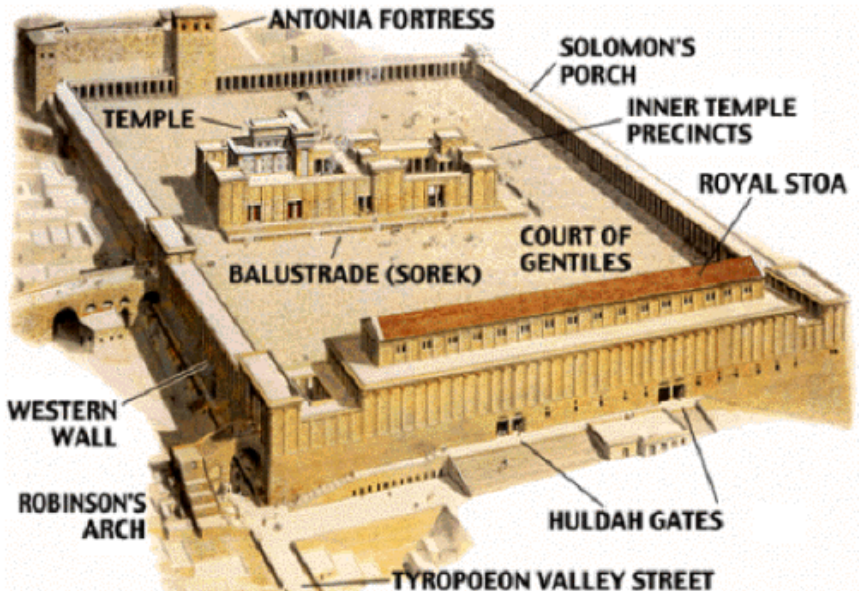


Bethlehem Lutheran Church
April 21, 2024



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Trusting in God's forgiveness, let us in silence confess our failings and acknowledge our part in the pain of the world.

Silence

P: Before God, with the people of God, I confess to turning away from God in the ways I wound my life, the lives of others and the life of the world

**C: In the name of Jesus, God forgives you, Christ renews you,
and the Spirit empowers you to grow in love.**

P: Amen.

**C: Before God, with the people of God, we confess to turning away
from God in the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others and the
life of the world.**

P: In the name of Jesus, God forgives you, Christ renews you,
and the Spirit empowers you to grow in love.

C: Amen.

Greeting

Kyrie

NTF

Canticle of Praise *Now the Feast and Celebration*

NTF

Prayer of the Day

Holy Spirit, You gave those first Apostle's the power to heal and speak boldly in Jesus' name. Enliven the church today with that same Spirit of power. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Narrative Reading: Acts 4:1-20

4 While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them, ²much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead. ³So they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who heard the word believed; and they numbered about five thousand. ⁵The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone."

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.' ¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus. ¹⁴When they saw the man who had been cured standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. ¹⁵So they ordered them to leave the council while they discussed the matter with one another. ¹⁶They said, 'What will we do with them? For it is obvious to all who live in Jerusalem that a notable sign has been done through them; we cannot deny it. ¹⁷But to keep it from spreading further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to

