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# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

## Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 12, 2019



*Our Mission:  
To Love God and Our Neighbor through Worship,  
Growing in Faith, Caring for Each Other,  
and Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ*

## WELCOME

The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those “who have come out of the great ordeal” in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

If you are a guest or visitor today, a special welcome to you. You bless us with your presence. If we can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to let us know. Please join us for fellowship after worship this morning!

We thank Kyle Johnson for leading Worship today!

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Members of Bethlehem: Ian Alton, Al Lewis

Friends and Family: Paul Anderson, Kathryn Arnstrom, Jim and Bonnie Johnson Anderson, Kathy Couty, Julie Hayry-Argall, the Hayry Family, Helen Heffner, Diane Juell, Justin Kandell, Elaine Miraldi, Barbara Nash, Rose Shobutte, Len Skuta, and Duane Werner.

Our Homebound: Lois Demos, Jayne Josephson, Gerry Wickstrom, and Jim & Eleanor Wrath.

## FLOWERS

The flowers on the reredos today are in loving memory of Bud’s Mother and Stepfather, Rosemary and Rudy Rodriguez, and Marcia’s Mother and Father, Leona and Paul Wunder, given by Bud and Marcia Stillwell. The flowers under the cross are in honor of Lynn Alton and Lisa Alton, and in honor of the birthday of Max Labus.

## LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

**Asst. to the Pastor** Kyle Johnson  
**Music Minister** Duane Werner  
**Lay Assistant** Bill Kursell

## Liz Banks’ Office/Secretary Hours:

Mon. 9am-1pm, Tues. - Fri. 9am- Noon  
Email: [welcome@blcjoliet.com](mailto:welcome@blcjoliet.com)

## Pastor Paul Carlson’s Hours:

Wednesday and Thursday 9am- Noon  
Please call the church office ahead of time as the Pastors duties may take him out of the office.  
Cell:630-418-0069 email: [pastorpaul249@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpaul249@gmail.com)

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Risen One, as you broke bread with the disciples on the shore, meet us now in this meal. Nourish us to follow you, using our gifts to feed the hungry and tend the weary, and all for your love’s sake.

**C Amen.**

## LORD’S PRAYER (spoken)

**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.**

## BENEDICTION

P The blessing of the living God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
surround and sustain you,  
keep you from harm,  
and fill you with courage.

**C Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN #789** *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

## DISMISSAL

P Go in peace and share the good news. Christ is risen!

**C Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE** *Diademata*

Austin C. Lovelace

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

412 E. Benton St., Joliet, IL 60432

Office phone: (815) 726-4461

Website: blcjoliet.com

**PEACE**

P Peace of the Risen Lord be with you!

C And also with you!

*The congregation greets one another with the words: Peace be with you.*

**OFFERING**

*As the ushers bring our gifts to God forward, we join in our offering hymn on the next page.*

**OFFERTORY**

*Christ Lag in Todesbanden*

Kyle E. Johnson

**OFFERING HYMN**

*Let The Vineyards Be Fruitful*

**Fourth Sunday of Easter  
May 12, 2019 ~ 9:30am**

**PRELUDE**

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Sharon Elery Rogers

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING HYMN #855**

*Crown Him With Many Crowns*

**GREETING**

P Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was raised from the dead to bring everlasting hope, be with you all.

C **And also with you.**



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

# KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



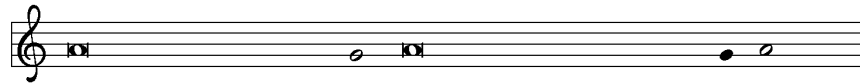
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



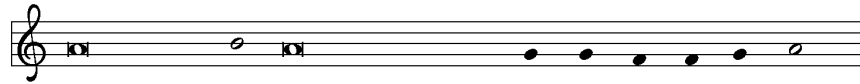
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

# APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I 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 to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

# THE PRAYERS

P Trusting God's promise of new life, we pray for the renewal of the church, the world, and all of creation.

*After each petition the congregation responds:*

A Hear us O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

*The prayers conclude:*

P We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God. Come near to us with your saving help, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**C Amen**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

### GOSPEL: John 10:22-30

*Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup>At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup>and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup>So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” <sup>25</sup>Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; <sup>26</sup>but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. <sup>30</sup>The Father and I are one.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## MESSAGE

*Kyle Johnson*

## HYMN OF THE DAY #502

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

## HYMN OF PRAISE

A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.  
B Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us  
free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and  
strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.  
Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the  
hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and  
might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain  
has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON: Acts 9:36-43

*Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing was well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.*

<sup>36</sup>Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. <sup>37</sup>At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. <sup>38</sup>Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." <sup>39</sup>So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. <sup>40</sup>Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. <sup>41</sup>He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. <sup>42</sup>This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup>Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

L The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 23

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## SECOND LESSON: Revelation 7:9-17

*Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering, in whose blood the saints have washed their robes and made them white.*

<sup>9</sup>After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup>They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

<sup>11</sup>And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom  
and thanksgiving and honor  
and power and might  
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" <sup>14</sup>I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup>For this reason they are before the throne of God,  
and worship him day and night within his temple,  
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

<sup>16</sup>They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;  
the sun will not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat;

<sup>17</sup>for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

L The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**