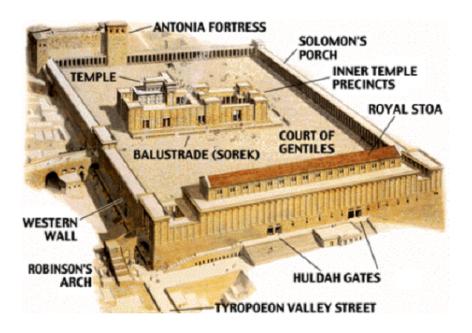
Bethlehem Lutheran Church April 21, 2024



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.

Gathering Hymn Now the Green Blade Rises ELW 379

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 Holv 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

anyone in this name.' ¹⁸So they called them and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹But Peter and John answered them, 'Whether it is right in God's sight to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; ²⁰for we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard.'

Gospel: Mark 4:30-32

³⁰ Jesus also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *Holy Spirit Ever Dwelling* **ELW 582**

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.

Prayers of Intercession

Exchange of Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you all

R: And also with you.

Please share the peace with one another

Offering

Offertory As the Grains of Wheat NTF
Offertory Prayer NTF
Communion Liturgy NTF

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.**

Communion

Post-communion Blessing

Canticle Praise to You NTF

Post Communion prayer

Benediction

Sending Hymn Take My Life That I May Be ELW

Dismissal

Go in peace to share the good news of resurrection!

Thanks be to God.

Announcements

Justice in Action is an inter-faith group that chooses a small number of local justice issues to address. After a year of research and brainstorming, they present their ideas for solutions to local officials at a large gathering called The Nehemiah Assembly. I've been a part of the team working on housing for the past six months. I'd like to invite people from our congregation to attend the Nehemiah Assembly with me and to consider becoming a member congregation. The Assembly is May 2, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at St. Mark's United Methodist, 8550 Pioneers Blvd.

A huge thank you to those who contributed to the hygiene drive to Matt Talbot. Virg delivered 4 boxes and 8 grocery bags worth of items. They were deeply appreciated by the staff there.

Prayer list –Alice D., Jim U., Tom S.