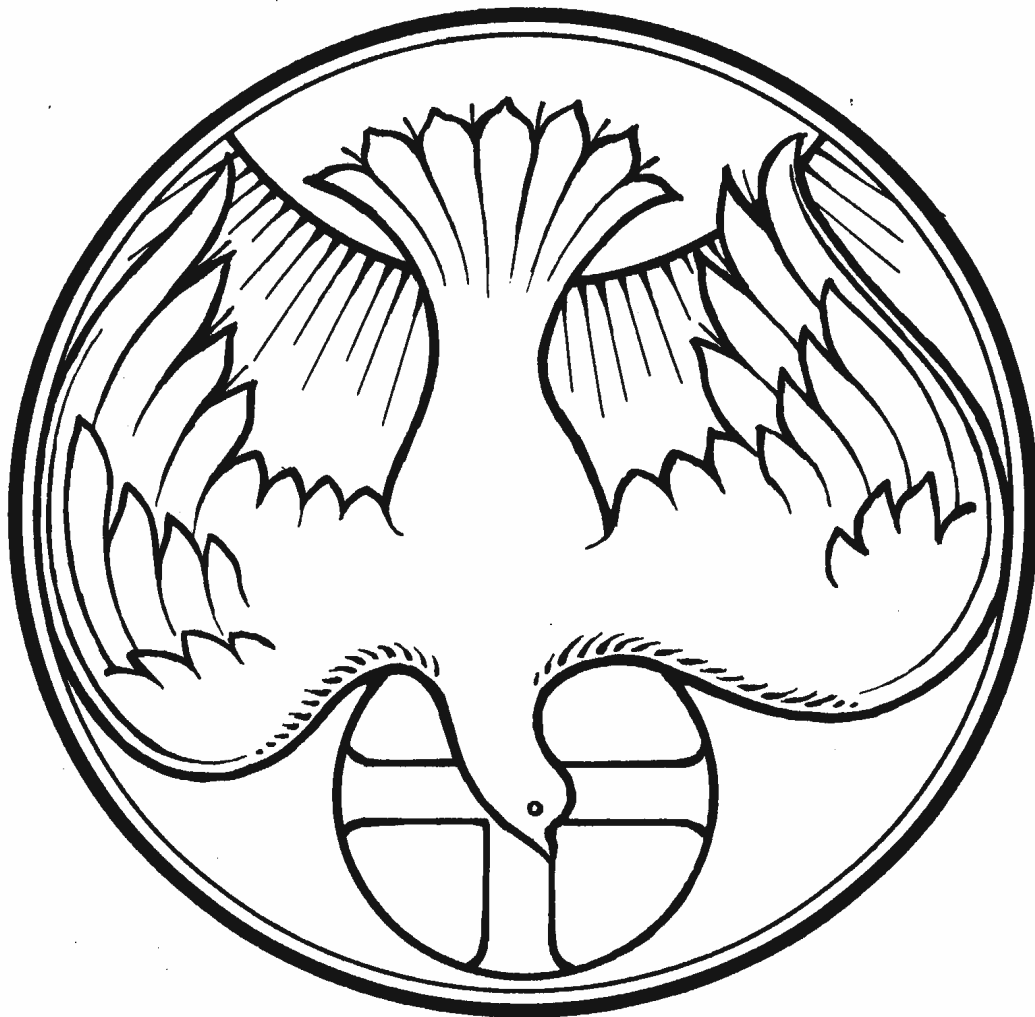


Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Divine Service One

May 3, 2026

Vol. 128-23

Processional Hymn

#790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
 3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,
 4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -
 5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your
 reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -
 made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly
 fend you; Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy shall
 dore Him! All that has life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His
 lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is
 fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has
 dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -
 prais - es be - fore Him! Let the A - men Sound from His



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 need - ful has been Sent by His gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.
 might - y can do As with His love He be - friends you.
 peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–80; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: Ander Theil Des Erneuernten Gesang-Buchs, 1665, Stralsund
 Text and 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)



Sing to the LORD a new song, Alle- | luia,*
for he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. Alle- | luia.

**His right hand and his | holy arm*
have worked salva- | tion for him.**

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.*
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.

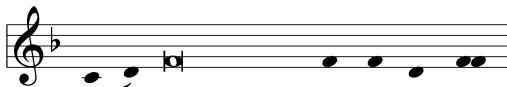
**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth,*
break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!**

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.*

Sing to the LORD a new song, Alle- | luia,*
for he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. Alle- | luia.

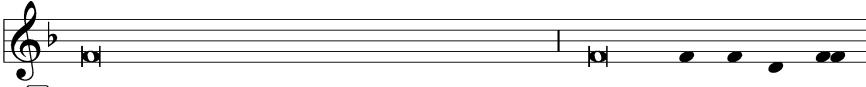
Kyrie



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



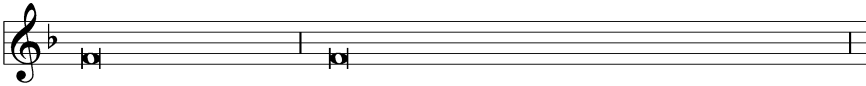
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



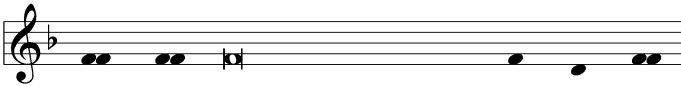
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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

C A - men.

This Is the Feast

Refrain

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

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

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

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

Final Refrain

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

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

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 12:1-6

¹You will say in that day:

“I will give thanks to you, O LORD,
for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away,
that you might comfort me.

²“Behold, God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation.”

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day:

“Give thanks to the LORD,
call upon his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples,
proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵“Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.

⁶Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

James 1:16–21

¹⁶Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. ¹⁹Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness that God requires. ²¹Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

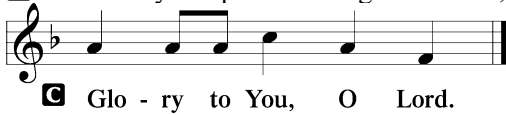


C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 16:5–15

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




C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

⁵[Jesus said:] “But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’” ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. ¹²“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.



spring - ing, And with u - nit - ed heart and voice And ho - ly
o'er me. Sin was my tor - ment night and day; In sin my
gain - ing; Free will a - gainst God's judg - ment fought, Dead to all
da - tion, And mind - ful of His mer - cies great, He planned for
rap - ture sing - ing, Pro - claim the won - ders God has done, How
moth - er bore me. But dai - ly deep - er still I fell; My
good re - main - ing. My fears in - creased till sheer de - spair Left
my sal - va - tion. He turned to me a fa - ther's heart; He
His right arm the vic - t'ry won. What price our ran - som cost Him!
life be - came a liv - ing hell, So firm - ly sin pos - sessed me.
on - ly death to be my share; The pangs of hell I suf - fered.
did not choose the eas - y part But gave His dear - est trea - sure.

5 God said to His beloved Son:
 "It's time to have compassion.
 Then go, bright jewel of My crown,
 And bring to all salvation.
 From sin and sorrow set them free;
 Slay bitter death for them that they
 May live with You forever."

6 The Son obeyed His Father's will,
 Was born of virgin mother;
 And God's good pleasure to fulfill,
 He came to be my brother.
 His royal pow'r disguised He bore;
 A servant's form, like mine, He wore
 To lead the devil captive.

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

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

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, Lillyan Laley, Jessica Schumm, Shelby Todd
Grace (Stoppenbagen) Mandeville, Kristin Gresley, Mariel Kleppinger*

We pray for our members shut-in:

Sandy Avey (Ossian Healthcare)

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 *Teacher Recognition*

We pray for all military personnel

Offering

Offertory

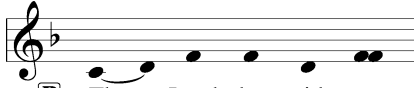
What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament pg. 160

Preface



P The Lord be with you.



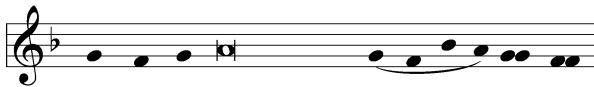
C And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

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

Sanctus



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

Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

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

- C** Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

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

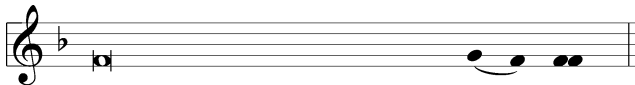
forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ 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.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei



C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the



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



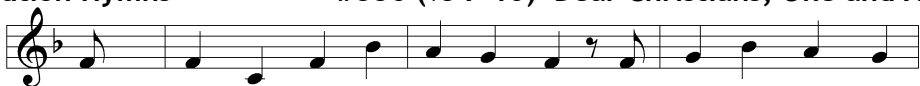
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution

Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper in our worship. Bethlehem Lutheran Church administers this Holy Supper in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive, along with the Bread and Wine, the very Body and

Blood of Jesus through which we receive the forgiveness of sins. Furthermore, the communicants as a body of believers make a confession of the unity of their faith. **Those desiring to receive the Sacrament with us, who are not communicant members of Bethlehem or of a sister congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, are asked to please speak with the Pastor before the service.**

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



7 To me He said: "Stay close to Me, I am your rock and
 8 "Though he will shed My pre-cious blood, Me of My life be -
 9 "Now to My Fa - ther I de - part, From earth to heav'n as -
 10 "What I on earth have done and taught Guide all your life and



cas - tle. Your ran - som I My - self will be; For you I
 reav - ing, All this I suf - fer for your good; Be stead - fast
 cend - ing, And, heav'n - ly wis - dom to im - part, The Ho - ly
 teach - ing; So shall the king - dom's work be wrought And hon - ored



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



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

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

#640 Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior



1 Thee we a - dore, O hid - den Sav - ior, Thee,
 2 In this me - mo - rial of Thy death, O Lord,
 3 Thou, like the pel - i - can to feed her brood,
 4 Foun - tain of good - ness, Je - sus, Lord and God:
 5 O Christ, whom now be - neath a veil we see,



Who in Thy Sac - ra - ment art pleased to be;
 Thou dost Thy bod - y and Thy blood af - ford;
 Didst pierce Thy - self to give us liv - ing food;
 Cleanse us, un - clean, with Thy most cleans - ing blood;
 May what we thirst for soon our por - tion be:



Both flesh and spir - it in Thy pres - ence fail,
 Oh, may our souls for - ev - er feed on Thee,
 Thy blood, O Lord, one drop has pow'r to win
 In - crease our faith and love, that we may know
 To gaze on Thee un - veiled and see Thy face,



Yet here Thy pres - ence we de - vout - ly hail.
 And Thou, O Christ, for - ev - er pre - cious be.
 For - give - ness for our world and all its sin.
 The hope and peace which from Thy pres - ence flow.
 The vi - sion of Thy glo - ry, and Thy grace. A - men.

Text: Thomas Aquinas, c. 1225-1274; (sts. 1-2, 4-5): tr. James R. Woodford, 1820-85, alt.; (sts. 2-3): tr. Stephen P. Starke, 1955
 Tune: Processionale, 1697, Paris, mode V
 Text (sts. 2-3): © 1998 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711
 Text (sts. 1, 4-5) and tune: Public domain

#811 Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices



1 Oh, that I had a thou - sand voic - es To praise my
 2 O all you pow'rs that He im - plant - ed, A - rise, keep
 3 You for - est leaves so green and ten - der That dance for
 4 All crea - tures that have breath and mo - tion, That throng the
 5 Cre - a - tor, hum - bly I im - plore You To lis - ten



God with thou - sand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord re -
 si - lence now no more; Put forth the strength that God has
 joy in sum - mer air; You mead - ow grass - es, bright and
 earth, the sea, the sky, Come, share with me my heart's de -
 to my earth - ly song Un - til that day when I a -



joic - es, Would then pro-claim in grate - ful songs To all, wher-
 grant - ed! Your no - blest work is to a - dore. O soul and
 slen - der, You flow'rs so fra - grant and so fair, You live to
 vo - tion, Help me to sing God's prais - es high. My ut - most
 dore You, To - geth - er with the an - gel thron'g And learn with



ev - er I might be, What great things God has done for me.
 bod - y, join to raise With heart - felt joy our Mak - er's praise.
 show God's praise a - lone. Join me to make His glo - ry known.
 pow'rs can nev - er quite De - clare the won - ders of His
 choirs of heav'n to sing E - ter - nal an - thems to my King.

Text: Johann Mentzer, 1658–1734; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
 Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758
 Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711
 Tune: Public domain

#816 From All That Dwell Below the Skies



1 From all that dwell be - low the skies Let the Cre - a - tor's
 2 E - ter - nal are Thy mer - cies, Lord; E - ter - nal truth at -
 Δ 3 All praise to God the Fa - ther be, All praise, e - ter - nal



praise a - rise; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 tends Thy Word. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Son, to Thee. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Let the Re - deem - er's name be sung Through ev - 'ry land by
 Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore Till suns shall rise and
 Whom with the Spir - it we a - dore For - ev - er and for -



ev - 'ry tongue. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 set no more. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



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

Text (sts. 1–2): Isaac Watts, 1674–1748; (st. 3): William W. How, 1823–97
Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623, Köln
Text and tune: Public domain

#813 Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng



1 Re - joice, O pil - grim throng! Re - joice, give
2 With voice as full and strong As o - cean's
3 With all the an - gel choirs, With all the
4 Yet on and on - ward still, With hymn and



thanks, and sing; Your fes - tal ban - ner
surg - ing praise, Send forth the stur - dy
saints on earth Pour out the strains of
chant and song, Through gate and porch and



wave on high, The cross of Christ your king.
hymns of old, The psalms of an - cient days.
joy and bliss, True rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
col - umned aisle The hal - lowed path - ways throng.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

5 Still lift your standard high,
Still march in firm array,
As pilgrims through the darkness wend
Till dawns the golden day. Refrain

6 At last the march shall end;
The wearied ones shall rest;
The pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest. Refrain

△ 7 Praise Him who reigns on high,
The Lord whom we adore:
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
One God forevermore. Refrain

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821–91, alt.
Tune: Arthur H. Messiter, 1834–1916
Text and tune: Public domain

Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have prepared 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.



G 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

#819 Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good



1 Sing praise to God, the high - est good, The au - thor of cre -
2 What God's al - might - y pow'r has made, In mer - cy He is
3 We sought the Lord in our dis - tress; O God, in mer - cy
4 He nev - er shall for - sake His flock, His cho - sen gen - er -
5 All who con - fess Christ's ho - ly name, Give God the praise and



a - tion, The God of love who un - der - stood
keep - ing. By morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade
hear us. Our Sav - ior saw our help - less - ness
a - tion; He is their ref - uge and their rock,
glo - ry. Let all who know His pow'r pro - claim



Our need for His sal - va - tion. With heal - ing balm our
His eye is nev - er sleep - ing. With - in the king - dom
And came with peace to cheer us. For this we thank and
Their peace and their sal - va - tion. As with a moth - er's
A - loud the won - drous sto - ry. Cast ev - 'ry i - dol



souls He fills And ev - 'ry faith - less mur - mur stills:
of His might All things are just and good and right:
praise the Lord, Who is by one and all a - dored:
ten - der hand, He leads His own, His cho - sen band:
from its throne, For God is God, and He a - lone:



To God all praise and glo - ry!
To God all praise and glo - ry!
To God all praise and glo - ry!
To God all praise and glo - ry!
To God all praise and glo - ry!

Text: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1640–90; (sts. 1–3, 5): tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, adapt.; (st. 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, adapt.
Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615
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!

Election results for Church Officers:

Vice Chairman: Dave Flesch

Board of Elders: Dan Springer, Brian Scheumann, Jeff Gresley

Board of Christian Education: Brandon Schumm, Jacob Meyer,
Aaron Anthony

Board of Trustees: Jay Werling, Gary Oliver, Todd Ottinger

Board of Finance: Dan Buchinger, Brian Bauermeister, Jay Louison

Installation of Officers will take place at a date to be announced.

IN HIS SERVICE

Preaching	Vicar Charles McLain
Celebrant	Rev. Samuel Wirgau
Fieldworkers	Sem. Brandon Streeks, Sem. Nolan Wolf
Deaconess	Wendy Boehm
Head Elder	Bruce Werling
Elders on Duty	Ted Schumm, Andrew Stoppenhagen
Kantor	Richard Brinkley
Choir	Bethlehem Handbell Choir
Acolytes	Hunter Householder and Matthew Rekeweg
Crucifer	Lucas Werling
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	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

TODAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service with Holy Communion
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Class and Sunday School
	11:30 a.m.	Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)
MONDAY	6:30 p.m.	Handbell Choir Practice
WEDNESDAY	10:00 a.m.	Chapel Service
	5:30 p.m.	Adult Catechesis Class
	7:00 p.m.	Spoken Divine Service
	7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Practice
SUNDAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service with Holy Communion
	NO	Adult Bible Class and Sunday School
	11:30 a.m.	Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)

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

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

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES IN MAY - *Please note the change in dates:* Ascension Eve Divine Service, Wednesday, May 13th at 7:00 p.m. Public Examination Service, Thursday May 14th at 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Sunday, May 17th at 9:00 a.m.

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

VICARAGE PLACEMENT -Sem. Brandon Streeks has been assigned to be Vicar at Zion Lutheran Church in Decatur. We thank Sem. Streeks for his service and pray God's blessing to him and his family.

We welcome Sem. Erik Preus, wife, Bethany, and six children: Madelyn (16), Levi (15), Adam (12), Ian (11), Anna (7) and Grace (5). Sem. Preus will be our new Vicar starting the first of July and installed on Sunday, July 12th.

PASTORAL PLACEMENT – Sem. Morgan Phillips was assigned to be Pastor in the South Dakota District -Dual parish St. John Lutheran Church | Wagner, SD and Trinity Lutheran Church Fairfax, SD. We pray God's blessing on him and his family.

THANK YOU - Praise the Lord Dad is home! He is doing great. He would like to thank everyone for all the prayers and cards. He is overwhelmed by how many people cared. We are so thankful for his church family. And thanks to you, Pastor, for being so dedicated to your visits and caring! From the family of Ralph Bauermeister

OUT OF THE OFFICE - I will be out of the church and school office until May 18th due to a needed surgery. Sarena and Emma Wirgau have graciously offered to help with answering phone calls and taking care of other tasks for me. Feel free to correspond by sending emails to bethlehemossiansec@gmail.com or contact Pastor Wirgau or Pastor Dodgers if immediate help is needed. Your thoughts and prayers are very much appreciated. Thank you

PAVILLION PROJECT – Church council is looking for a few volunteers to be on the aesthetic committee. This will be a short-term committee and will help in getting estimates on picnic tables and setting colors in place. If interested, please contact Neil Stoppenhagen.

WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM are invited to enjoy a time of fun and fellowship on Saturday May 9. Meet at the pavilion by Bluffton Hardee's at 9:00 am for a peaceful walk along the river greenway. At 10:00 we will head to Hughe's Bakery & Coffee Shop to enjoy delicious tea, coffee, and food. Please contact Lynae Laley to ask questions and sign up. 260-413-4891.

WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM - May 12 is our next Visual Faith Workshop from 6-8pm. We will explore how to pray using scripture and make a fun envelope booklet to store your scripture prayers and/or sermon notes. Sign up to reserve your spot! <https://blcossian.org/visual-faith-ministry/> This will be our last workshop until we start back up again in the fall.

MOTHER'S DAY CARNATIONS – Each year, Right to Life of NE Indiana recognizes the gift of life and the calling of mothers through beautiful flowers. This project is a wonderful way for our church to demonstrate its support for the pro-life mission. We invite all families to grab a beautiful carnation on Sunday, May 10th to honor Mother's Day. A suggested \$2.00 per flower donation is appreciated.

LWML Mite Boxes- Just a reminder that mite boxes can be found by the church bulletins in the church entrance. These mite boxes (for small offerings) are used to support mission outreach, church worker scholarships, and humanitarian aid projects. When a mite box is filled, it can be dropped off in the LWML slot in the church office. Thank you!

Siberian Lutheran Mission Society: Dr. Timothy Quill and Rev. Alexei Streltsov from the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society will be visiting and presenting on May 24. To help raise funds for this society, a board will be set up in the narthex with 100 envelopes. Each envelope is labeled with a number; participants are invited to take an envelope and donate the amount shown on it. Envelopes along with your donation can be placed in the church offering collection plate or in the church office. For more information about the mission, you can visit: <https://siberianlutheranmissions.org/>
(If all envelopes are taken, we will raise approximately \$5,000 for the mission.)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – The theme for this year's VBS is "Created in Christ". June 8-11 Registration forms and donation tags are available on the table in the hallway. For questions, please contact Deaconess Boehm. **VBS T-SHIRT ORDERS MUST BE IN BY MAY 27TH.**

FOOD DRIVE –collection of non-perishable food items for the Concordia Seminary and Northern Wells Food Pantries will continue for another couple of weeks. Collection boxes are located in the church foyer. Please keep your donations coming! Thank you

The DC Group is once again having a **METAL RECYCLING DRIVE – NOW** till the end of May, a dumpster will be available at Jay Werling's house (4126 E 800 N Ossian) for any metal to be recycled. Aluminum cans are also welcome. Proceeds are to help the next group of students attend a class trip to Washington DC.

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 currently have \$10,700 for that goal. 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!

SCRIP – Please be sure to check out our new scrip certificate order sheet and ordering dates posted on the bulletin board. Special orders are due May 17th. **For questions or for placing an order, please contact Jill Holtzclaw 260-301-1965 our current PTL representative.**

Offering April 26, 2026

Average weekly need \$14,000

Home Fund Env.	\$7,299.87
Synod	
Loose	9,414.52
Scholarship Fund	
Sunday School	
Improvement Fund	
Endowment Fund	500.00
Organ Fund	
Music Fund Mem.	20.00
Fish Fry	<u>5,420.00</u>
Total	\$22,654.39

Financial Report

Home Fund Balance \$11,804.34

Next week's bills due: \$15,000

Bills due two weeks: \$5,000

Savings Account Balance \$70,130.08

Borrowed from Savings: \$13,354.34

Operating Loan Balance \$30,000

Borrowed from Op Loan \$0.00

Church Attendance

Sunday 188/146

Wednesday 14/10

Bethlehem FISH FRY

A big thank you to everyone who came out to support this year's Fish Fry. Also, a huge thank you to all of our volunteers! Funds raised will benefit the Wells County Backpack program and the church Pavillion Project.

Next year's event will be held here at Bethlehem with date announced later.

The House of Daily Bread

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer following
The Fifth Sunday of Easter



Though Jesus has departed from us visibly to the right hand of the Father who sent Him, yet this is to our advantage. For Jesus—who is Lord over all creation, who intercedes for us before the Father, who is preparing a place for us in heaven—has sent the Helper, the Spirit of Truth (John 16:5–15). “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights” through Jesus Christ (James 1:17). The Holy Spirit helps us by taking what is Christ’s and declaring it to us. In the Word of truth, the Spirit works repentance and delivers to us the forgiveness of sins, the righteousness of Christ, and victory over the devil. For the ruler of this world is judged and defeated by the cross. Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, we have been brought forth to new life in Him who is the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. Confident of our resurrection with Christ we confess, “Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid” (Is. 12:2).

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: "Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice" LSB 556

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

The Catechism:

Who receives this sacrament worthily?

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

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

Psalm Ps 66:1-8 and/or the appointed daily Psalms listen below.

Daily Psalm	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
A.M.	51	54, 56	59	60, 61	65	66	68
P.M.	52, 53	55	57, 58	62	63, 64	67, 70	69

Daily Bible Reading

Mon.	Numbers 11:4-34 - The People Crave Meat Leviticus 21:1-24
Tues.	John 6:1-21 - The Feeding of the Five Thousand Leviticus 23:1-22
Wed.	John 6:22-44 - Jesus Is the Bread from Heaven Leviticus 23:23-44
Thu.	John 6:47-69 - Jesus Is Rejected by His Own Leviticus 24:1-23
Fri.	1 Corinthians 11:23-30 - Teaching on the Lord's Supper Leviticus 26:1-20
Sat.	<i>Look ahead to Sunday's Readings</i>

Prayers

Collect of the Day

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; 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: Heidi, Rev. Raymond and Abigail, Ralph, Donna, Joyce, Cameron, James, Jenny, Dan, Grace, Hazel, Brandon, Sandra; **Expectant mothers:** Reese, Lillyan, Jessica, Shelby, Grace; Kristin, Mariel; **Homebound:** Ruth, Marilyn, Marilyn, Donald, Norwin and Martha, and Sandy.

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 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Old Testament: Numbers 21:4-9 Epistle: 1 Timothy 2:1-6;

Gospel: John 16:23-33; Hymns: 633; 766; 641; 724; 773; 668; 895; 549