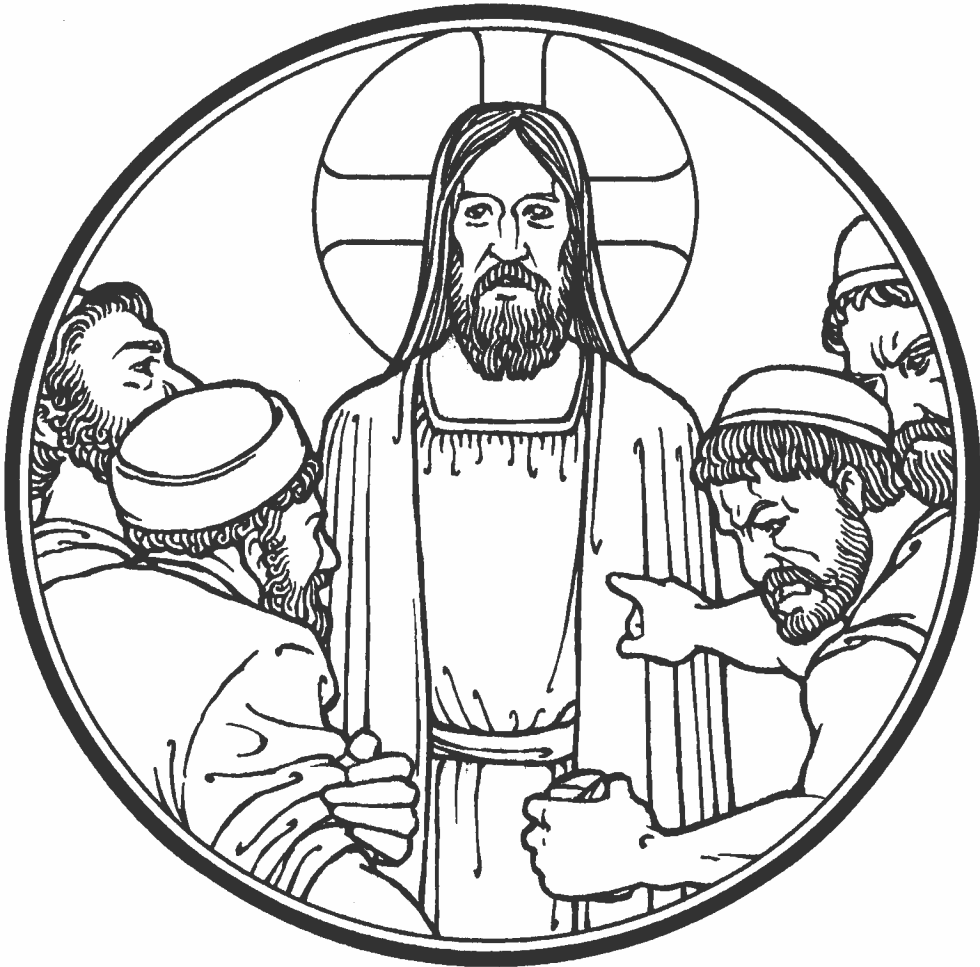


Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



Fifth Sunday in Lent

"Judica"

Divine Service – Setting Three

March 22, 2026

Vol. 128-17

This Sunday begins a season within Lent known as Passiontide. We are just two weeks from Easter and before we get to Holy Week there are some changes in our Lenten fasting in order to draw attention to some important things. First you will notice that the crosses have been veiled. Our eyes will fast from seeing the cross until Good Friday. Second, just as our tongues have fasted from saying Alleluia, for the next two weeks we will also omit the *Gloria Patre* (Glory be to the Father . . .) including in the Introit and the Nunc Dimittis. Not that we refrain from giving God the glory, but that we further restrain our praise as we anticipate the glory of Christ's cross and resurrection. May God bless our Lenten worship.

Opening Hymn

#438 A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth



1 A Lamb goes un - com - plain - ing forth, The
 2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend, The
 3 "Yes, Fa - ther, yes, most will - ing - ly I'll
 4 Lord, when Your glo - ry I shall see And



guilt of sin - ners bear - ing And, lad - en with the
 Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, Whom God the Fa - ther
 bear what You com - mand Me. My will con - forms to
 taste Your king - dom's plea - sure, Your blood my roy - al



sins of earth, None else the bur - den shar - ing; Goes
 chose to send, To gain for us His fa - vor. "Go
 Your de - cree, I'll do what You have asked Me." O
 robe shall be, My joy be - yond all mea - sure! When



pa - tient on, grows weak and faint, To slaugh - ter led with -
 forth, My Son," the Fa - ther said, "And free My chil - dren
 won - drous Love, what have You done! The Fa - ther of - fers
 I ap - pear be - fore Your throne, Your righ - teous - ness shall



out com - plaint, That spot - less life to of - fer, He bears the
 from their dread Of guilt and con - dem - na - tion. The wrath and
 up His Son, De - sir - ing our sal - va - tion. O Love, how
 be my crown; With these I need not hide me. And there, in



stripes, the wounds, the lies, The mock - er - y, and
 stripes are hard to bear, But by Your pas - sion
 strong You are to save! You lay the One in -
 gar - ments rich - ly wrought, As Your own bride shall



yet re - plies, "All this I glad - ly suf - fer."
 they will share The fruit of Your sal - va - tion."
 to the grave Who built the earth's foun - da - tion.
 we be brought To stand in joy be - side You.

Invocation

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

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Introit (sung responsively with the choir)



Vindicate me, | O God,*

and defend my cause against an ungodly | people,
from the deceitful and unjust man de- | liver me!*

For you are the God in whom I take | refuge.

Send out your light and your truth; let them | lead me;*

let them bring me to your holy hill and to your | dwelling!

Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my ex- | ceeding joy,*

and I will praise you with the lyre, O | God, my God.

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil with- | in me?*

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation | and my God.

Vindicate me, | O God,*

and defend my cause against an ungodly | people,
from the deceitful and unjust man de- | liver me!*

For you are the God in whom I take | refuge.

Kyrie



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir - it.



Let us pray.

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading

Genesis 22:1–14

¹After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” ²He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” ³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” ⁶And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here am I, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” ⁸Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

⁹When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” ¹²He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” ¹³And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Choral Response “*Out of the Depths*”

Epistle

Hebrews 9:11–15

¹¹When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹²he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. ¹⁵Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Tract

Psalm 129:1–4

“Greatly have they afflicted me | from my youth”—*

let Israel | now say—

“Greatly have they afflicted me | from my youth,*

yet they have not prevailed a- | gainst me.

The plowers plowed up- | on my back;*

they made long their | furrows.”

The LORD is | righteous;*

he has cut the cords of the | wicked.

Holy Gospel

John 8:42–59

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

⁴²Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. ⁴³Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. ⁴⁴You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. ⁴⁶Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? ⁴⁷Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.” ⁴⁸The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” ⁴⁹Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” ⁵²The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ ⁵³Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?” ⁵⁴Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ ⁵⁵But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” ⁵⁷So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” ⁵⁹So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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

#430 My Song Is Love Unknown



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to
 2 He came from His blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -
 3 Some - times they strew His way And His sweet prais - es
 4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly
 stow; But men made strange, and none The longed - for Christ would
 sing; Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas to their
 spite? He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their



be. Oh, who am I That for my sake
 know. But, oh, my friend, My friend in - deed,
 King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their breath,
 sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these



My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
 Who at my need His life did spend!
 And for His death They thirst and cry.
 Them - selves dis - please And 'gainst Him rise.

- 5 They rise and needs will have
 My dear Lord made away;
 A murderer they save,
 The Prince of Life they slay.
 Yet cheerful He
 To suff'ring goes
 That He His foes
 From thence might free.
- 6 In life no house, no home
 My Lord on earth might have;
 In death no friendly tomb
 But what a stranger gave.
 What may I say?
 Heav'n was His home
 But mine the tomb
 Wherein He lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing,
 No story so divine!
 Never was love, dear King,
 Never was grief like Thine.
 This is my friend,
 In whose sweet praise
 I all my days
 Could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624-1683

Tune: John N. Ireland, 1879-1962

Text: Public domain

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Sermon

Offertory

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Offering

Prayer of the Church

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

Darlene Jester (sister of Melissa Tolson), Jerry Springer

Amelia Phillips, James DeFrain, Kenneth Werling

Jenny Peterson (friend of Cheryl Louison)

Dan Bush (stepfather of Chad Dunham)

Grace Anderson (friend of Macie Saalfrank)

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)

Blessings on the birth of a baby boy to Nick and Hannab Stuckwisch

We pray for our expectant mothers Makena Graham, Kaitlin (Meyer) Blair, Reese Springer

Lilhan Laley, Jessica Schumm, Shelby Todd, Grace (Stoppenhagen) Mandeville, Kristin Gresley

We pray for our members shut-in:

Ruth Witte (Ossian Healthcare)

Marilyn Meyer (Kingston)

Marilyn Franke (Christian Care)

Rev. Donald Lutz (Lutheran Life Village)

Norwin and Martha Bauermeister (Astral in Auburn)

We pray for our Church, School and all her workers

The Board of Education seeking qualified candidates for teaching positions.

We pray for all military personnel

Service of the Sacrament pg. 194

Preface



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

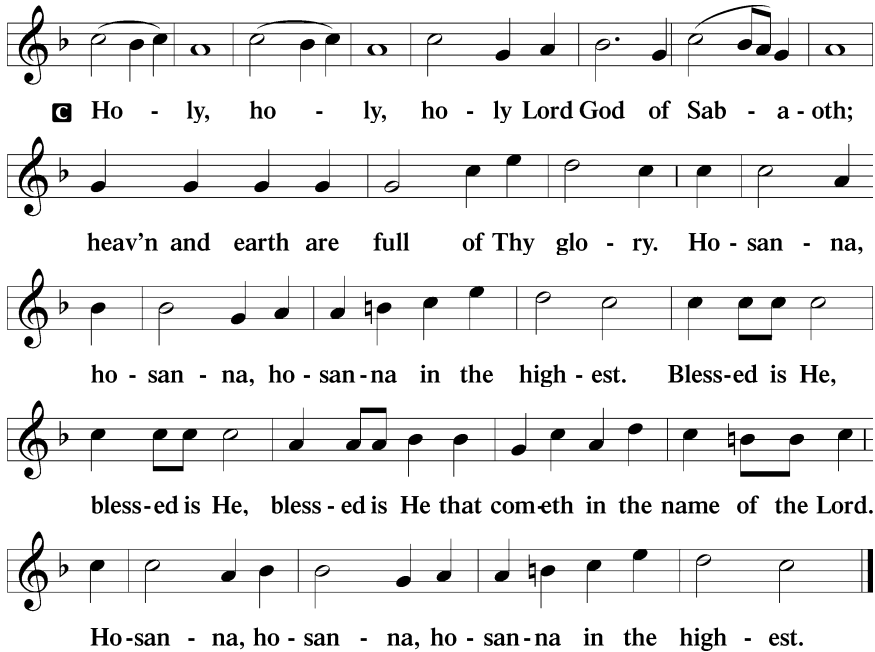


C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

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

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

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 ✠ 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 ✠ 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.



G A - men.

Agnus Dei



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

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 Hymns

#636 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, Leave the
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet Him, And with
 3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther
 4 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der O - ver



gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, Come in - to the day - light's
 lov - ing rev - 'rence greet Him. For with words of life im -
 cost nor pain will mea - sure; But the price - less gifts of
 this sur - pass - ing won - der That the bread of life is



splen - dor, There with joy your prais - es ren - der.
 mor - tal He is knock - ing at your por - tal.
 heav - en God to us has free - ly giv - en.
 bound - less Though the souls it feeds are count - less:



Bless the One whose grace un - bound - ed This a - maz - ing
 O - pen wide the gates be - fore Him, Say - ing, as you
 Though the wealth of earth were prof - fered, None could buy the
 With the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to



ban - quet found - ed; He, though heav'n - ly, high, and
 there a - dore Him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -
 gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you
 us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious con - so -



ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
 ceive You, That I nev - er - more will leave You.
 riv - en, And His blood, for you once giv - en.
 la - tion, Pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion!

5 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
 Truest friend, and dearest treasure,
 Peace beyond all understanding,
 Joy into all life expanding:
 Humbly now, I bow before You;
 Love incarnate, I adore You;



An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days And God of love.
From earth I rise and seek the joys At His right hand.
Shall guide me all my pil - grim days In all my ways.
I shall, on ea - gle wings up - borne, To heav'n as - cend.



Je - ho - vah, great I AM! By earth and heav'n con - fessed;
I all on earth for - sake, Its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r,
He deigns to call me friend; He calls Him - self my God.
I shall be - hold His face; I shall His pow'r a - dore



I bow and bless the sa - cred name For - ev - er blest.
And Him my on - ly por - tion make, My shield and tow'r.
And He shall save me to the end Through Je - sus' blood.
And sing the won - ders of His grace For - ev - er - more.

- 5 Though nature's strength decay,
And earth and hell withstand,
To Canaan's bounds I urge my way
At His command.
The wat'ry deep I pass,
With Jesus in my view,
And through the howling wilderness
My way pursue.
- 6 The goodly land I see,
With peace and plenty blest:
A land of sacred liberty
And endless rest.
There milk and honey flow,
And oil and wine abound,
And trees of life forever grow
With mercy crowned.
- 7 There dwells the Lord our king,
The Lord our righteousness,
Triumphant o'er the world and sin,
The Prince of Peace.
On Zion's sacred height
His kingdom He maintains

And glorious with His saints in light
Forever reigns.

8 The God who reigns on high
The great archangels sing,
And "Holy, holy, holy!" cry,
"Almighty King!
Who was and is the same
And evermore shall be:
Jehovah, Father, great I AM!
We worship Thee!"

△ 9 The whole triumphant host
Give thanks to God on high.
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!"
They ever cry.
Hail, Abr'ham's God and mine!
I join the heav'nly lays:
All might and majesty are Thine
And endless praise!

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725-99, alt.
Tune: Hebrew
Text and tune: Public domain

#428 Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow



1 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row,
2 Here the King of all the a - ges,
3 O mys - te - rious con - de - scend - ing!
4 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row,



Where the blood of Christ was shed,
Throned in light ere worlds could be,
O a - ban - don - ment sub - lime!
Where the blood of Christ was shed,



Per - fect man on thee did suf - fer,
Robed in mor - tal flesh is dy - ing,
Ver - y God Him - self is bear - ing
Per - fect man on thee did suf - fer,



Per - fect God on thee has bled!
 Cru - ci - fied by sin for me.
 All the suf - fer - ings of time!
 Per - fect God on thee has bled!

Text: William J. Sparrow Simpson, 1860-1952

Tune: John Stainer, 1840-1901

Text and tune: Public domain

#606 I Lay My Sins on Jesus



1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less Lamb of God;
 2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; All full - ness dwells in Him;
 3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, This wea - ry soul of mine;



He bears them all and frees us From the ac - curs - ed load.
 He heals all my dis - eas - es; My soul He does re - deem.
 His right hand me em - brac - es; I on His breast re - cline.



I bring my guilt to Je - sus To wash my crim - son stains
 I lay my griefs on Je - sus, My bur - dens and my cares;
 I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;



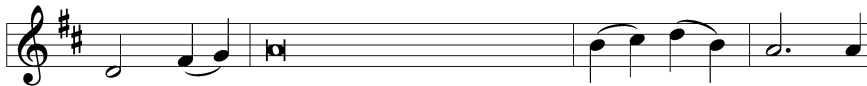
Clean in His blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.
 He from them all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.
 Like fra - grance on the breez - es His name a - broad is poured.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-89

Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen

Text and tune: Public domain

Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now letteth Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

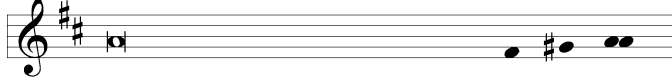


a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

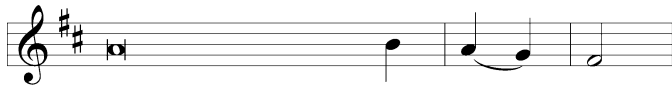


peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Thanksgiving



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



B and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



B A - men.

Salutation



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

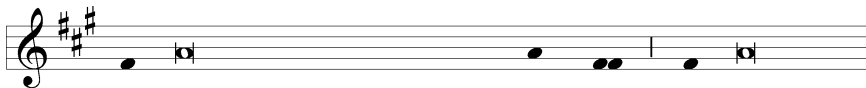


A Bless we the Lord.

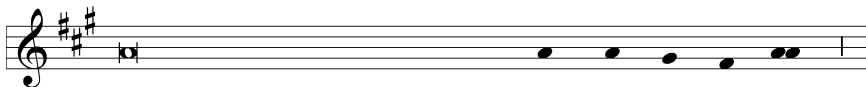


C Thanks be to God.

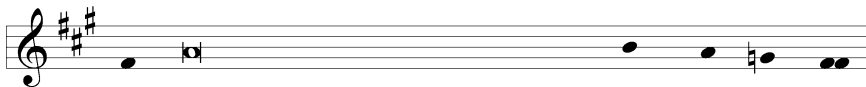
Benediction



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn

#718 Jesus, Lead Thou On



1 Je - sus, lead Thou on	Till our rest is won;	And al-though the
2 If the way be drear,	If the foe be near,	Let not faith-less
3 When we seek re - lief	From a long-felt grief,	When temp - ta - tions
4 Je - sus, lead Thou on	Till our rest is won.	Heav'n-ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, We will fol - low calm and fear - less.
fears o'er - take us; Let not faith and hope for - sake us;
come al - lur - ing, Make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing.
still di - rect us, Still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



Guide us by Thy hand To our fa - ther - land.
For through man - y a woe To our home we go.
Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.
Till we safe - ly stand In our fa - ther - land.

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700–60; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–97, alt.

Tune: Adam Drese, 1620–1701

Text and 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 or the church office at 597-7121.
<https://www.youtube.com/bethlehemlutheranchurchossian> 9:00 a.m. Livestream

IN HIS SERVICE

Preaching
Celebrant
Vicar
Fieldworkers

Rev. Samuel Wirgau
Rev. Anthony Dodgers
Sem. Charles McLain
Sem. Brandon Streeks
Sem. Nolan Wolf

Deaconess
Head Elder
Elders on Duty

Wendy Boehm
Bruce Werling
Bruce Meyer and Steve Conrad

Kantor

Richard Brinkley

Choir

Adult Choir

Acolytes

JT Holtzclaw and Matthew Rekeweg

Altar Guild Chairman

Deann Oliver and Denise Schumm

Ushers

Todd Ottinger, Ethan Ottinger, Landon Geiger
Jay Werling, Collin Laley, Kaden Laley, Chad Dunham

Pastor: Rev. Samuel Wirgau (Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com)	260-273-7595
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.blcsossian.org</i>	

TODAY	9:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion NO Adult Bible Class or Sunday School 11:30 a.m. Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)
MONDAY	Spring Break – NO School March 23-27 2:00 p.m. WOB Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Wholyfit (downstairs music room) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Practice
WEDNESDAY	5-5:30 p.m. Confession and Absolution 5:30 p.m. Adult Catechesis Class 6:00 p.m. Lenten Supper 7:00 p.m. Divine Service Adult Choir Practice
THURSDAY	5:30 p.m. Wholyfit (downstairs music room) 6:30 p.m. WOB Bible Study
SUNDAY	9:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Divine Service with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Family Bible Class – NO Sunday School 11:30 a.m. Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)

WORSHIP SERVICES FOR THE SEASON OF LENT – Please join us for Evening Prayer with Holy Communion on Wednesday evenings beginning at 7:00 pm. Also, feel free to attend the morning Chapel Services at 10:00 am. *The Bethlehem Youth and parents will be serving a Lenten Dinner beginning at 6:00pm. and the meal for Wednesday, March 25th will be Soup and Salad.*

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.

Palm Sunday, March 29th Divine Service at 9:00 a.m. We would like all the Sunday School children to participate in the Palm Processional. Children should arrive at 8:45am and meet in the church Narthex. Sunday School teachers will help the children find their parents after the processional. A family style Bible Class will be held after the service with Vicar McLain leading.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

March 30, 31, April 1 Spoken Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m.

April 2 Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 p.m.

April 3 Good Friday Chief Service with Holy Communion at 12 noon

Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 7:00 p.m.

April 4 Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil at St. John, Bingen starting at 8:00 p.m.

April 5 Easter Sunday Services – Sunrise 6:30 a.m. and Morning 9:00 a.m.

The Bethlehem Youth- Easter breakfast starting at 7:30 a.m. in the school gym.

EASTER CARDS – Members, please take a moment and sign an Easter card for our shut-in members that are located on the table in the north hallway. Thank you

FOOD DRIVE – We are still taking donations for the Concordia Seminary and Northern Wells Food Pantries. Collection boxes are located in the church foyer. Thank you

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL ENDOWMENT -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 \$14,900. We have currently sent about \$9,000 to the Endowment. Our final contributions need to be in by June 1. We have met this match every year so far. 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!

Come to your next **Visual Faith Workshop** on Tuesday, Apr 14 from 6-8pm. Explore Bible Journaling 101 - an introduction to what Bible journaling is, different types of bibles, materials, supplies, kits and techniques. Copies of Bible pages will be available for use but feel free to bring your own Bible to journal in. Register at <https://blcossian.org/visual-faith-ministry/>

LAWN CARE BIDS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN. Please submit your bids to our Head Trustee, Jay Werling.

POE FIRE DEPT – ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE - Sunday March 29th from 9-1:00 pm. Adults \$10, Children 6-12 \$5, Children under 6 Free. Carry out also available.

PASSION CHORAL VESPERS – Sunday, March 29th at 4:00 p.m. at Concordia Theological Seminary Kramer Chapel. The Schola Cantorum and soloists will sing The Passion According to St. Matthew.

Camp Lutherhaven – Looking for a meaningful summer experience? Camp Lutherhaven offers adventure, friendship and time rooted in God’s Word. Campers might spend the day shooting, archery, swimming in the lake or conquering challenges with cabinmates – then gather for worship, Bible study, and reflection. Summer 2026’s theme is “RUN” (1 Timothy 6:11), inviting campers to explore how God calls us to live with purpose and faith. Register before April 1 to receive the Early Bird Discount. Learn more at lutherhaven.org or call 260-636-7101.

St. John Flatrock's Spring Rummage Sale will be Friday, March 27 from 8-5, with a bag sale Saturday, March 28. 12912 Franke Rd, Monroeville, Indiana 46773. The bag sale will be \$3 for a brown paper bag, \$6 for a 13 gallon kitchen garbage bag, and half off all priced items.

SCRIP – Please be sure to check out our new scrip certificate order sheet and ordering dates posted on the bulletin board. *Next order date will be April 19th.* **For questions or for placing an order, please contact Jill Holtzclaw 260-301-1965 our current PTL representative.**

Offering March 15, 2026

Average weekly need \$14,000

Home Fund Env.	\$8,277.25
Synod	200.00
Loose	85.00
Scholarship Fund	125.00
Sunday School	3.25
Improvement Fund	
Endowment Fund	225.00
Organ Fund	49.47
Music Fund	
Midweek Lenten	532.68
Total	\$9,497.65

Financial Report

Home Fund Balance	\$25,152.60
Next week’s bills due:	\$30,000
Bills due two weeks:	\$5,000
Savings Account Balance	\$60,404.56
Borrowed from Savings:	\$14,983.81
Operating Loan Balance	\$30,000
Borrowed from Op Loan	\$0.00

Church Attendance

Sunday	164/134
Wednesday	76/

The House of Daily Bread

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer following
The week following The Fifth Sunday in Lent



In the temple Jesus said, "If anyone keeps my word, he will never see death" (John 8:51). For Jesus came to taste death for us—to drink the cup of suffering to the dregs in order that we might be released from its power. Clinging to His life-giving words, we are delivered from death's sting and its eternal judgment. Christ is our High Priest, who entered the Most Holy Place and with His own blood obtained everlasting redemption for His people (Heb. 9:11–15). He is the One who was before Abraham was, and yet is his descendant. He is the promised Son who carries the wood up the mountain for the sacrifice, who is bound and laid upon the altar of the cross. He is the ram who is offered in our place, who is willingly caught in the thicket of our sin, and who wears the crown of thorns upon His head (Gen. 22:1–14). Though Jesus is dishonored by the sons of the devil, He is vindicated by the Father through the cross.

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: "My Song Is Love Unknown" LSB #430

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

The Catechism:

Lutheran Service Book #422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image

*On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures
Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation!*

Psalm 43 and/or the appointed daily Psalms listen below.

Daily Psalm	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
A.M.	95, 96	98, 100	101	103	105	107	109
P.M.	97	99	102	104	106	108	110, 111

Daily Bible Reading

Mon.	1 John 1:8-10 - He Is Faithful and Just to Forgive Us our Sins Exodus 2:1-22
Tues.	Luke 23:32-43- Jesus Forgives His Persecutors Exodus 2:23-3:22
Wed.	Psalm 32:1-5 - Blessed Are the Forgiven Exodus 4:1-18
Thu.	Matthew 18:21-27- The Forgiving King Exodus 4:19-31
Fri.	Matthew 18:28-35 - The Unforgiving Servant Exodus 5:1-6:1
Sat.	<i>Look ahead to Sunday's Readings</i>

Prayers

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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, Hazel, Brittany, Brandon, Sandra **Expectant mothers:** Makena, Kaitlin, Reese, Lillyan, Jessica, Shelby, Grace; **Kristin 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: Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion
Old Testament: Zechariah 9:9-12 Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11; Gospel:
Matthew 26:1-27:66; Hymns: 442, 438, 637, 441, 539, 421, 443, 440