

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Almighty God, we have celebrated with joy the festival of our Lord’s resurrection. Graciously help us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever

First Reading: Acts 5:12-32

¹²Now many signs and wonders were done among the people through the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon’s Portico. ¹³None of the rest dared to join them, but the people held them in high esteem. ¹⁴Yet more than ever believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of both men and women, ¹⁵so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mats, in order that Peter’s shadow might fall on some of them as he came by. ¹⁶A great number of people would also gather from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all cured. ¹⁷Then the high priest took action; he and all who were with him (that is, the sect of the Sadducees), being filled with jealousy, ¹⁸arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. ¹⁹But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, brought them out, and said, ²⁰“Go, stand in the temple and tell the people the whole message about this life.” ²¹When they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and went on with their teaching. When the high priest and those with him arrived, they called together the council and the whole body of the elders of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. ²²But when the temple police went there, they did not find them in the prison; so they returned and reported, ²³“We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside.” ²⁴Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were perplexed about them, wondering what might be going on. ²⁵Then someone arrived and announced, “Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!”²⁶Then the captain went with the temple police and brought them, but without violence, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people. ²⁷When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

Psalm: Psalm 148

¹Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

²**Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!**

³Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴**Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

⁶**He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸**fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

⁹Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰**Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

¹¹Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹²**Young men and women alike, old and young together!**

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

¹⁴**He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!**

Second Reading: Revelation 1:4-18

⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye

will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. ⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty. ⁹I, John, your brother who share with you in Jesus the persecution and the kingdom and the patient endurance, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰I was in the spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹saying, “Write in a book what you see and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.” ¹²Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and in the midst of the lampstands I saw one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across his chest. ¹⁴His head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow; his eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵his feet were like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters. ¹⁶In his right hand he held seven stars, and from his mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining with full force. ¹⁷When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, ¹⁸and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades.

Gospel: John 20:19-31

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” ²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

Today: April 27th	Sunday: May 4th
Second Sunday of Easter	Third Sunday of Easter
9:15-Adult SS	9:15-Adult SS
9:15-Youth SS	9:15-Youth SS
9:30-Coffee Fellowship	9:30-Coffee Fellowship
10:30-Worship	10:30-Worship w/Communion
4:00-Laurens Care Center Svc	6:00-Bethany Prayer Group
6:00-Bethany Prayer Group	Monday: May 5th
Monday: April 28th	4:00-W/M Mtg
7:00-Handbell Rehearsal	
Tuesday: April 29th	
8:30-Prayer Group	
9:30-Tuesday Coffee @ Bethany	
Wednesday: April 30th	
7:00-Confirmation	
Saturday: May 3rd	
8:00-Mens Group	

Prayer Concerns: Bethany Lutheran Church members, nursing home residents, storm/flood/fire victims, those suffering any illness, Amy Campbell, Myra Reese, Tami Hawk, Don & Brenda DeHaan, Dorothy Smith, Janelle Mason, Linda Galbraith, Tim Burton, Desiree Welty, Roberta Baker, Pastor John Mayer, Elizabeth Dunbar, Monica Isom, Don Ehlers, Bill Alexander, Eli Honer, Dorothy Sandvig, Gloria Bell, Helen Dodge, Patricia Bentsen. Our youth, parents & teachers, our military & missionaries.

Lectors: Shirley Kruse
Ushers: April 27th -Tom & Rhonda Shewell
May 4th -Dean & Eloise Armstrong
Acolytes: Bethany Youth

Weekly Budget Needs: \$2817.00
Faith Promise \$440.00 Worship 63
Easter \$634.00 Adult SS 0 Youth SS 0

Birthdays: April 29-Marl Raasch, Tyler Sandvig; May 1-Franz Ekstam; 2-Linda Bieri
Anniversaries: April 30-Lars & Liz Herom

***Please note that the blue CH (Celebration Hymnal) is located under the pew in front of you.**
Altar Flowers:

An asterisk (*) indicates when to stand (as able)

ORDER OF THE SERVICE

PRELUDE/ RINGING OF THE BELL /
WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS
*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS P.56
*HYMN *The Strife is O’er, the Battle Done* **LBW 135**
*GREETING P.57
*KYRIE P.57
*HYMN OF PRAISE P.59
*PRAYER OF THE DAY (bulletin-in unison)
FIRST READING: Acts 5:12-32
Psalm: Psalm 148 (bulletin – responsively)
SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-18
*ALLELUIA VERSE P.62
***THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 20:19-31**
*GOSPEL RESPONSES P.63
CHILDREN’S SERMON
SERMON **Pastor David Klappenbach**
HYMN *Thine Is the Glory* **LBW 145**
APOSTLES’ CREED P.65
OFFERING P.75
*OFFERATORY P.75
*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH
Leader: ...Lord in your mercy
Response: Hear our prayer.
THE LORD’S PRAYER* **CH 631
*BENEDICTION P.76
*HYMN *Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia!* **LBW 128**
*DISMISSAL

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April 27, 2025
Second Sunday of Easter

**WORSHIP, LOVE, ACCEPT
TOGETHER IN CHRIST’S NAME**

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To our visitors! Welcome to our Sunday Service.
We are happy to have you sharing in our worship service and ask for the opportunity to meet you.
We invite you to complete the visitor card in front of you and give to an usher. Please come again!

***We are a
Christ-Centered
Mission-Driven
Traditionally-Grounded
Congregationally-Focused
Church.***