



**Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
603 Custer Street - Brush, CO**

**Pastor Sonja Pancoast**

**April 12, 2026**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
***Pastor Sonja Pancoast***

**2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**APRIL 12, 2026**

**Worship Service**

**GATHERING**

LIGHTING OF CANDLES, WELCOME, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GREETING

P: Gathered in Christ.

**C: We serve with grace.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

P: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism. (*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.*) Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

**C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

**C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

**C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and

forever.

**C: Amen.**

GATHERING SONG “*Now the Green Blade Rises*”..... #379

## ORDER OF HOLY BAPTISM

### PRESENTATION OF THE BAPTIZED

#### PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God? If so please respond I renounce them.

**C: I renounce them.**

People of God please join together in professing our Christian faith. Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: 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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: 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.**

### THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

#### BAPTISM

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**C: Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ’s blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### WORD

FIRST READING: ACTS 2:14a, 22-32

<sup>14a</sup> Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]:

<sup>2</sup> “Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know <sup>23</sup> this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. <sup>24</sup> But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. <sup>25</sup> For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; <sup>26</sup> therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. <sup>27</sup> For you will not abandon my soul to Hades or let your Holy One experience corruption. <sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ <sup>29</sup> “Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup> Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup> Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ <sup>32</sup> “This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.” The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

#### PSALM 16

<sup>1</sup> Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;  
I have said to the Lord, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

<sup>2</sup> **All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,  
upon those who are noble among the people.**

<sup>3</sup> But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.

<sup>4</sup> **I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,  
never take their names upon my lips.**

<sup>5</sup> O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.

<sup>6</sup> **My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

<sup>7</sup> I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

**I have set the Lord always before me;  
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

<sup>9</sup> My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

<sup>10</sup> **For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.**

<sup>11</sup> You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy,  
and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has

given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

<sup>8</sup>Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

KIDS TALK

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*P: Alleluia.*

**C: Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe. Alleluia.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 20: 19-31

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” <sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So 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.” <sup>26</sup> A 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.” <sup>27</sup> Then 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.” <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book.

<sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name. The gospel of the Lord.

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

## SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing” ..... #386

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Trusting in the power of Christ’s resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

Almighty God, you give life to the dead and call into existence things that do not exist. Breathe your Spirit upon us, that our faith may be renewed day by day. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Maker of heaven and earth, your mercies are new every morning. Open us to the wonders of creation, from the beauty of flowers to the complexity of subatomic particles. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: God of peace, in every place where conflict rages, sow seeds of calm and openness to reconciliation. Strengthen the resolve of leaders and citizens to work for peace in their nations. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Healing God, come alongside all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way (*especially*). Reveal to them your presence and assure them of the inheritance you have prepared for them. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Giver of joy, let this assembly be a place of genuine love and mutual affection. Deepen our care for one another and help us to embody your forgiving and sacrificial love. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: Eternal One, we give thanks for saints who were faithful unto death and have joined the church triumphant. Inspire us by their witness and bring us with them into your glorious presence. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**C: Amen.**

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SONG "*GIVE THANKS*"

**C: Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the holy one. Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say I am strong. Let the poor say I am rich; because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks. Give thanks.**

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: 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.**

SENDING

BLESSING

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

SENDING SONG "*Hallelujah, Jesus Lives!*"..... #380

RINGING OF THE BELLS

SONG OF PEACE

**C: My peace I give unto you. It's a peace that the world cannot give. It's a peace that the world cannot understand; peace to know; peace to live. My peace I give unto you.**

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**C: Thanks be to God.**