

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17, 2026



Bethlehem

LUTHERAN CHURCH

100th Anniversary
1926 - 2026

Proclaiming Christ. Nurturing Faith. Restoring Hope.

Welcome to Worship

We're so glad you're here. For a century, Bethlehem has gathered God's people around His gifts. Rooted in the historic liturgy and the teachings of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, worship here has always centered on what God does for us. We gather around His Word and His Sacraments, where Jesus Himself is present—speaking forgiveness, sustaining life, and giving hope. Worship is not first about what we bring, but about how God serves us, and how we respond with praise, prayer, and thanksgiving.

For one hundred years, this has been our shared calling: Proclaiming Christ. Nurturing Faith. Restoring Hope. Generation after generation, God has been at work here—gathering His people, forming them through His Word and gifts, and sending them into the world. And He is not finished yet. As a Gospel presence in our neighborhood, we trust that the same faithful God who carried us through the past is shaping what is to come. Whether this is your first visit or your spiritual home, you belong here. May this time of worship nurture your faith, fill you with Christ's hope, and send you out ready to proclaim His love in word and deed.

REGARDING THE LORD'S SUPPER

At Bethlehem, we believe that in the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us more than a symbol—He gives us Himself. In, with, and under the bread and wine, we receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, the strengthening of faith, and the unity of His people. This is how Christ continues to proclaim His saving work and nurture our faith today.

As we prepare to receive this gift, we follow the Scriptures and the Small Catechism in examining ourselves: Do I believe I am a sinner in need of God's grace? Do I trust in Jesus as my Savior? Do I believe that Christ is truly present in this meal? Do I desire to turn from sin and live in faith and love? Whoever answers yes to these is truly worthy and well prepared.

Bethlehem is a congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and we ask that all who commune share our confession of faith. If you are not yet instructed in this teaching or have questions, we warmly invite you to come forward for a blessing—simply cross your arms over your chest—or speak with our pastor after the service. We are glad you're here, and we would love to walk with you as we grow in Christ together.

***Children's Activity bags are available in the Narthex.
Please remember to return them to the rack after the service.***

+ PREPARATION +

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME / RINGING OF THE BELLS

HYMN

LSB #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!

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. 110001608

Tune: Public domain

(Stand)

INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

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

Congregation Amen.

Pastor Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Congregation He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor O LORD, I call upon You; hasten to me!

Congregation Give ear to my voice when I call to You!

Pastor Let my prayer be counted as incense before You,

Congregation and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor Blessed Lord God, King of the universe, You rule and reign over all things.

Congregation And yet, we arrogantly elevate ourselves above others and above You.

Pastor You sent Your Son, Jesus, as a model of humility, as a servant of all.

Congregation And yet, we neglect the needs of others and prioritize our interests above Yours.

Pastor Jesus became human like us in all respects.

Congregation And yet, we refuse to see others' struggles, withholding our affection and sympathy.

Pastor Christ offered Himself as our substitute, giving His very life for us.

Congregation And yet, we stubbornly and selfishly hoard our gifts from others and from You.

Pastor Now exalted above all things, it is at the name of Jesus that every knee should bow.

Congregation And yet, it's our heart's sinful condition to seek its own glory.

Pause for silent reflection

Pastor We confess our sins:

Congregation Forgive our sins, O Lord. Make our ambitions model those of our Savior, Jesus, that our words and deeds might confess that He is Lord, to the glory of Your name. Amen.

Pastor Our Lord Jesus Christ, having all authority in heaven and on earth, has given Himself for you. Bearing the marks of His sacrifice in His own body, He has made a place for you in eternal glory, declaring your sins forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation Amen.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

1 To God be the glo - ry, great things he has done;
so loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,
and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "To God Be the Glory". It consists of six systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "1 To God be the glo - ry, great things he has done; so loved he the world that he gave us his Son, who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin, and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in." The score is presented in a clean, black-and-white format.

Refrain



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the peo - ple re - joice!



Oh, come to the Fa - ther, through Je - sus the Son,



and give him the glo - ry, great things he has done.



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915
Music: To God Be the Glory, William H. Doane, 1832-1915

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation And with thy spirit.

Pastor 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.

Congregation Amen.

(Sit)

MUSICAL OFFERING

Handbells

“All Creatures of Our God and King” (arr. By Linda R. Lamb)

FIRST 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. ⁸But 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.”

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Ephesians 1:15–23

¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation **Thanks be to God.**

(Stand)

ALLELUIA



Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:44–53

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.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and 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.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

(Sit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB #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 and tune: Public domain

SERMON

“Not Abandoned”

(Stand)

APOSTLES' CREED

LSB pg.192

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
 And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting.
 Amen.

(Sit)

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

(Guest Oboeust Abbey Pfenning)

“Meditation on Prelude No. 1”

(by J.S. Bach, Arranged by Martha Lynn Thompson.)

(Stand)

OFFERTORY

LSB pg. 192

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

(Sit)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

(If you are visiting today or have questions about Holy Communion, please see our statement on the first page of the bulletin.)

(Stand)

PREFACE

LSB pg. 194

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation And with thy spirit.

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

Congregation We lift them up unto the Lord.

Pastor Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

Congregation It is meet and right so to do.

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS

LSB pg. 195



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

LSB pg. 196

**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

LSB pg. 197

PAX DOMINI

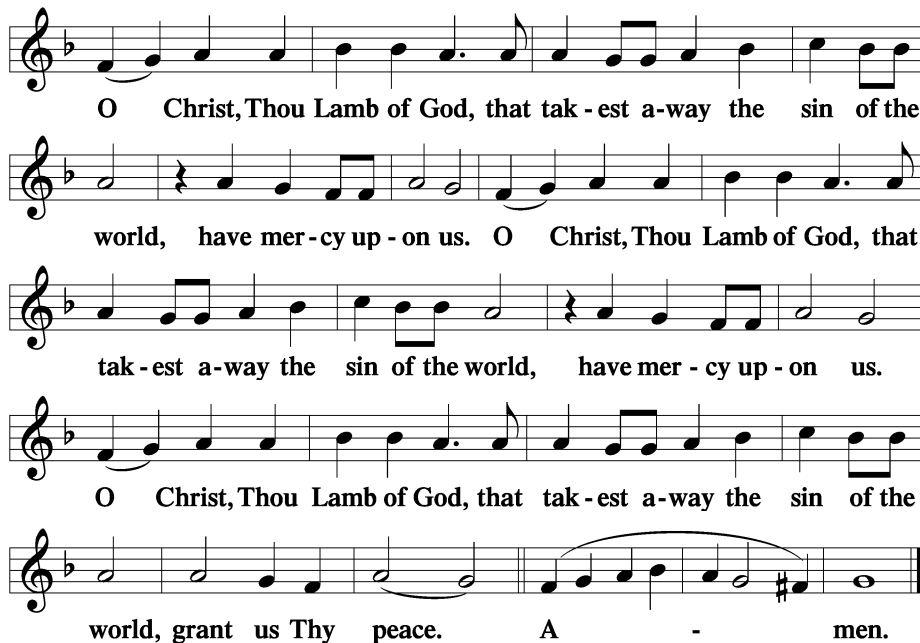
LSB pg. 197

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB pg. 198



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.

(Sit)

DISTRIBUTION

Prayerful Meditation

Non-alcoholic options are available in the center ring of the communion tray.

(Stand)

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB pg. 199



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. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

THANKSGIVING

Pastor O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
Congregation and His mercy endureth forever.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

BENEDICTION

Pastor The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.
Congregation Amen.

(Sit)

HYMN

LSB #877

GOD, WHO MADE THE EARTH AND HEAVEN



1 God, who made the earth and heav - en, Dark - ness and light:
2 And when morn a - gain shall call us To run life's way,
3 Guard us wak - ing, guard us sleep - ing, And when we die,
△ 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, throned in heav - en, All - ho - ly Son,



You the day for work have giv - en, For rest the night. May Your
May we still, what - e'er be - fall us, Your will o - bey. From the
May we in Your might - y keep - ing All peace - ful lie. When the
Ho - ly Spir - it, free - ly giv - en, Blest Three in One: Grant us



an - gel guards de - fend us, Slum - ber sweet Your mer - cy send us,
pow'r of e - vil hide us, In the nar - row path - way guide us,
last dread call shall wake us, Then, O Lord, do not for - sake us,
grace, we now im - plore You, Till we lay our crowns be - fore You



Ho - ly dreams and hopes at - tend us All through the night.
Nev - er be Your smile de - nied us All through the day.
But to reign in glo - ry take us With You on high.
And in wor - thier strains a - dore You While a - ges run.

MINISTRY TEAM

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Lutheran South Unity School.....lsusfw.org.....744-0459

Concordia Lutheran High School....clhscadets.com.....483-1102

COUNSELING NEEDS

Please talk to Pastor Ben Ahlersmeyer for a referral for counseling to Cross Connections.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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www.bethlehemlcms.org

Church Office, (260) 744-3228 Fax Number, (260) 744-3229

Office Hours: 10:00am – 4:00pm (Monday – Friday)

Our Worship Schedule:

Saturday Afternoon Worship Service at 4:00pm

Sunday Morning Worship Service at 9:00am

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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