



MISERICORDIAS DOMINI ("THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD") THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE RESURRECTION

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Mrs. Kristen Lawson, Organist

WELCOME IN THE NAME OF OUR BLESSED

LORD! We are pleased you are here, gathered around the Gospel in Preaching and the Sacraments! **GUESTS** – If we can assist you in any way with questions about our confession of faith, spiritual struggles, understanding

our liturgical service, or any other need, please let us know. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will strengthen and comfort you.

CONFESSIONAL STATEMENT: Bethany Lutheran Church confesses all the Holy Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired word of God without any errors. We also hold, without any reservation, to the teachings of the Evangelical-Lutheran Confessions contained in the 1580 Book of Concord. We confess these teachings to be the correct interpretation of Scripture and a true explanation of the one, holy, catholic (universal) and apostolic faith.

PASTORAL CARE AND GUESTS AT THE LORD'S SUPPER: Scripture and our Confessions teach that the Lord's Supper "is the true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine" (Small Catechism). We are concerned about the spiritual welfare of all who commune at the Lord's Table. *If you are a guest and desire to commune, please speak to the pastor before the service.* Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are active members of sister churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and are not under church discipline in another congregation. In Christ, Pastor Lawson

APRIL 14, 2024 † 11:00 A. M.

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. St. Matthew 6:33

One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple. Psalm 27:4

Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Hebrews 10:19-22

† In the Name of Jesus †

Prayer before Worship: Lord God, heavenly Father, out of Your fatherly goodness You have been mindful of us poor, miserable sinners, and have given Your beloved Son to be our Shepherd, not only to nourish us by His Word, but also to defend us from sin, death, and the devil: We beseech You, grant us Your Holy Spirit, that, even as this Shepherd knows us and helps us in every affliction, we also may know Him, and, trusting in Him, seek help and comfort in Him, from our hearts obey His voice, and obtain eternal salvation; through the same, Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Office of Preparation (Confession & Holy Absolution)

Hymn of Invocation: *345, Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!*

**C: Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia!
Christians, haste your vows to pay; Alleluia!
Offer ye your praises meet Alleluia!
At the Paschal Victim's feet. Alleluia!**

**For the sheep the Lamb hath bled, Alleluia!
Sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia!
"Christ is ris'n," today we cry; Alleluia!
Now He lives no more to die. Alleluia!**

Christ, the Victim undefiled, Alleluia!

**God and man hath reconciled, Alleluia!
While in strange and awful strife Alleluia!
Met together death and life. Alleluia!**

**Christians, on this happy day Alleluia!
Haste with joy your vows to pay. Alleluia!
“Christ is ris’n,” today we cry; Alleluia!
Now He lives no more to die. Alleluia!**

**Christ, who once for sinners bled, Alleluia!
Now the First-born from the dead, Alleluia!
Throned in endless might and pow’r, Alleluia!
Lives and reigns forevermore. Alleluia!**

**Hail, eternal Hope on high! Alleluia!
Hail, Thou King of victory! Alleluia!
Hail, Thou Prince of Life adored! Alleluia!
Help and save us, gracious Lord. Alleluia!**

*At the Invocation and Absolution all **may** make the sign of the †
in remembrance of their Baptism.*

The Invocation: p. 60-61

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The Confession of Sin (form I): pp. 60-62

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, beseech Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord;

C: And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins.

C: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them, and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: I ask each of you, in the presence of God who searches the heart: Do you confess that you have sinned, and do you repent of your sins?

C: I do.

P: Do you believe that Jesus Christ has redeemed you from all your sins, and do you desire forgiveness in His name?

C: I do.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

May He comfort your heart by His holy Absolution,
and strengthen you by His Sacraments,
that your joy may be full.

Peace be with you! **C: Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Introit

Tone 1



Antiphon (**Pastor**) The earth is full of the goodness of the LORD. `Alleluia! / By the word of the LORD the heavens were made. Alleluia! `Alleluia!

Psalm (**All**) **Rejoice in the Lord, `O you righteous!:/ For praise from the upright `is beautiful.**

Behold, the eye of the Lord is on `those who fear Him:/ on those who hope `in His mercy. To deliver `their soul from death:/ and to keep them a`live in famine.

Our soul `waits for the Lord:/ He is our `help and our shield.

Gloria Patri (All) **Glory be to the Father `and to the Son:/ and to `the Holy Ghost.**

As it was in the be`ginning, is now:/ and ever shall be, forever`more. Amen.

Antiphon (All) **The earth is full of the goodness of the LORD. `Alleluia! / By the word of the LORD the heavens were made. Alleluia! `Alleluia!**

The Kyrie Eleison (form I): p. 63

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Gloria in Excelsis: pp. 64-66

P: Glory be to God on high:

C: And on earth peace, good will toward men.

**We praise You, we bless You, we worship You,
we glorify You, we give thanks to You, for Your great glory.**

**O Lord God, heav`nly King,
God the Father Almighty.**

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

You take away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

**You are seated at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy
upon us.**

**For You only are holy. You only are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the
Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Salutation: p. 66

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

The Collect for the Day

P: O God, by the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world: grant to Your faithful people perpetual gladness, and those whom You have delivered from the danger of everlasting death, make partakers of eternal joys; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament: *Ezekiel 34:11-16*

P: *In those days* Ezekiel prophesied: Thus says the Lord GOD: "Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. "As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day. "And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land; I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys and in all the inhabited places of the country. "I will feed them in good pasture, and their fold shall be on the high mountains of Israel. There they shall lie down in a good fold and feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. "I will feed My flock, and I will make them lie down," says the Lord GOD. "I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick; but I will destroy the fat and the strong, and feed them in judgment.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

First Alleluia Verse (*replaces the Gradual through the Easter season*)

P: Alleluia! Alleluia!: Then was the Lord Jesus known to His disciples in the breaking of bread. Alleluia!

C: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Hymn: *177, I Am Jesus' Little Lamb*

C: **I am Jesus' little lamb, Ever glad at heart I am,
For my Shepherd gently guides me, Knows my need, and well provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same, Even calls me by my name.**

**Day by day, at home, away, Jesus is my Staff and Stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, He bids me go Where the quiet waters flow.**

**Who so happy as I am, Even now the Shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended, by His angel host attended,
He shall fold me to His breast, There within His arms to rest.**

Epistle: *1 Peter 2:21-25*

P: *Brethren:* To this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in

His mouth"; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness -- by whose stripes you were healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Alleluia Verse

P: Alleluia! Alleluia! I am the Good Shepherd: And I know My sheep and am known by My own. Alleluia!

The congregation responds with the Sequence Hymn

Sequence Hymn: *The Lutheran Hymnal 187, Christ Is Arisen*

P: Christ is arisen From the grave's dark prison.

We now rejoice with gladness; Christ will end all sadness, Lord, have mercy.

All our hopes were ended Had Jesus not ascended From the grave triumphantly,

For this, Lord Christ, we worship Thee. Lord, have mercy.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We now rejoice with gladness;

Christ will end all sadness. Lord, have mercy.

Holy Gospel: *St. John 10:11-16*

P: The Holy Gospel according to † St. John, the 10th chapter:

C: Glory be to You, O Lord.

At that time Jesus said: I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

P: This is the † Holy Gospel. **C: Praise be to You, O Christ.**

*At the words "And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary
And was made man" all **may** bow out of reverence for Christ's Incarnation.*

Nicene Creed: p. 69

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,

**Maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

**the only-begotten Son of God,
Begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
Very God of Very God,**

**Begotten, not made,
Being of one substance with the Father,
By Whom all things were made;**

**Who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven**

*and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary
and was made man;*

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried;

**and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven,**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

**And He shall come again with glory
to judge both the living and the dead;**

Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life,

**Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified,**

Who spoke by the Prophets.

And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

And I look for the Resurrection of the dead

and the Life † of the world to come. Amen.

Chief Hymn: 368, *The Lord My Faithful Shepherd Is* (tune: 538)

**C: The Lord my faithful Shepherd is, And me He safely guideth;
I shall not want, for I am His Who all things good provideth.
I follow Him, I hear His voice, In Him my Lord I do rejoice
Blest am I in His keeping!**

**A tender shepherd leads his sheep Where pastures green are growing,
And there His flock doth guard and keep Beside still waters flowing.
Thus Christ, my Shepherd, leadeth me, My soul and body feedeth He
And for their wants provideth.**

**And if I ever go astray, My wayward soul He turneth,
To save the lost, to guide the way, For this He ever yearneth;
He leadeth me, my soul to bless In His own path of righteousness
For His name's sake and glory.**

**Why should I ever fear, O Lord, Whilst Thee I have beside me?
Thou by Thy Spirit and Thy Word Dost comfort and dost guide me.
In death's dark vale I'll fear no ill, For Thou, O Lord, art with me still,
Thy rod and staff shall stay me.**

**Thou art my host; for me, Thy guest, A table Thou providest.
Though foes be near, I am at rest, Thou still with me abidest.
With oil anointest Thou my head, On me Thy blessing rich is shed,
My cup with bliss o'erfloweth.**

**Thy goodness and Thy mercy, Lord, Shall follow me, attending
The days Thou dost to me afford Until they reach their ending.
Thereafter shall I in Thy love Dwell in Thy house in heav'n above
Forever and forever.**

Sermon

Pulpit Hymn: 348, *He Is Arisen! Glorious Word!* (Tune: 167)

**C: He is arisen! Glorious Word! Now reconciled is God, my Lord;
The gates of heav'n are open.
My Jesus died triumphantly, and Satan's arrows broken lie.**

Destroyed hell's direst weapon.

**Oh, hear, What cheer! Christ victorious Riseth glorious, Life He giveth –
He was dead, but see, He liveth!**

The Intercessions: *each petition concludes:* Lord, in Your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Hymn of Preparation: 370, *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

**C: The King of love my Shepherd Is, Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His, And He is mine forever.**

**Where streams of living water flow, My ransomed soul He leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feedeth.**

**Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid And home, rejoicing brought me.**

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.**

**Thou spread'st a table in my sight, Thy unction grace bestoweth;
And O what transport of delight From Thy pure chalice floweth!**

**And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise Within Thy house forever.**

The Liturgy of the Holy Communion

The Preface: p. 72

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with your spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

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

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

The Proper Preface & Sanctus: pp. 73-76

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; but chiefly are we bound to praise You for the glorious resurrection of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; for He is the very Paschal Lamb which was offered for us and hath taken away the sins of the world. By His death He has destroyed death, and by His rising to life again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**C: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He
 who come in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

The Lord's Prayer: pp. 77-78

P: Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed by 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;

C: For Thine is the kingdom and the pow'r and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Institution: pp. 78-79

*When the Pastor turns and elevates the Host and Cup, the congregation **may** bow as an act of reverent worship toward the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.*

The Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord): p. 79

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

The Agnus Dei: pp. 79-80

**C: O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,
grant us Your peace. Amen.**

The Distribution of the Holy Communion to the Faithful

*Prayers for “**Before Holy Communion**” and
for “**After Holy Communion**” are found on page 40 in ELH.*

The Nunc Dimittis: pp. 81-82

**C: Lord, now You let Your servant depart in peace according to Your word.
For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face
of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people
Israel.**

**Glory be the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.**

The Collect of Thanksgiving: pp. 82-83

P: O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good.

C: And His mercy endures forever.

**P: Almighty God, who gives the true Bread which comes down from heaven, even Your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord: Grant, we beseech You, that we who received the Sacrament of His
Body and Blood may abide in Him, and He in us, that we may be filled with the power of His
endless life; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and
forever.**

C: Amen.

The Salutation: p. 84

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

The Benedicamus: p. 84

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Benediction: p. 84

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.

C: Amen. Amen. Amen.

Dismissal Hymn: 357, *The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done*

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**The strife is o'er, the battle done;
The victory of life is won;
The song of triumph hath begun. Alleluia!**

**The pow'rs of death habve done their worst
But Christ their legion hath dispersed.
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!**

**The three sad days have quickly sped,
He rises glorious from the dead.
All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!**

**He closed the yawning gates of hell;
The bars from heaven's high portals fell.
Let hymns of praise His triumph tell. Alleluia!**

**Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee.
From death's dread sting Thy servants free
That we may live and sing to Thee. Alleluia!**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Bible Studies: We are currently looking at 1 John 2 in the Sunday study. The Thursday study this week continues in 1 Samuel 25. If you do not currently attend one or both of our studies, you are missing out. We don't always get through a lot of the material, but we always have a lot of discussion on important things!

A Church Work Day is planned for Saturday from 9am-noon. We will be cleaning out classrooms and getting the bookshelves out of the hallway in between. Items not thrown away will either be donated or stored in the sheds outside. The more people we have here to help, the quicker things will go!

Cleaning at Bethany

April 8-20

Adams/Stevens

The New Financial Report is on the table in the entryway. Please take a copy and direct any questions to Greg Riese our congregational treasurer.

Hope Medical Clinic Spring Legacy Event: Join *Hope Medical Clinic* in serving our community with the love of Christ by preserving the lives of unborn children while meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of their clients facing unplanned pregnancies and other abortion-related concerns. Hope's *Spring Legacy Event* is Friday, May 3 at Alliance Church in Hood River. This is one of two major fundraisers that Hope does each year to fund its operation. There will be delicious desserts, a silent auction, music, and a short presentation from the Hope staff. If you are in a position to sponsor a table, there are three categories of sponsorship: *Gold* (\$1500 – table seats 10); *Silver* (\$1000 – table seats 8); *Bronze* (\$500 – table seats 8). Invite others to join you. For more information on the event please speak with Pastor Lawson and/or go to www.givebutter.com/SL2024.

Congregation at Prayer: Please make sure to update Pastor on the status of any friends and loved ones on our weekly prayer sheet. We are blessed to have our Heavenly Father's ear as we daily pray for these individuals through Christ, in the Holy Spirit.

Preschool Update: June 15 is the tentative opening date for *Rivera's Bilingual Childcare Center* in our facility. Between now and then we will be working on a rental agreement, completing background checks for those who have a church key (several have been completed, but if you still need to do yours, please do so ASAP), getting the classroom areas

ready for the preschool to move in.

Lutheran Worship Series ... Why do Lutherans Worship the Way They do? ... Issues Etc. recently completed a series on *Classical Christian Worship* with Dr. Arthur Just of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. Dr. Just is the author of *Heaven on Earth: The Gifts of Christ in the Divine Service*. You can listen to this six-part series at issuesetc.org/classicalworship, or download the LPR mobile app. You can also find the episodes on your favorite podcast provider.

Feasts, Commemorations, and Events Easter Week

Monday: Pastor at Concordia

Tuesday: Pastor at Bethany

Wednesday: Pastor at Concordia

Thursday: Bible Study at Bethany, 10:00am

Friday: Pastor at Bethany

Saturday: Pastor's Day Off

Next Sunday: *Jubilate: Third Sunday After the Resurrection*

Concordia Holy Communion, 9:00am

Bethany Sunday School, 10:30am

Bethany Holy Communion, 11am

Bible Study for the Parish at Bethany, 12:45pm

Easter 3: The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep (John 10:11-16). Herein lies our assurance that our Shepherd does not abandon His sheep. He loves them too much. He paid too much for them to forsake them. We live our lives, not in the absence of suffering, but in the presence of the Good Shepherd.

Prayer: *Good Shepherd, thank You for laying down Your life for me. Amen.*

Life Thoughts in the Church Year/One Year Lectionary – Lutherans For Life

Easter 3 Hymn: “Thou by Thy Spirit and Thy Word Dost comfort and dost guide me.” Today’s CHIEF HYMN is a hymn on a hymn! When Jesus sang hymns with His disciples, they would have been singing from their hymnal, the Psalms, which includes Psalm 23. *The Lord My Faithful Shepherd Is* is a musical sermon on that most beloved of Psalms. It was written by Scandinavian hymn-writer Anders Christian Arrebo (1587-1637). Arrebo was ordained at the age of 21 and served pastoral posts in both Denmark and Sweden and as bishop in Trondheim, Norway. His hymn preaches Christ as the answer to David’s hymn. It heavily emphasizes throughout baptism, Word and Supper as the places where we encounter Christ the Good Shepherd and the means by which He shepherds us. The hymn shows Jesus loving us; Jesus leading us to good water; Jesus shepherding us when we go astray; Jesus walking through the valley of the shadow of death with us and for us; Jesus feeding us a meal in the wilderness of this life; and Jesus bringing us to eternal life. Recall Jesus shepherding the disciples on the road to Emmaus, bringing Thomas back to the fold, opening Mary’s fear-filled eyes to see that He is the Risen One, curing Peter’s broken conscience and restoring him, appearing to His brother James and many others as the Shepherd Who loves them. Even now He gathers the scattered through Word and Sacraments and restores the lost into the fold through the great “peace be to you” of the absolution.