo in memory of my late husband and Jonathan's father Norm*

*Todd Schaeber in honor of Patricia Klenz*

*Howard & Janet Sharp in memory of our parents: Irv & June Sharp, Gene & Grace Garvey*

*Julie Thon*

*Desiree Wolfe in memory of Virginia Wolfe*

**Tulips:**

*The Antonoff Family in honor of Grandma and Papa Sharp (Jan & Howard Sharp)*

*Linnea Erickson in memory of Tia Erickson*

*Koosje Jeanotte in memory of Ardis Vokes, Marge Messner and Dolores Lynch*

*Michael Koncilja*

*Rolf Maxa in memory of Mr. & Mrs. William Walsh and Mr. & Mrs. Erich Maxa*

*Kathy Moragne in honor of our Pastors*

*Julie Thon*

**ELCA World Hunger Appeal & Other Easter Donations:**

*Marcy Adams in memory of my mom and dad, Marty and Marshall Lovett*

*Bill Antell in memory of Georgene Antell and in memory of Jack Slaybaugh*

*Karen Bigenwald in honor of all God's people*

*Andy & Ruth Gates in memory of Sandra Gates and Elmer Yeakel*

*Pam Heiple in memory of Bob and Mike*

*Roger Kolker to the Glory of God*

*Marshall Kurfiss in memory of our parents*

*Lilita Lassen-Ward in memory of Mildred Icenogle*

*Kathy Moragne in honor of our Pastors*

*Jim & Ricki Schaefer in Thanksgiving for all our blessings*

*Erwin & Nancy Soulia in honor of our Healthcare Workers*

*GerryAnn & Wayne Westcott in memory of all who have died this past year*

*Hans & Amy Walter-Peterson in honor of our godchildren:*

*Madeleine, Isabel, Nathanael and Micah*

*Marjorie Yaeger in honor and in memory of loved ones*

## Calendar for week of April 4 – April 11

(Last updated on 3/31/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

### Sunday, April 4

#### **Easter Sunday**

8:30 am Facebook Livestream  
Worship followed by Holy Communion – the sanctuary will be open for people to receive communion until 11 am  
No LYO

### Monday, April 5

#### **Church Office Closed\***

No Virtual Youth Choir  
No GFL Confirmation  
6:30 pm BSA Troop 208

### Tuesday, April 6

#### **Wednesday, April 7**

9:30 am Zoom\* Bible Study  
([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942)  
9:30 am Education Planning Meeting  
([Join](#) or use ID 871 8823 9638)  
1:00 pm Zoom\* Men's Lunch  
([Join](#) or use ID 874 8853 3240)  
6:30 pm Chancel Bells  
7:30 pm Zoom\* Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
([Join](#) or use ID 869 2314 9200)

#### **Thursday, April 8**

6:30 pm Zoom\* BLC Officer's Meeting

### Friday, April 9

#### **Pastor's Sabbath**

No Folk Group Rehearsal  
3:00 pm Dulcimer Group Rehearsal

### Saturday, April 10

9:30 am Property Committee  
12:00 noon Confirmation Hike & Kick Ball at Mendon Ponds

### Sunday, April 11

8:30 am Service with the Upstate

New York Synod  
10:00 am Listening Session at Egypt Park (registration required)\*\*  
7:30 pm Zoom\* LYO  
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

**\*The church office will be closed in observance of the Easter holiday.**

**\*\*April Listening Sessions:** Help us plan for a return to in-person congregational life at Bethlehem. Your presence and voice at these listening sessions matters! Dates include 4/11, 4/13, 4/15, 4/18, 4/20, 4/21 (via Zoom) & 4/25. Sign up early for the greatest option of dates and times! Register at <https://blcfairport.org/listening-sessions/>

**For additional details** about any of the meetings, events and activities listed above contact the church office!

**Church Office Hours:** We continue to hold remote office hours M-F from 9 am to 12 noon. During these times, please call (585) 223-0634 to reach us directly, otherwise you may continue to email us at [office@blcfairport.org](mailto:office@blcfairport.org) and we'll respond as we're able. For further assistance or urgent pastoral care needs outside of office hours, please call the office and leave a message on the pastoral care line. Pastor Amy remains available by phone and email at other times.

**\*To join any of our BLC Zoom meetings, use the ID provided or contact the church office and/or group organizer.**

**\*Zoom Options:** For recurring meetings, the info will remain the same each time. Participants can join with the link provided (above where applicable, or via email), or by using the Meeting ID and manually enter the password (the 10-digit BLC phone number with area code, no spaces or hyphens). **Please contact the group leader or the church office for assistance or additional details! If you have trouble accessing a Zoom meeting in real-time, you can call or text (585) 364-2129 for assistance.**

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## Middle of the Story

Literarily and theologically, Mark's gospel ends awkwardly at 16:8. The women are astonished and afraid, and what most scholars consider the original ending of Mark seems more like the middle of the story than its end. What about appearances of the risen Christ? What about the joyful proclamation that death has not had the last word? Mark's gospel is problematic for those anticipating the more complete story of resurrection recounted by other gospels. For some circumstances, however, Mark's ending hits just the right note—especially for those who aren't sure about resurrection themselves, or whose own lives are in an awkward, unresolved limbo.

In Mark's version, all we have to depend on are Jesus' earlier words, the realization that the women must have shared their experience eventually, and the intriguing possibility of the empty tomb. Somehow the women's fear must have eventually become courage, but Mark leaves it up to his readers to wonder how. Still, Mark's "ending" contains hope: even in times of uncertainty and fear, we can *live* the story of resurrection, depending on Jesus' words, the church's testimony, and the intriguing possibility of new life in Christ.

As we too are still in the middle of our life stories, Mark's gospel is a good companion. Most of the time we live with an awkward, unresolved mix of fears and possibilities, in which resurrection is hinted at rather than completed. This is true for the church as well; this story may appear to be the end, but it's really just the middle. The story of the risen Jesus continues in the mission of the church, Christ's body. The possibility of resurrection draws us into a community that lives out the middle of its story in the hope and witness of Christ's new life.

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