

# Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

*A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*



## *Quinquagesima*

Divine Service – Setting One

February 15, 2026

Vol. 128-12

## Opening Hymn

## #556 (vs 1-6) Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re - joice, With ex - ul - ta - tion  
 2 Fast bound in Sa - tan's chains I lay; Death brood - ed dark - ly  
 3 My own good works all came to naught, No grace or mer - it  
 4 But God had seen my wretch - ed state Be - fore the world's foun -



spring - ing, And with u - nit - ed heart and voice And ho - ly  
 o'er me. Sin was my tor - ment night and day; In sin my  
 gain - ing; Free will a - gainst God's judg - ment fought, Dead to all  
 da - tion, And mind - ful of His mer - cies great, He planned for



rap - ture sing - ing, Pro - claim the won - ders God has done, How  
 moth - er bore me. But dai - ly deep - er still I fell; My  
 good re - main - ing. My fears in - creased till sheer de - spair Left  
 my sal - va - tion. He turned to me a fa - ther's heart; He



His right arm the vic - t'ry won. What price our ran - som cost Him!  
 life be - came a liv - ing hell, So firm - ly sin pos - sessed me.  
 on - ly death to be my share; The pangs of hell I suf - fered.  
 did not choose the eas - y part But gave His dear - est trea - sure.

- 5 God said to His beloved Son:  
 "It's time to have compassion.  
 Then go, bright jewel of My crown,  
 And bring to all salvation.  
 From sin and sorrow set them free;  
 Slay bitter death for them that they  
 May live with You forever."
- 6 The Son obeyed His Father's will,  
 Was born of virgin mother;  
 And God's good pleasure to fulfill,  
 He came to be my brother.  
 His royal pow'r disguised He bore;  
 A servant's form, like mine, He wore  
 To lead the devil captive.

## 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)



Be a rock of ref- | uge for me,\*  
a strong fortress to | save me!

**For you are my rock and my | fortress;\***  
**and for your name's sake you lead me and | guide me.**

In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be | put to shame,\*  
in your righteousness de- | liver me!

**Into your hand I commit my | spirit;\***  
**you have redeemed me, O LORD, | faithful God.**

Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am | in distress,\*  
my eye is wasted from grief; my soul and my body | also.

**Make your face shine on your | servant;\***  
**save me in your | steadfast love!**

*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.*

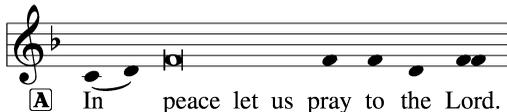
Be a rock of ref- | uge for me,\*

a strong fortress to | save me!

**For you are my rock and my | fortress;\***

**and for your name's sake you lead me and | guide me.**

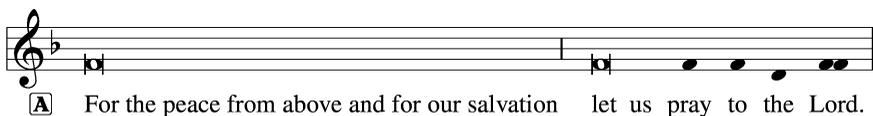
## Kyrie



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



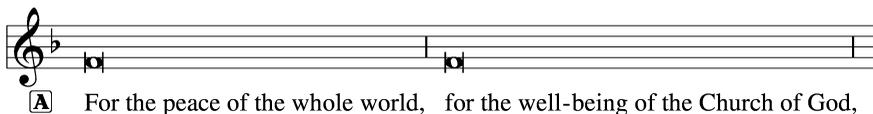
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



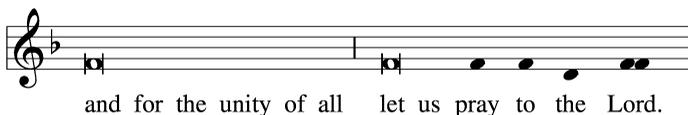
**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



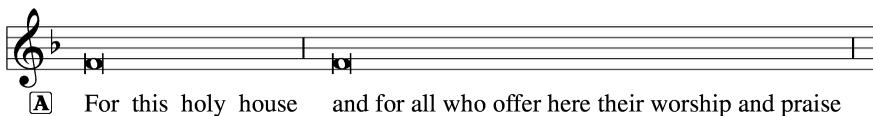
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



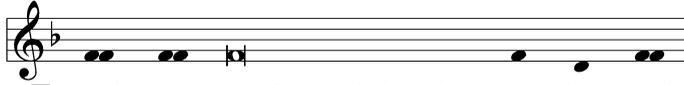
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



**C** A - men.

## Gloria in Excelsis



**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



**C** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



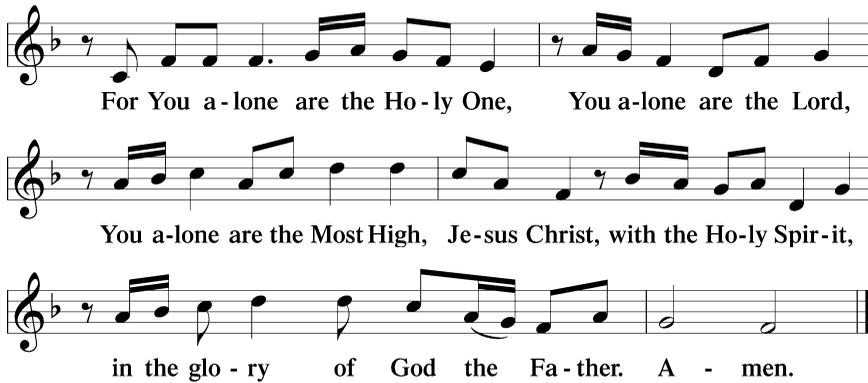
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,  
 You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,  
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

### Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O Lord, mercifully hear our prayers and having set us free from the bonds of our sins deliver us from every evil; 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.

### Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 35:3-7*

- <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
 and make firm the feeble knees.  
<sup>4</sup>Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
 “Be strong; fear not!  
 Behold, your God  
 will come with vengeance,  
 with the recompense of God.  
 He will come and save you.”  
<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
 and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup>then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
 and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.  
 For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
 and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
 and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
 in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
 the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

**You are the God who works | wonders;\*  
 you have made known your might among the | peoples.  
 You with your arm redeemed your | people,\*  
 the children of Jacob and | Joseph.**

## Epistle

*1 Corinthians 13:1–13*

<sup>1</sup>If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. <sup>4</sup>Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup>Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. <sup>12</sup>For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup>So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## Alleluia and Verse (Lent)

**C** Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra-cious and  
 mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a-bound-ing in



## Holy Gospel

*Luke 18:31–43*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eighteenth chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>31</sup>Taking the twelve, [Jesus] said to them, “**See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished.**” <sup>32</sup>**For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon.** <sup>33</sup>**And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise.**” <sup>34</sup>But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said. <sup>35</sup>As he drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. <sup>36</sup>And hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what this meant. <sup>37</sup>They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.” <sup>38</sup>And he cried out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>39</sup>And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>40</sup>And Jesus stopped and commanded him to be brought to him. And when he came near, he asked him, <sup>41</sup>**“What do you want me to do for you?”** He said, “Lord, let me recover my sight.” <sup>42</sup>And Jesus said to him, **“Recover your sight; your faith has made you well.”** <sup>43</sup>And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

**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  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.**

### Hymn of the Day

### #849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -  
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet  
 3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,  
 gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons  
 in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the  
 With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool  
 That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing  
wa - ter, To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this  
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.  
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955  
Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia  
Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711  
Tune: Public domain

## Sermon

### Prayer of the Church

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

*Darlene Jester (sister of Melissa Tolson), Jerry Springer (cancer)*

*Dale Meyer (pacemaker), Amelia Phillips*

*Jenny Peterson (friend of Cheryl Louison)*

*Kenneth Werling, James DeFrain*

*Dan Bush (stepfather of Chad Dunham)*

*Grace Anderson (friend of Macie Saalfrank with brain tumor)*

*Lisa Imbody (Layne Fisher's sister)*

*Hazel Krenzke (granddaughter of Dan and Sue Buchinger)*

*Brittany (Conrad) Clausius*

*Brandon Tomlinson (son in-law of the Brinkleys), Sandra Flum (Susan Graft's sister)*

**We pray for our expectant mothers** *Hannah Stuckwisch, Makena Graham, Kaitlin (Meyer) Blair  
Reese Springer, Lilyan Laley, Jessica Schumm, Shelby Todd, Grace (Stoppenhagen) Mandeville*

#### **We pray for our members shut-in:**

*Ruth Witte (Ossian Healthcare)*

*Marilyn Meyer (Kingston)*

*Marilyn Franke (Christian Care)*

*Rev. Donald Lutx (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

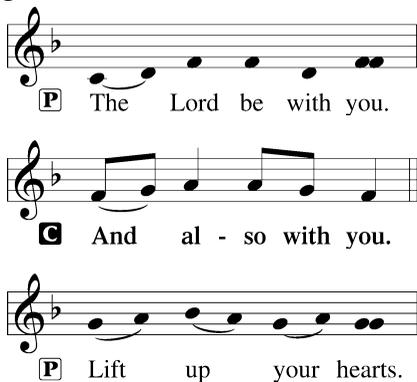
## Offertory



**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.

### Lord's Prayer

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

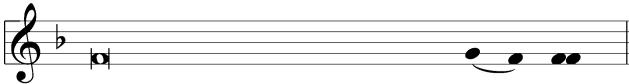
**C** **Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### Pax Domini

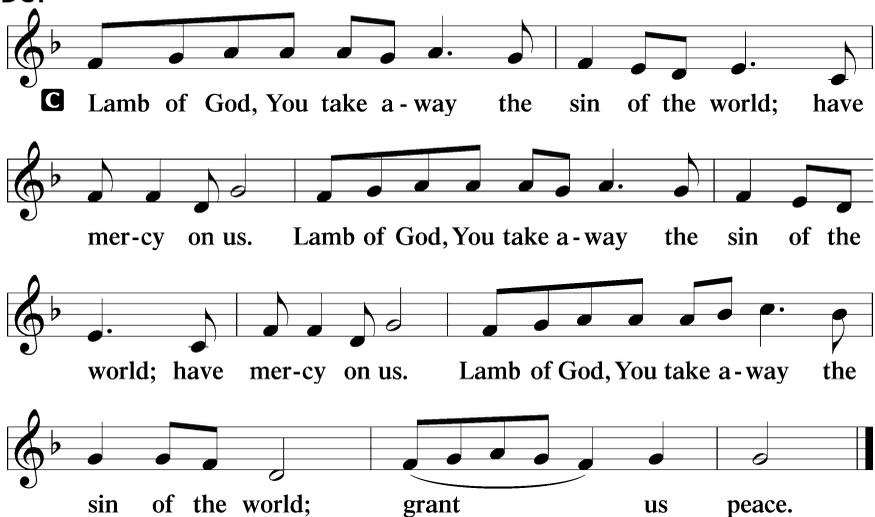


**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**C** A - men.

## Agnus Dei



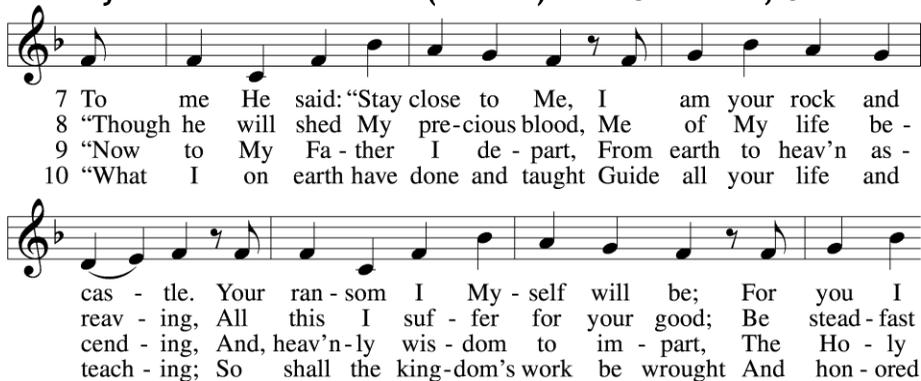
□ Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## 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.**

## Distribution Hymn's

### #556 (vs 7-10) Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice



7 To me He said: "Stay close to Me, I am your rock and  
8 "Though he will shed My pre-cious blood, Me of My life be -  
9 "Now to My Fa - ther I de - part, From earth to heav'n as -  
10 "What I on earth have done and taught Guide all your life and  
cas - tle. Your ran - som I My - self will be; For you I  
reav - ing, All this I suf - fer for your good; Be stead - fast  
cend - ing, And, heav'n - ly wis - dom to im - part, The Ho - ly  
teach - ing; So shall the king - dom's work be wrought And hon - ored



strive and wres - tle. For I am yours, and you are Mine, And  
 and be - liev - ing. Life will from death the vic - t'ry win; My  
 Spir - it send - ing; In trou - ble He will com - fort you And  
 in your preach - ing. But watch lest foes with base al - loy The



where I am you may re - main; The foe shall not di - vide us.  
 in - no - cence shall bear your sin, And you are blest for - ev - er.  
 teach you al - ways to be true And in - to truth shall guide you.  
 heav'n - ly trea - sure should de - stroy; This fi - nal word I leave you."

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800-87, alt.  
 Tune: Etlich Cristlich liden, 1524, Wittenberg  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## #624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born



1 The in - fant Priest was ho - ly born For us un -  
 2 This great High Priest in hu - man flesh Was i - con  
 3 The ho - ly Lamb un - daunt - ed came To God's own  
 4 But death would not the vic - tor be Of Him who



ho - ly and for - lorn; From flesh - ly tem - ple  
 of God's righ - teous - ness. His hal - lowed touch brought  
 al - tar lit with flame; While weep - ing an - gels  
 hung up - on the tree. He leads us to the



forth came He, A - noint - ed from e - ter - ni - ty.  
 sanc - ti - ty; His hand re - moved im - pu - ri - ty.  
 hid their eyes, This Priest be - came a sac - ri - fice.  
 Ho - ly Place With - in the veil, be - fore God's face.

5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,  
 As at the rail on bended knee  
 Our hungry mouths from Him receive  
 The bread of immortality.

6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,  
 A priestly food and priestly meat;  
 On sin-parched lips the chalice pours  
 His quenching blood that life restores.

7 With cherubim and seraphim  
 Our voices join the endless hymn,  
 And “Holy, holy, holy” sing  
 To Christ, God’s Lamb, our Priest and King.

Text: Chad L. Bird, 1970  
 Tune: Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature, 1778, London; adapt. Edward Miller, 1731–1807  
 Text: © 1997, 2003 Chad L. Bird. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711  
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## #625 Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, life - giv - ing bread, May I in grace  
 2 To pas - tures green, Lord, safe - ly guide, To rest - ful wa -  
 3 O bread of heav'n, my soul's de - light, For full and free  
 4 I do not mer - it fa - vor, Lord, My weight of sin



pos - sess You. Let me with ho - ly food be fed,  
 ters lead me; Your ta - ble well for me pro - vide,  
 re - mis - sion I come with prayer be - fore Your sight  
 would break me; In all my guilt - y heart's dis - cord,



In hun - ger I ad - dress You. Pre - pare me well  
 Your wound - ed hand now feed me. Though wea - ry, sin -  
 In sor - row and con - tri - tion. Your righ - teous - ness,  
 O Lord, do not for - sake me. In my dis - tress



for You, O Lord, And, hum - bly by my prayer im - plored,  
 ful, sick, and weak, Ref - uge in You a - lone I seek,  
 Lord, cov - er me That I re - ceive You wor - thi - ly,  
 this com - forts me That You re - ceive me gra - cious - ly,



Give me Your grace and mer - cy.  
 To share Your cup of heal - ing.  
 As - sured of Your full par - don.  
 O Christ, my Lord of mer - cy!

Text: Johann Rist, 1607–67; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.  
 Tune: Theütsch kirchen ampt, 1525, Strassburg  
 Text and tune: Public domain





Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and  
We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts  
That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that  
Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful  
that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,  
shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,  
con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,



Lord, with me a - bid; I shall fol - low where You guide.  
here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.  
here with You I die, There to live with You on high.  
let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Tune: Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.

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## 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

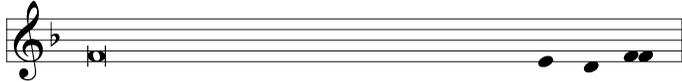
**A** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.



**C** A - men.

### Closing Hymn

### #861 Christ Be My Leader



1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the  
2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or  
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not



dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my  
doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though  
hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor



fu - ture His care,      Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.  
shift - ing as sand,      Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.  
sin and its stain      Can touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926-2024

Tune: Irish

Text: © 1964, renewed 1992 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711

Tune: Public domain

**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!

***Announcements can be emailed to the church secretary at [bethlehemossiansec@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehemossiansec@gmail.com) or the church office at 597-7121.***  
***<https://www.youtube.com/bethlehelutheranchurchossian> 9:00 a.m. Livestream***

## IN HIS SERVICE

Preaching	Vicar Charles McClain
Celebrant	Rev. Samuel Wirgau
Fieldworker	Sem. Brandon Streeks
Deaconess	Wendy Boehm
Head Elder	Bruce Werling
Elders on Duty	Ted Schumm and Andrew Stoppenhagen
Kantor	Richard Brinkley
Choir	Bethlehem Handbell Choir
Acolytes	Matthew Rekeweg and Jonah Bultemeier
Altar Guild Chairman	Deann Oliver and Denise Schumm
Ushers	Rory Geiger, Lane Harkless, Isaac Harkless Mark Patrick, Darren Patrick, Cole Patrick

Pastor: Rev. Samuel Wirgau	260-273-7595
( <a href="mailto:Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com">Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com</a> )	
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
Website for Church and School: <a href="http://www.blcsossian.org">www.blcsossian.org</a>	

<b>TODAY</b>	8:00 a.m.	WOB Meeting
	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Divine Service with Holy Communion</b>
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Class or Sunday School
	11:30 a.m.	Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)
<b>MONDAY</b>	2:00 p.m.	WOB Bible Study
	5:30 p.m.	Wholyfit (downstairs music room)
	6:30 p.m.	Handbell Choir Practice
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>		<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Chapel Service</b>
	5:30 p.m.	Adult Catechesis Class
	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Divine Service</b>
		Adult Choir Practice
<b>THURSDAY</b>	5:30 p.m.	Board of Christian Education Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Wholyfit (downstairs music room)
	6:30 p.m.	WOB Bible Study
<b>FRIDAY</b>	5:30 p.m.	PTL Parents vs Kids Event (gym)
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Divine Service with Holy Communion</b>
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Class – Sunday School
	11:30 a.m.	Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)
	11:30 a.m.	Special Voter's Meeting

**DOOR OFFERING for Food Banks** - During the season of Lent we increase emphasis on almsgiving. In the past Bethlehem has taken a door offering on the First Sunday in Lent for our Emergency Relief Fund to assist member families facing financial hardships. That fund has been so generously supported that the Elders have decided to collect a door **offering ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22<sup>nd</sup>** for both the Northern Wells Food Bank and the Food Co-op at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. *In addition, we will have donation boxes out for physical donations.*

**SPECIAL VOTER'S ASSEMBLY MEETING – Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> after Bible Class**

**WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERVICES** - Please join us Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> for the 10:00 a.m. Chapel Service or the 7:00 p.m. Divine Service. Both services will have imposition of ashes. Midweek Lenten Services will then be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. through to Holy Week.

**INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** - As in years past, for all the Wednesdays of Lent Pastor will be available for Individual Confession and Absolution (LSB page 292) from 5:00-5:30 in the sanctuary of Bethlehem for those who would desire this as part of the Lenten devotions. As with the rite of Confession and Absolution that begins each of our Sunday services, the rite for individuals is yet another opportunity for us to confess our sins and receive forgiveness from Christ through the pastor. Every sin does not need to be listed nor do any particular sins need to be named. But for those sins "which we know and feel in our hearts" (Small Catechism) this is a wonderful opportunity to hear and receive the comforting forgiveness of Christ. Pastor will never speak of the sins confessed as he vowed in his ordination. He is happy to familiarize you with the rite either before Wednesday or when you come in. He is also available at other times by appointment. If you have questions, reach out to him.

**THANK YOU** to the Women of Bethlehem and to everyone who sent me cards for my birthday! Your kindness was very much appreciated. Dean Stoppenhagen

**LENTEN DEVOTIONALS** are once again available for anyone to pick up. The illustrations were designed by our Bethlehem school students. Thank you to Pastor Wirgau, Deaconess Boehm and Vicar McClain for all your hard work.

**OPEN HOUSE** – Bethlehem Lutheran School plans to hold an “Open House” on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> from 9-11:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to come tour the school, meet teachers, and ask questions regarding enrollment. If you know of anyone that might be looking for an alternative to public school or will be enrolled in kindergarten next year, please be sure to let them know about the Open House. There is a tuition discount given to those families who have given a successful referral.

**New Hope is hosting a Senior Dinner** on February 19th at 11:30 am. The speaker will be Jody Heaston, a naturalist from Ouabache State Park. Please call 260-622-7954 or 260-223-4830 for reservations. Thank you

**Next book club pick:** "Hannah Coulter" by Wendell Berry. We will meet at 8am at Crimson House on Saturday, April 18th. *Hannah Coulter* is told in the voice of an elderly woman reflecting on her life, family, and deep ties to the farming community of Port William, Kentucky. The novel affirms the enduring value of love, land, and community amid loss and modern change. *\*If you are interested or need help finding a copy, please contact Deaconess Boehm.*

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR and REGISTER NOW for CRAFT FOR A CAUSE!**

Saturday, March 7 from 7am-7pm - Join us for a day of crafting fun! Bring your craft supplies and enjoy good food, fellowship and 12 hours of crafting time. Forms are available on the table in the front hall. ***Deadline to register is February 27<sup>th</sup>.*** Contact Deann Oliver with questions 616-894-0144.

**SCRIP** – Please be sure to check out our new scrip certificate order sheet and ordering dates posted on the bulletin board. ***TODAY is the last day to make special orders.*** Next order date will be March 15<sup>th</sup>. **For questions or for placing an order, please contact Jill Holtzclaw 260-301-1965 our current PTL representative.**

**Offering February 8, 2026**

<b><u>Average weekly need \$14,000</u></b>	
Home Fund Env.	\$9,577.49
Synod	170.00
Loose	493.37
Scholarship Fund	
Sunday School	26.50
Improvement Fund	370.00
Endowment Fund	
Organ Fund	10.00
Music Fund	
Total	<u>\$10,647.36</u>

**Financial Report**

<b>Home Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$31,657.82</b>
Next week's bills due:	\$6,000
Bills due two weeks:	\$30,000
<b>Savings Account Balance</b>	<b>\$55,790.23</b>
Borrowed from Savings:	\$14,983.81
<b>Operating Loan Balance</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
Borrowed from Op Loan	\$0.00

**Church Attendance**

Sunday	183/138
Wednesday	22/18

**The 2025 Offering Tax Statements are now available in the north church hallway.**

**The trustees are looking for church or school keys.**  
**Please return any unused keys to the church office. Thank you.**

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer following  
The week following Quinquagesima Sunday



The seeing are blind, while the one who is blind can see (Luke 18:31–43). Jesus tells the twelve that He is going up to Jerusalem to suffer and die and rise again, but they cannot understand or grasp what He is saying. The meaning of His words is hidden from their sight. However, as Jesus makes His way up to Jerusalem, a blind man calls out to Him for mercy. This blind man sees that Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior, for he calls Him “Son of David.” Indeed, Jesus is the Lord’s anointed, the keeper of sheep (1 Sam. 16:1–13) who goes to lay down His life for the sheep. He is the incarnate love of the Father who suffers long and is kind, who is not puffed up, who never fails us (1 Cor. 13:1–13). Jesus opens the eyes of the blind (Is. 35:3–7) to see Him not according to outward appearances of lowliness, but according to His heart of mercy and compassion. Those who behold Him thus by faith follow Him to the cross through death into life.

## **The Order of Meditation and Prayer**

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.

Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

*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.**

***Hymn of the Week: "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" #849***

***Recite the Ten Commandments and the Apostles' Creed (LSB pg. 264)***

***The Catechism:***

***What is the Sixth Petition of the Lord's Prayer?***

And lead us not into temptation.

***What does this mean?***

God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

***What is James 1:13-14?***

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and He Himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.  
James 1:13-14

***What is the Seventh Petition of the Lord's Prayer?***

But deliver us from evil.

***What does this mean?***

We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

***What is 2 Thessalonians 3:3?***

But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. 2 Thessalonians 3:3

***Psalm 89:18-29 and/or the appointed daily Psalms listen below.***

Daily Psalm	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
A.M.	5	8, 9	10	14, 15	18	19, 20	22
P.M.	4, 6	7	11, 12	13	16, 17	21	23, 24

***Daily Bible Reading***

Mon.	Matthew 9:27-34 - Two Blind Men Are Healed Job 12:1-6, 12-25
Tues.	Matthew 9:35-10:15- The Sending Out of the Twelve Job 13:1-12
Wed.	Psalm 1 - Blessed Is the Man Genesis 1:1-19
Thu.	Galatians 3:23-29 - Sons of God through Faith Genesis 1:20-2:3
Fri.	Matthew 6:7-15- Jesus Teaches His Disciples to Pray Genesis 2:4-25
Sat.	<i>Look ahead to Sunday's Readings</i>

***Prayers***

*Collect of the Day*

O Lord, mercifully hear our prayers and having set us free from the bonds of our sins deliver us from every evil; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*Daily Themes For Prayer*

***Sunday:*** *For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and the Sacraments.*

**Monday:** For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.

**Tuesday:** For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.

**Wednesday:** For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

**Thursday:** For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

**Friday:** For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

**Saturday:** For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.

**In our Prayers this week: Strength and healing:** Darlene, Jerry, Dale, Brianne, Jenny, James, Kenneth, Dan, Grace, Lisa, Hazel, Brittany, Brandon, Sandra **Expectant mothers:** Hannah, Makena, Kaitlin, Reese, Lillyan, Jessica, Shelby, Grace **Homebound:** Ruth, Marilyn, Marilyn, Donald, Norwin and Martha.

**Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism**  
(LSB pg. 266)

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**

**Looking forward to Sunday Morning: First Sunday in Lent (Invocavit)**

Old Testament: Genesis 3:1-21 Epistle: 1 Corinthians Hebrews 4:14-16;  
Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11; Hymns: 569, 656, 627, 628, 562, 529, 773, 418