

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



Palm Sunday

Palmarum

Divine Service- Setting Three

March 29, 2026

Vol. 128-18

We are now in the season of Lent known as Passiontide. We are nearing 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.

Procession of Palms

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

P Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

C Hosanna to the Son of David.

Collect

P Let us pray.

Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Holy Gospel

John 12:12–19

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

P The Triumphal Entry

¹²The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" ¹⁴And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, ¹⁵"Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" ¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. ¹⁷The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸The reason why the crowd went to meet him

was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to You, O Christ.

- P** Let us go forth in peace,
- C** in the name of the Lord.

Processional Hymn

#442 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To You, Re - deem - er, King,



To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the King of Is - rael And Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels Is prais - ing You on high,
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims With palms be - fore You went;
- 4 To You be - fore Your pas - sion They sang their hymns of praise;
- 5 As You re - ceived their prais - es, Ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain



Now in the Lord's name com - ing, Our King and Bless - ed One.
And we with all cre - a - tion In cho - rus make re - ply.
Our praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore You we pre - sent.
To You, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.
O Source of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Our good and gra - cious King.


Text: Theodulf of Orléans, c. 762–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

- P** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
- C** Hosanna to the Son of David.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Zechariah 9:9–12

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall speak peace to the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Choral Response “O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken”

Epistle

Philippians 2:5–11

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God

has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Tract

My God, my God, why have you for- | saken me?*

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my | groaning?

In you our fathers | trusted;*

they trusted, and you de- | livered them.

To you they cried and were | rescued;*

in you they trusted and were not | put to shame.

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

St. Matthew 27:11-54

The congregation remains seated and reads the bold portions.

¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “**Are you the King of the Jews?**” Jesus said, “*You have said so.*” ¹² But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. ¹³ Then Pilate said to him, “**Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?**” ¹⁴ But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. ¹⁵ Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. ¹⁶ And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. ¹⁷ So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “**Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?**” ¹⁸ For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. ¹⁹ Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “**Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream.**” ²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. ²¹ The governor again said to them, “**Which of the two do you want me to release for you?**” And they said, “**Barabbas.**” ²² Pilate said to them, “**Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?**” They all said, “**Let him be crucified!**” ²³ And he said, “**Why, what evil has he done?**” But they shouted all the more, “**Let him be crucified!**” ²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “**I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.**” ²⁵ And all the people answered, “**His blood be on us and on our children!**” ²⁶ Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. ²⁸ And they stripped him and put a scarlet

robe on him, ²⁹ and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, **“Hail, King of the Jews!”** ³⁰ And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹ And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him. ³² As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³ And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴ they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵ And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. ³⁶ Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. ³⁷ And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, **“This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”** ³⁸ Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

³⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, **“You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”** ⁴¹ So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, ⁴² **“He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”** ⁴⁴ And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

The congregation stands

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, *“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”* that is, *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”* ⁴⁷ And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, **“This man is calling Elijah.”** ⁴⁸ And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹ But the others said, **“Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”** ⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. ⁵¹ And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵² The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³ and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, **“Truly this was the Son of God!”**

Nicene Creed

**☩ 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

#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.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Wolfgang Dachstein, c. 1487-1553

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711

Tune: Public domain

Sermon

Offertory



Cre-ate 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:

Joyce Schaper

Darlene Jester (sister of Melissa Tolson)

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)

Sorrow for those who have passed before us *Family and friends of Jerry Springer*

(funeral is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7th at 11:00am here at Bethlehem)

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

Lilyan 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:

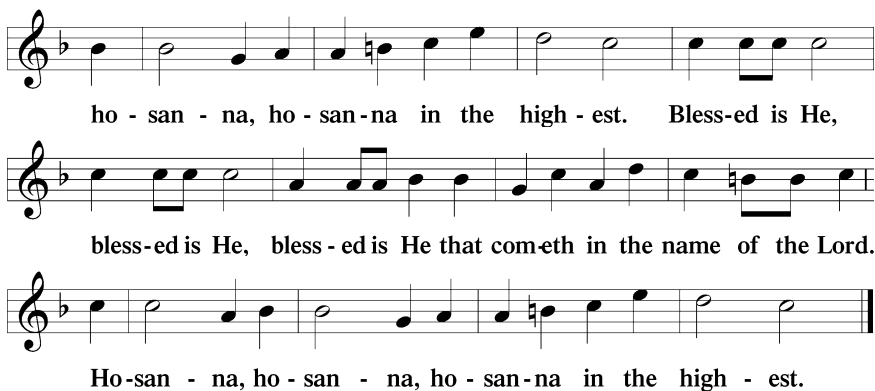
Sanctus



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

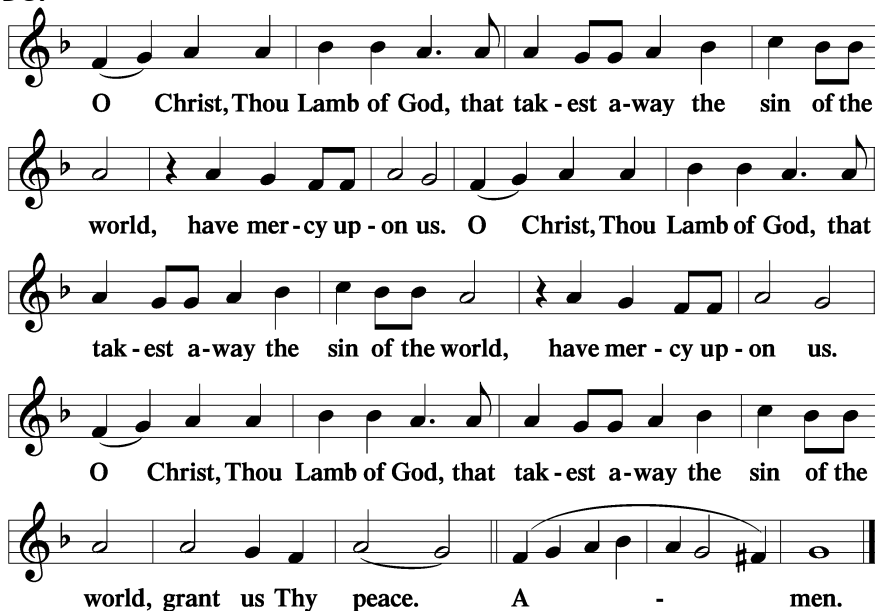


P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



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

#637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,
2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,
And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;
To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;
And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.



Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,
 With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,
 O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow



Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.
 Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.
 As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.
 Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
 Text and tune: Public domain

#441 Ride On, Ride On in Majesty



1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! All the
 2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly
 3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The an - gel
 4 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Thy last and
 5 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly



tribes ho - san - na cry. O Sav - ior meek, pur -
 pomp ride on to die. O Christ, Thy tri - umphs
 ar - mies of the sky Look down with sad and
 fierc - est strife is nigh. The Fa - ther on His
 pomp ride on to die. Bow Thy meek head to



sue Thy road, With palms and scat - tered gar - ments stowed.
 now be - gin O'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
 won - d'ring eyes To see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
 sap - phire throne A - waits His own a - noint - ed Son.
 mor - tal pain, Then take, O God, Thy pow'r and reign.

Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791-1868, alt.
 Tune: Musicalisch Hand-Buch der Geistlichen Melodien, 1690, Hamburg, alt.
 Text and tune: Public domain

#539 Christ Is the World's Redeemer



1 Christ is the world's Re - deem - er, The lov - er of the pure,
 2 Christ has our host sur - round - ed With clouds of mar - tyrs bright,
 3 Down through the realm of dark - ness He strode in vic - to - ry,
 △ 4 Glo - ry to God the Fa - ther, The un - be - got - ten One,



The font of heav'n-ly wis - dom, Our trust and hope se - cure,
 Who wave their palms in tri - umph And fire us for the fight.
 And at the hour ap - point - ed He rose tri - um - phant-ly.
 All hon - or be to Je - sus, His sole - be - got - ten Son,



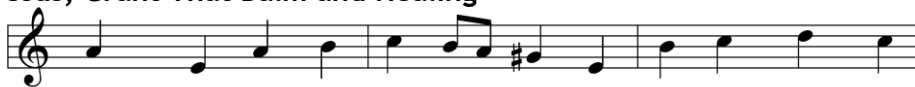
The ar - mor of His sol - diers, The Lord of earth and sky,
 Then Christ the cross as - cend - ed To save a world un - done
 And now, to heav'n as - cend - ed, He sits up - on the throne
 And to the Ho - ly Spir - it— The per - fect Trin - i - ty.



Our health while we are liv - ing, Our life when we shall die.
 And, suf - f'ring for the sin - ful, Our full re - demp - tion won.
 Whence He had ne'er de - part - ed, His Fa - ther's and His own.
 Let all the worlds give an - swer: A - men! So let it be.

Text: attr. Columba, 521-597; tr. Duncan MacGregor, 1854-1923, alt.
 Tune: Irish
 Text and tune: Public domain

#421 Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing



1 Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing In Your ho - ly
 2 Should some lust or sharp temp - ta - tion Fas - ci - nate my
 3 If the world my heart en - tic - es With the broad and
 4 Ev - 'ry wound that pains or grieves me By Your wounds, Lord,
 5 O my God, my rock and tow - er, Grant that in Your



wounds I find, Ev - 'ry hour that I am feel - ing Pains of
 sin - ful mind, Draw me to Your cross and pas - sion, And new
 eas - y road, With se - duc - tive, sin - ful vi - ces, Let me
 is made whole; When I'm faint, Your cross re - vives me, Grant - ing
 death I trust, Know - ing death has lost its pow - er Since You



bod - y and of mind. Should some e - vil thought with - in
 cour - age I shall find. Or should Sa - tan press me hard,
 weigh the aw - ful load You were will - ing to en - dure.
 new life to my soul. Yes, Your com - fort ren - ders sweet
 crushed it in the dust. Sav - ior, let Your ag - o - ny



Tempt my treach-'rous heart to sin, Show the per - il, and from
Let me then be on my guard, Say - ing, "Christ for me was
Help me flee all thoughts im - pure And to mas - ter each temp -
Ev - 'ry bit - ter cup I meet; For Your all - a - ton - ing
Ev - er help and com - fort me; When I die be my pro -



sin - ning Keep me from its first be - gin - ning.
wound - ed," That the tempt - er flee con - found - ed.
ta - tion, Calm in prayer and med - i - ta - tion.
pas - sion Has pro - cured my soul's sal - va - tion.
tec - tion, Light and life and res - ur - rec - tion.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. composite, alt.
Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691-1758
Text and tune: Public domain

#443 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna



1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, The lit - tle chil - dren sang;
2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed Mid an ex - ul - tant crowd,
3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing;



Through pil - lared court and tem - ple The love - ly an - them rang.
The vic - tor palm branch wav - ing And chant - ing clear and loud.
For Christ is our Re - deem - er, The Lord of heav'n our King.



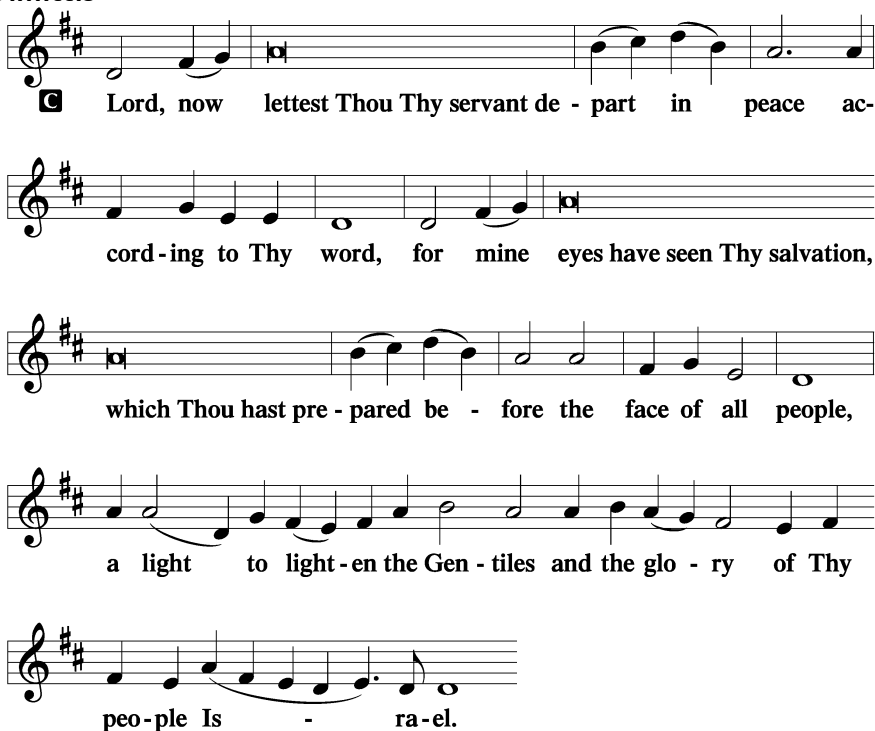
To Je - sus, who had blessed them, Close fold - ed to His breast,
The Lord of earth and heav - en Rode on in low - ly state
Oh, may we ev - er praise Him With heart and life and voice



The chil - dren sang their prais - es, The sim - plest and the best.
Nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren Should on His bid - ding wait.
And in His bliss - ful pres - ence E - ter - nal - ly re - joyce!

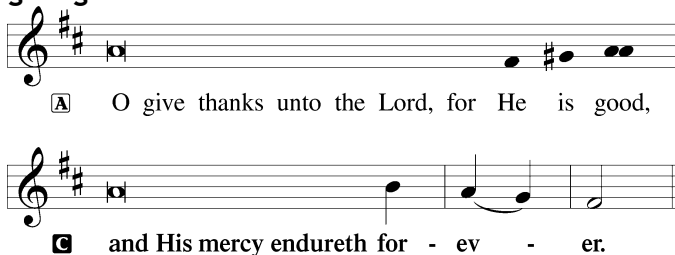
Text: Jeannette Threlfall, 1821-80, alt.
Tune: Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Hofkapelle, 1784, Württemberg
Text and tune: Public domain

Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now lettest 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,
C 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.



C A - men.

Salutation



P The Lord be with you.



G And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

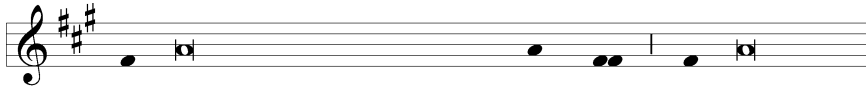


A Bless we the Lord.

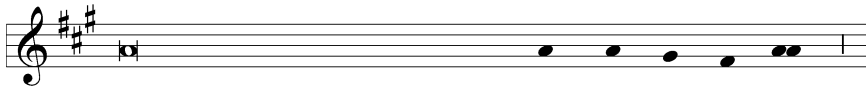


G Thanks be to God.

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.



G A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn

#440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On Your ho - ly pas - sion;
2 Make me see Your great dis - tress, An - guish, and af - flic - tion,
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone Make me see Your pas - sion,
4 Grant that I Your pas - sion view With re - pen - tant griev - ing.



With Your Spir - it me en - dow For such med - i - ta - tion.
Bonds and stripes and wretch - ed - ness And Your cru - ci - fix - ion;
But its cause to me make known And its ter - mi - na - tion.
Let me not bring shame to You By un - ho - ly liv - ing.



Grant that I in love and faith May the im - age cher - ish
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,
Ah! I al - so and my sin Wrought Your deep af - flic - tion;
How could I re - fuse to shun Ev - 'ry sin - ful plea - sure



Of Your suf - f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.
How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.
This in - deed the cause has been Of Your cru - ci - fix - ion.
Since for me God's on - ly Son Suf - fered with - out mea - sure?

- 5 If my sins give me alarm
And my conscience grieve me,
Let Your cross my fear disarm;
Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won
By Your holy passion.
If for me He slays His Son,
God must have compassion!
- 6 Graciously my faith renew;
Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from You,
Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love!
Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above
Sing Your praise forever.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615

Text and tune: Public domain

IN HIS SERVICE

Preaching	Rev. Samuel Wirgau
Celebrant	Rev. Anthony Dodgers
Vicar	Sem. Charles McLain
Fieldworkers	Sem. Brandon Streeks, Sem. Nolan Wolf
Deaconess	Wendy Boehm
Head Elder	Bruce Werling
Elders on Duty	Bruce Meyer and Steve Conrad
Kantor	Richard Brinkley
Organist	Emilie Meyer
Choir	Adult Choir
Acolytes	JT Holtzclaw and Jonah Bultemeier
Crucifer	Alex Fuhrmann
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
(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.blcsossian.org</i>	

TODAY	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Divine Service with Holy Communion Family Bible Class – NO Sunday School Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)
MONDAY	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Handbell Choir Practice Spoken Prayer Service
TUESDAY	7:00 p.m.	Spoken Prayer Service
WEDNESDAY	10:00 a.m. No 6:00-6:30 p.m.	Chapel Service Adult Catechesis Class Individual Confession and Absolution
THURSDAY	7:00 p.m.	Spoken Prayer Service
FRIDAY	7:00 p.m. 12:00 Noon	Maundy Thursday Service Good Friday Chief Service
SUNDAY	7:00 p.m. 6:30 a.m. 7:45 – 8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. No	Good Friday Tenebrae Service Easter Sunrise Service Easter Breakfast (School Gym) Easter Morning Service Adult Bible Class or Sunday School

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!

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!

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 of non-perishable food items for the Concordia Seminary and Northern Wells Food Pantries. Collection boxes are located in the church foyer. Thank you

THANK YOU to everyone for your generous donation to the Wells County Food Pantry. All the nonperishable items you donate give us more funds to purchase meat, milk, eggs, cheese, bread, etc. God has blessed us all. Thank you for giving back to all the people that need help.

Bethlehem will be hosting a FISH FRY- Saturday, April 25th from 4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Carry-out only at Lighted Gardens. \$15.00 adults, \$8.00 children. Menu: Fish, cheesy potatoes, green beans, roll and cookie. Funds will benefit the Wells County Backpack program and the church Pavillion Project. More details are coming.

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/>

WIDOWS GROUP EVENT – Please plan to join us Sunday, April 12th after church for lunch at Millies in Bluffton. Please contact Gail Werling to RSVP 260-443-1413.

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

WHOLYFIT IS CANCELLED UNTIL Thursday, April 9th at 5:30 p.m.

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

PASSION CHORAL VESPERS – TODAY 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.

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 22, 2026

Average weekly need \$14,000

Home Fund Env.	\$9,576.08
Synod	
Loose	312.25
Scholarship Fund	
Sunday School	9.75
Improvement Fund	
Endowment Fund	
Organ Fund	
Music Fund	
Gym Rental	<u>200.00</u>
Total	\$10,098.08

Financial Report

Home Fund Balance	\$17,837.33
Next week’s bills due:	\$5,000
Bills due two weeks:	\$15,000
Savings Account Balance	\$60,404.56
Borrowed from Savings:	\$12,378.81
Operating Loan Balance	\$30,000
Borrowed from Op Loan	\$0.00

Church Attendance

Sunday	180/150
Wednesday	67/51

Announcements can be emailed to the church secretary at bethlehemossianssec@gmail.com or the church office at 597-7121.
<https://www.youtube.com/bethlehemplutheranchrossian> 9:00 a.m. Livestream

The House of Daily Bread

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer following
Holy Week



“Behold, your King is coming to you . . . humble and mounted on a donkey” (Zech. 9:9–12; Mt. 21:1–9). Our Lord rides in this humble fashion because He is entering Jerusalem to humble Himself even to the point of death on a cross (Phil. 2:5–11). His kingly crown will not be made of gold but of thorns, the sign of sin’s curse. For His royal reign is displayed in bearing this curse for His people, saving us from our enemies by sacrificing His own life. The sinless One takes the place of the sinner so that the sinner can be freed and bear the name “Barabbas,” “son of the Father” (Matthew 26 and 27). It is at the name of this exalted Savior, Jesus, that we bow in humble faith. With the centurion who declared, “Truly this was the Son of God!” (Mt. 27:54), we are also given to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Phil. 2:11).

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: "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth" LSB #438

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

The Catechism:

Where is this [the Office of the Keys] written?

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty:

The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." John 20:22-23

What do you believe according to these words?

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, evenin heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

Psalm 118:19-29 and/or the appointed daily Psalms listen below.

Daily Psalm	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
A.M.	112, 113	115	117, 118	119:1-24	119:49-72	119:89-112	119:137-152
P.M.	114	116	120, 121	119:25-48	119:73-88	119:113-136	119:153-176

Daily Bible Reading

Mon.	James 1:12-15 - God Tempts No One Exodus 9:1-28
Tues.	Matthew 26:36-46- Jesus Prays in Gethsemane Exodus 9:29-10:20
Wed.	2 Thessalonians 3:1-5 - The Lord Is Faithful Exodus 10:21-11:10
Thu.	Psalm 116:12-19- What Shall I Render to the Lord Exodus 12:1-28
Fri.	Psalm 22 -My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me? Exodus 12:29-32; 13:1-16
Sat.	<i>Look ahead to Sunday's Readings</i>

Prayers

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, 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: Joyce, 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: The Resurrection of Our Lord

Old Testament: Job 19:23-27 Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:51-57; Gospel: Matthew Mark 16:1-8; Hymns: 457, 458, 633, 478, 480, 482, 490, 465



You're invited!

Help us attend the **DYING CHURCH RISING HOPE** conference!

EVENT

EASTER BREAKFAST

PROCEEDS TO GO TO BENEFIT
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH
FOR THEIR HIGHER THINGS TRIP

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COST

**FREE WILL
DONATION**

MENU

**EGG CASSEROLE
SAUSAGE LINKS
HASH BROWN
TOAST
APPLESAUCE**

www.DYINGCHURCHRISINGHOPE26.org

JUNE 23-26, 2026

Washington University
St. Louis, MO

JUNE 30 - JULY 3, 2026

Washington University
St. Louis, MO

JULY 14 - JULY 17, 2026

Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO