

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



The Third Sunday in Easter

“Good Shepherd Sunday”

Divine Service One

May 4, 2025

Vol. 127-23

Processional Hymn

#473 Our Paschal Lamb, That Sets Us Free



1 Our Pas - chal Lamb, that sets us free, Is sac - ri - ficed. O keep
2 Let all our lives now cel - e - brate The feast; let mal - ice die.
3 Let all our deeds, u - nan - i - mous, Con - fess Him as our Lord



The feast of free - dom gal - lant - ly; Let al - le - lu - ias leap:
Let love grow strong a - new, and great, Let truth stamp out the lie.
Who by the Spir - it lives in us, The Fa - ther's liv - ing Word.

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! A -



gain Sing al - le - lu - ia, cry a - loud: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-76
Tune: Walter L. Pelz, 1926

Text and tune: © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word pg. 151

Introit (sung responsively with the choir)



The earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD. Alle- | luia.*

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made. Alle- | luia.

Shout for joy in the LORD, O you | righteous!*

Praise befits the | upright.

Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who | fear him,*

on those who hope in his | steadfast love,

that he may deliver their | soul from death*

and keep them alive in | famine.

Our soul waits | for the LORD;*

he is our help | and our shield.

*Glory be to the Father and | to the Son**

and to the Holy | Spirit;

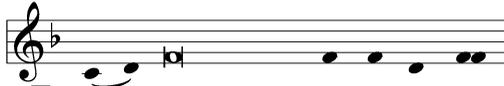
*as it was in the be- | ginning,**

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

The earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD. Alle- | luia.*

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made. Alle- | luia.

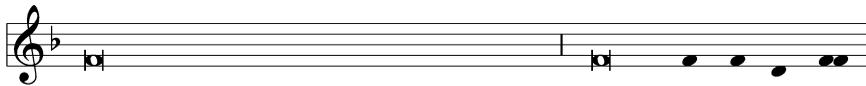
Kyrie



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



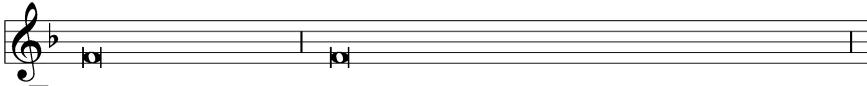
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



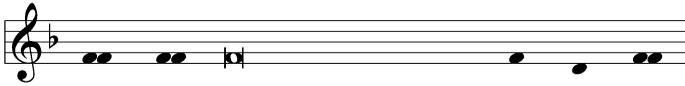
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

This Is the Feast



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb — who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and

eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 34:11–16

¹¹“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹²As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Choral Response “We all Rejoice on this Glad Day”

Epistle

1 Peter 2:21–25

²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel

John 10:11–16

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

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 sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,

whose kingdom will 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 in 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.**

Hymn of the Day

#709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

We remember all those in need of continued strength and healing:

*Ron Whitesel, Donna Schumm
Hildegarde Bauermeister, Gail Werling
Judy Morris (friend of Mike and Linda Bultemeier)
Carla Wiederbold (cousin of Otto Clausen battling cancer)
Ellie Anderson (friend of Sarena Wirgau)
Brandon Tomlinson (son in-law of the Brinkleys)
Sandra Flum (Susan Grafi's sister)*

We pray for our expectant mothers: *Wendy Boehm, Destiny Laley, Shaeli Streeks
Abigail (Springer) Mayer, Molly Kleppinger, Betsy Dodgers*

We pray for our members shut-in:

*Ruth Witte (Ossian Healthcare)
Marilyn Meyer (Kingston)
Marilyn Franke (Christian Care)
Charlotte Bultemeier (StoryPoint West)
Rev. Donald Lutz (Lutheran Life Village)
Norwin and Martha Bauermeister (Astral in Auburn)*

We pray for our Church, School and all her workers

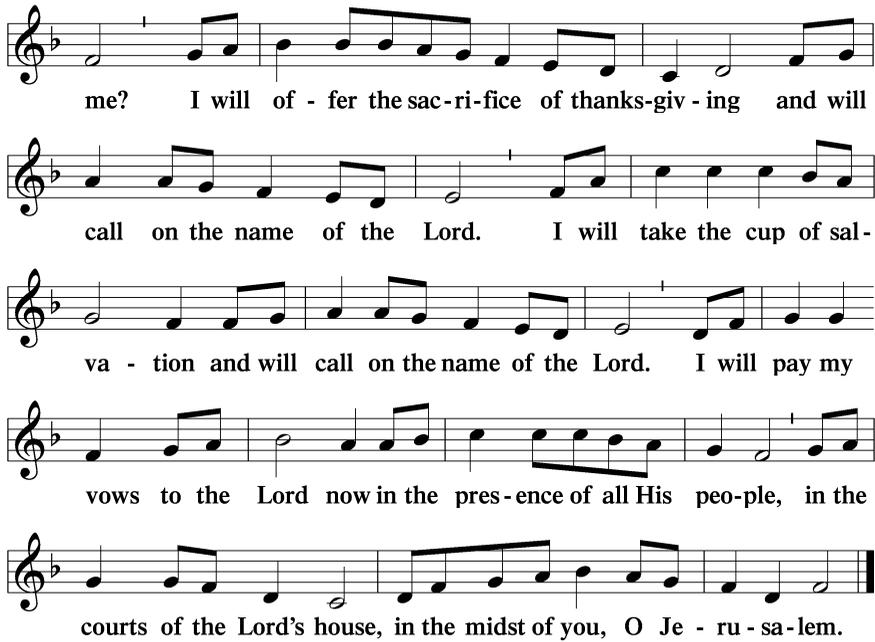
We pray for all military personnel

Offering

Offertory



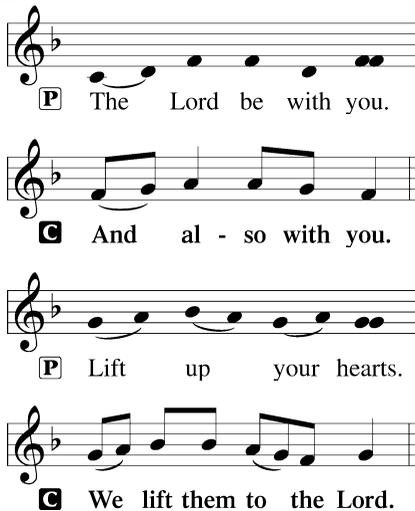
C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to



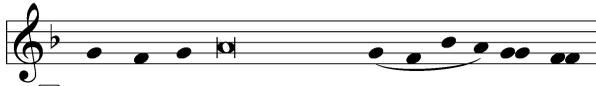
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
 call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
 va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
 vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament pg. 160

Preface



P The Lord be with you.
C And al - so with you.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution

Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper in our worship. Bethlehem Lutheran Church administers this Holy Supper in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive, along with the Bread and Wine, the very Body and Blood of Jesus through which we receive the forgiveness of sins. Furthermore, the communicants as a body of believers make a confession of the unity of their faith. **Those desiring to receive the Sacrament with us, who are not communicant members of Bethlehem or of a sister congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, are asked to please speak with the Pastor before the service.**

Hymn

- #637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord
- #639 Wide Open Stand the Gates
- #710 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want
- #711 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us
- #740 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb
- #735 Have No Fear, Little Flock

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful-
 filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre-
 pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;

as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Benediction



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you
 and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - men.

Closing Hymn

#477 Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

IN HIS SERVICE

Preaching / Celebrant	Rev. Samuel Wirgau
Vicar	Sem. Morgan Phillips
Fieldworker	Sem. Brandon Streeks
Deaconess	Wendy Boehm
Head Elder	Glen Werling
Elders on Duty	Glen Werling and Bruce Werling
Kantor	Richard Brinkley
Choir	Adult Choir
Acolytes	Jude Wirgau and Matthew Rekeweg
Crucifer	Alex Fuhrmann
Altar Guild Chairman	Cheryl Louison and Deann Oliver
Ushers	Josh Boehm, Ed Black, Aspen Fisher, Brandon Schumm Don Schueler, Graham Stoppenhagen, Coty Newnum, Jason Rekeweg

Pastor: Rev. Samuel Wirgau	260-273-7595
(Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com)	
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Office	260-597-7121
Bethlehem Lutheran School	260-597-7366
Assoc. Pastor, Headmaster: Rev. Anthony Dodgers	616-648-6489
Kantor: Mr. Richard Brinkley	260-705-4105
Deaconess: Wendy Boehm	260-415-8526
<i>Website for Church and School: www.BethlehemOssian.org</i>	

TODAY	8:00 a.m.	Women of Bethlehem Meeting
	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service with Holy Communion
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Class and Sunday School
	11:30 p.m.	Board of Elders Meeting
	11:30 a.m.	Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)
WEDNESDAY	10:00 a.m.	Chapel Service
	7:00 p.m.	Evening Spoken Service
SUNDAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service with Holy Communion
	NO	Adult Bible Class and Sunday School
	11:30 a.m.	Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)

Announcements can be emailed to the church secretary at bethlehemossiansec@gmail.com or the church office at 597-7121.

<https://www.youtube.com/bethlehemplutheranchurchossian> 9:00 a.m. Livestream

WE WELCOME ALL VISITORS this morning to our church and worship service in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please take a moment to sign one of the register books located in each of the church foyers. If you would like to be contacted by the pastor or an elder, then please take a moment to fill out one of the green cards on the narthex tables and give it to an elder or drop it in the offering collection plate. Please be sure to introduce yourself to the Pastor and to others in attendance and feel free to worship with us again. Thank you!

TEACHER APPRECIATION- *This morning, the Board of Christian Education would like to recognize the dedication and hard work of our teachers. We are blessed to have them in our school, and they are what make Bethlehem Lutheran School so great!*

VICAR PLACEMENT – Bethlehem welcomes Seminarian Charles McLain as our new Vicar for the 2025-2026 academic year. Please see the May newsletter for more information

BABY SHOWER – We would like to shower Josh and Deaconess Wendy Boehm who are expecting their third child in May with an ingathering of Cards, Diapers, and Gift Cards. There will be a table set up in the church foyer for items to be left. They are excited to be expecting a baby boy!

THANK YOU -I would like to thank the Board of Elders and the congregation for the kind words and expression of appreciation extended to me last Sunday. It has been my privilege and joy to serve Bethlehem these many years. - Kantor Brinkley

THANK YOU – I would like to thank all my family, friends and church family for all the cards, prayers and help that has encouraged me through my surgery and time of need. It has taught me to know that God is the most quintessential one for all of us. Yours in Christ
Gail Werling

THANK YOU for the prayers, cards, visits, and acts of kindness provided to me during my recent illness, including visits from Pastor Wirgau, Wendy Boehm and Vicar Phillips. In addition, thank you for the many cards received for my 90th birthday. They all provided much joy and greatly appreciated! Donna Schumm

ALL WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM are invited to join in our first of four hikes we will go on over the next few months. We will meet at 9:00 am on Saturday May 10 at the Tel-Hy trail located at 1429 N. 300 W. Huntington, IN. Questions? Need to carpool? Text Melissa Tolson at (260)417-4898. Hope you join the fun!

WIDOWS GROUP will be having dinner and a movie in Decatur TODAY, Sunday, May 4th. Contact Gail Werling if you are interested in attending.

The Washington DC group is having a scrap metal recycling dumpster thru May 31st. Prepare to purge and round up your scrap metal. You can drop items off at Jay Werling's house, 4126 E 800 N. Ossian. Contact Jason Rekeweg or Jay Werling for any questions.

SUMMER BOOK CLUB: Our next book club pick is "The Count of Monte Cristo" by Alexandre Dumas. We will pick a date to meet when it gets closer to August, so everyone has enough time through the summer to read the book. Be aware there are abridged and unabridged versions of the book. Keep an eye out for information about the Wells County Summer Reading Program to earn fun prizes through the library.

SPRING MUSICAL – Bethlehem Lutheran School staff and K-8 students would like to invite our members to “Tall Tales and Heroes!” Friday, May 9th starting at 6:30 p.m in the school gym.

SCRIP – Please be sure to check out our new scrip certificate order sheet and ordering dates posted on the bulletin board. The next order date is May 4th, so all orders need to be received by noon TODAY. The next order date is June 1. Ordering dates are set to reduce shipping costs. For questions or for placing an order, please contact Mariah Trammel at 260-267-1614, our PTL representative.

Offering April 27, 2025

<u>Average weekly need \$13,818</u>	
Home Fund Env.	\$6,894.35
Synod	
Loose	323.00
Scholarship Fund	
Sunday School	
Improvement Fund	
Endowment Fund	
Organ Fund	
Total	<u>\$7,217.35</u>

Financial Report

Home Fund Balance	\$7,098.62
Next week bills due:	\$15,000
Bills due two weeks:	\$15,000
Savings Account Balance	\$56,491.27
Borrowed from Savings:	\$0.00
Operating Loan Debt:	\$20,550

Church/Communion Attendance

Sunday	196/130
Wednesday	22/15

Support our School Endowment & Make Your Money Multiply!

Every year, our church and school are given a dollar amount to match by The Lutheran Foundation as we contribute to Bethlehem's Endowment. This current year, that amount is \$15,000. So, if we put in \$15,000, The Lutheran Foundation will also add \$15,000. But there's more! If we meet our match, The Lutheran Foundation will also give our School a special grant of another \$15,000! So your donation is worth three times as much! We have met this match every year so far, but this year we still need some help to meet it. Would you please consider donating to the Endowment as you are able? Every gift is a blessing to our students and every gift counts! Thank you for all your support!

Funds needed to achieve our match: \$15,000
 - 9,000 Approximate funds on hand
 \$ 6,000 Needed by June 1

RECITATION & PRAYER FOR SCHOOL AND HOME

The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

What are the Ten Commandments?

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it Holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What is the Apostles' Creed?

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

- *Additional Memory Work for the week may be recited.*
- *A hymn may be sung.*
- *Scripture Reading and Devotion Lesson*
- *Prayers and Intercessions*

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Learn-by-heart all or some of the provided text as age and ability of your household allows.

Who receives this sacrament worthily?

Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”

But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words “for you” require all hearts to believe.