

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



The Eve of the Ascension of Our Lord

Divine Service One

May 13, 2026

Processional Hymn

#493 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band Up -
 3 To them the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why
 4 "You see Him now, as - cend - ing high Up



hymns through - out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia,
 on the Mount of Ol - ives stand. Al - le - lu - ia,
 stand and gaze up - on the sky?" Al - le - lu - ia,
 to the por - tals of the sky." Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
 al - le - lu - ia! And with His faith - ful fol - l'wers
 al - le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior," thus they
 al - le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall



trod, As - cends un - to the throne of
 see Their Lord as - cend in maj - es -
 say; "This is His glo - rious tri - umph
 see Re - turn - ing in great maj - es -



God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 ty. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 day!" Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 ty." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

5 Be now our joy on earth, O Lord,
 And be our future great reward.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Then, throned with You forever, we
 Shall praise Your name eternally.

Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- △ 6 O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All praise to You let earth accord:
Alleluia, alleluia!
You are, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Bede, 673–735; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623, Köln

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711

Tune: Public domain

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)



Men of | Galilee,*

why do you stand looking into heaven? Alle- | lua.

This Jesus, who was taken up from you into | heaven,*

will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven. Alle- | lua.

Clap your hands, all | peoples!*

Shout to God with loud | songs of joy!

For the LORD, the Most High, is | to be feared,*

a great king over | all the earth.

God has gone up | with a shout,*

the LORD with the sound of a | trumpet.

God reigns over the | nations;*

God sits on his | holy throne.

*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.

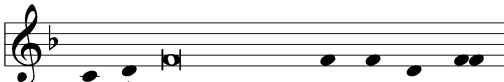
Men of | Galilee,*

why do you stand looking into heaven? Alle- | lua.

This Jesus, who was taken up from you into | heaven,*

will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven. Alle- | lua.

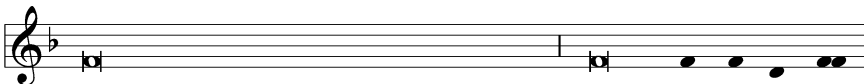
Kyrie



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.



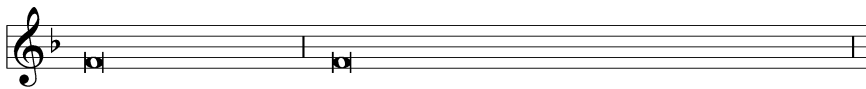
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



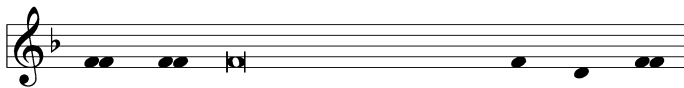
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



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.
Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading

2 Kings 2:5–15

⁵The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know it; keep quiet.” ⁶Then Elijah said to him, “Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground. ⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.” And Elisha said, “Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.” ¹⁰And he said, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.” ¹¹And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²And Elisha saw it and he cried, “My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. ¹³And he took up the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water, saying, “Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over. ¹⁵Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho saw him opposite them, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.” And they came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Acts 1:1–11

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “**you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**” ⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “**It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.**” ⁸**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**” ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and

said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 24:44–53

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

44Then [Jesus] said to them, “**These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.**” **45**Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, **46**and said to them, “**Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48You are witnesses of these things. 49And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.**”**50**Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. **51**While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. **52**And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, **53**and were continually in the temple blessing 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 ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day

#491 Up through Endless Ranks of Angels



1 Up through end - less ranks of an - gels, Cries of tri - umph
 2 Death - de - stroy - ing, life - re - stor - ing, Prov - en e - qual
 3 To our lives of wan - ton wan - d'ring Send Your Spir - it,
 △ 4 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to breathe the



in His ears, To His heav'n - ly throne as - cend - ing,
 to our need, Now for us be - fore the Fa - ther
 prom - ised guide; Through our lives of fear and fail - ure
 Spir - it's grace! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Hav - ing van - quished all their fears, Christ looks down up -
 As our broth - er in - ter - cede; Flesh that for our
 With Your pow'r and love a - bide; Wel - come us, as
 Oh, to see the Fa - ther's face! Al - le - lu - ia,

on His faith - ful, Leav - ing them in hap - py tears.
 world was wound - ed, Liv - ing, for the wound - ed plead!
 You were wel - comed, To an end - less Eas - ter - tide!
 al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to feel the Son's em - brace!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008
 Tune: Henry V. Gerike, 1948–2025
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Sermon

Prayer of the Church

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

Heidi Kleppinger (surgery)

Rev. Raymond and Abigail Doubrava and unborn child (New Hope pastor)

Ralph Bauermeister, Donna Schumm

Joyce Schaper, Cameron Sprunger (nephew of Stan and Pat Meyer)

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)

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

We pray for our expectant mothers Reese Springer, Lilhyan Laley, Jessica Schumm, Shelby Todd Grace (Stoppenhagen) Mandeville, Kristin Gresley, Mariel Kleppinger

We pray for our members shut-in:

Ruth Witte (Ossian Healthcare)

Marilyn Meyer (Kingston)

Marilyn Franke (Christian Care)

Rev. Donald Lutz (Lutheran Life Village)

Norvin and Martha Bauermeister (Astral in Auburn)

We pray for our Church, School and all her workers

We pray for all military personnel

Offering

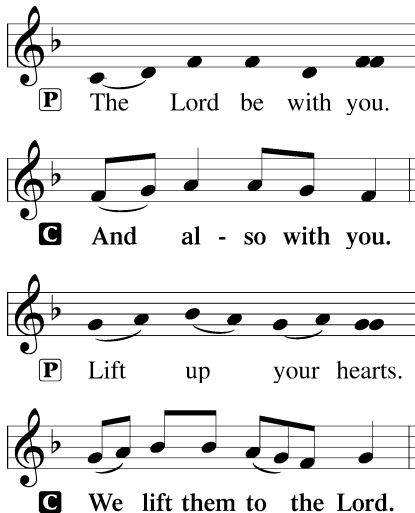
Offertory



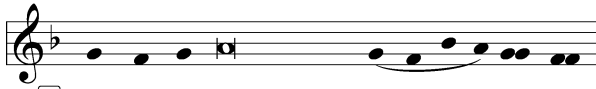
C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in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

Service of the Sacrament pg. 160

Preface



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



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

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

Sanctus



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



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



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



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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

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

C Amen.

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

Distribution

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

Distribution Hymns

#642 O Living Bread from Heaven

1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, How well You
 2 My Lord, You here have led me To this most
 3 You gave me all I want - ed; This food can
 4 Lord, grant me then, thus strength - ened With heav'n - ly

feed Your guest! The gifts that You have giv - en
 ho - ly place And with Your - self have fed me
 death de - stroy. And You have free - ly grant - ed
 food, while here My course on earth is length - ened,

Have filled my heart with rest. Oh, won - drous food of
 The trea - sures of Your grace; For You have free - ly
 The cup of end - less joy. My Lord, I do not
 To serve with ho - ly fear. And when You call my



bless - ing, Oh, cup that heals our woes! My heart, this
 giv - en What earth could nev - er buy, The bread of
 mer - it The fa - vor You have shown, And all my
 spir - it To leave this world be - low, I en - ter,



gift pos - sess - ing, With prais - es o - ver - flows.
 life from heav - en, That now I shall not die.
 soul and spir - it Bow down be - fore Your throne.
 through Your mer - it, Where joys un - min - gled flow.

Text: Johann Rist, 1607-67; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
 Tune: Musae Sioniae, 1609, vol. 7, Wolfenbüttel, ed. Michael Praetorius
 Text and tune: Public domain

#701 Draw Us to Thee



1 Draw us to Thee, For then shall we Walk in Thy
 2 Draw us to Thee, Lord, lov - ing - ly; Let us de -
 3 Draw us to Thee; O grant that we May walk the
 4 Draw us to Thee That al - so we Thy heav'n - ly
 5 Draw us to Thee Un - ceas - ing - ly, In - to Thy



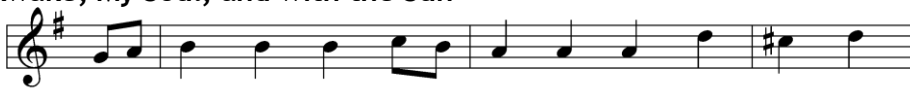
steps for - ev - er And has - ten on Where Thou art
 part with glad - ness That we may be For - ev - er
 road to heav - en! Di - rect our way Lest we should
 bliss in - her - it And ev - er dwell Where sin and
 king - dom take us; Let us for - e'er Thy glo - ry



gone To be with Thee, dear Sav - ior.
 free From sor - row, grief, and sad - ness.
 stray And from Thy paths be driv - en.
 hell No more can vex our spir - it.
 share, Thy saints and joint heirs make us.

Text: Friedrich Funcke, 1642-99; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.
 Tune: As hymnodus sacer, 1625, Leipzig
 Text and tune: Public domain

#868 Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun



1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun Thy dai - ly
 2 In con - ver - sa - tion be sin - cere, Thy con - science
 3 All praise to Thee, who safe hast kept And hast re -
 4 Lord, I my vows to Thee re - new; Dis - perse my



stage of du - ty run; Shake off dull sloth and
 as the noon - day clear; Think how the all - see - ing
 freshed me while I slept; Grant, Lord, when I from
 sins as morn - ing dew; Guard my first springs of



joy - ful rise To pay thy morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 God thy ways And all thy se - cret thoughts sur - veys.
 death shall wake, I may of end - less light par - take.
 thought and will And with Thy - self my spir - it fill.

5 Direct, control, suggest this day
 All I design or do or say
 That all my pow'rs with all their might
 In Thy sole glory may unite.

△ 6 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Him, all creatures here below;
 Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, alt.
 Tune: François H. Barthélémon, 1741-1808
 Text and tune: Public domain

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 ✠ give you peace.

C A - men.

Closing Hymn

#492 On Christ's Ascension I Now Build



1 On Christ's as - cen - sion I now build The hope of my as -
2 Since Christ re - turned to claim His throne, Great gifts for me ob -
3 O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Re - call - ing Your as -



cen - sion; This hope a - lone has al - ways stilled All doubt and
tain - ing, My heart will rest in Him a - lone, No oth - er
cen - sion, That I may serve You faith - ful - ly In thanks for



ap - pre - hen - sion; For where the Head is, there as well I
rest re - main - ing; For where my trea - sure went be - fore, There
my re - demp - tion; And then, when all my days will cease, Let



know His mem - bers are to dwell When Christ will come and call them.
all my thoughts will ev - er soar To still their deep - est yearn - ing.
me de - part in joy and peace In an - swer to my plead - ing.

Text: Josua Wegelin, 1604-40; tr. William M. Czamanske, 1873-1964, alt.

Tune: Etlich Cristlich liden, 1524, Wittenberg

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Tune: Public domain

IN HIS SERVICE

Preaching

Celebrant

Vicar

Fieldworker's

Deaconess

Head Elder

Elders on Duty

Kantor

Organist

Acolytes

Crucifer

Altar Guild Chairman

Ushers

Rev. Anthony Dodgers

Rev. Samuel Wirgau

Sem. Charles McLain

Sem. Brandon Streeks, Sem. Nolan Wolf

Wendy Boehm

Bruce Werling

Ted Schumm and Andrew Stoppenhagen

Richard Brinkley

Emilie Meyer

Volunteers

Jude Wirgau

Deann Oliver and Denise Schumm

Rory Geiger, Lane Harkless, Isaac Harkless

Mark Patrick, Darren Patrick, Cole Patrick