

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
Saturday, April 11 and Sunday, April 12, 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

(Stand)

HYMN

LSB #471 (sts. 1-4)

O SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Refrain



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



1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King,
2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day,
3 An an - gel clad in white they see,
4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear;



Whom heav'n - ly hosts in glo - ry sing, To - day the
The faith - ful wom - en went their way To seek the
Who sits and speaks un - to the three, "Your Lord will
A - mong them came their mas - ter dear And said, "My

The Refrain is repeated after st. 9.



grave has lost its sting! Al - le - lu - ia!
tomb where Je - sus lay. Al - le - lu - ia!
go to Gal - i - lee." Al - le - lu - ia!
peace be with you here." Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.

Tune: French, 15th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

- Pastor In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Congregation **Amen.**
- Pastor Alleluia! We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.
Congregation **Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia! Alleluia!**
- Pastor I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your name forever and ever.
Congregation **On the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works, I will meditate, and I will declare Your greatness.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- Pastor Let us come before God in true repentance, seeking forgiveness and amendment of our lives as we follow the Lord.
Congregation **“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high?**
- Pastor “Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? “Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Congregation **“Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”**
- Pastor He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?
Congregation **Almighty God, we confess that we are indeed sinful. By our very nature we are sinful. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Have mercy on us because of Jesus, our Savior. Grant that, by the working of the Holy Spirit, we may live out our lives on earth faithfully until that time when we, by His grace, join the company of heaven forever.**

Pastor

God has promised forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him for grace. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and at His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May our gracious God, lead you to greater faith and obedience, and bring you to live with Him eternally in His glory, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Congregation

Amen.

HYMN

TFBF #264 (v.1)

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

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 B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. 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 ends with a double bar line.

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.

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, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation Amen.

(Sit)

FIRST READING

Acts 5:29-42

²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

³³When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing.

³⁷After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, ⁴⁰and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴²And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Peter 1:3–9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

John 20:19–31

¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

(Sit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB #471 (sts. 5-8)

O SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE KING



5 When Thom - as first the tid - ings heard
 6 “My pierc - ed side, O Thom - as, see,
 7 No long - er Thom - as then de - nied;
 8 How blest are they who have not seen



That they had seen the ris - en Lord, He doubt - ed
 And look up - on My hands, My feet; Not faith - less
 He saw the feet, the hands, the side; “You are my
 And yet whose faith has con - stant been, For they e -

The Refrain is repeated after st. 9.



the dis - ci - ples’ word. Al - le - lu - ia!
 but be - liev - ing be.” Al - le - lu - ia!
 Lord and God!” he cried. Al - le - lu - ia!
 ter - nal life shall win. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: French, 15th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

“The Risen Lord’s Answer to Our Doubts”

(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

(Stand)

OFFERTORY

LSB pg. 192

C 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.

(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

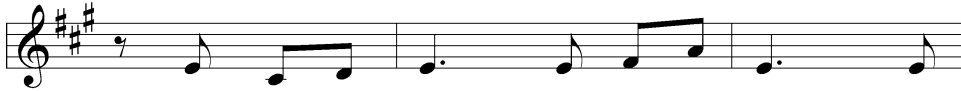
Pastor O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
Congregation and His mercy endureth forever.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

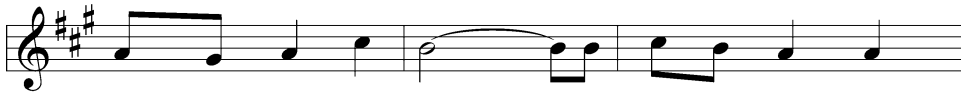
BENEDICTION

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.

WE WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT



1 We walk by faith and not by sight, No
2 We may not touch His hands and side, Nor
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; And
4 For You, O res - ur - rect - ed Lord, Are
5 Lord, when our life of faith is done, In



gra - cious words we hear From Him who spoke as
fol - low where He trod; But in His prom - ise
may our faith a - bound To call on You when
found in means di - vine: Be - neath the wa - ter
realms of clear - er light We may be - hold You



none e'er spoke, But we be - lieve Him near.
we re - joice And cry "My Lord and God!"
You are near And seek where You are found.
and the Word, Be - neath the bread and wine.
as You are, With full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–71, alt.

Tune: Marty Haugen, 1950

Text: Public domain

Tune: © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001608

MINISTRY TEAM

The Reverend Ben Ahlersmeyer

Office 744-3228 ext. 302 Cell (989) 907-9481

Email pastorben@bethlehemlcms.com

Jon Dize, Fieldworker Email Jonathan.dize@ctsfw.edu

Rhonda Cheng, Office Manager

Office 744-3228 ext. 300 Email bethfw@yahoo.com

Sharon Shediack, Accounting Manager

Office 744-3228 ext. 307 Email bethfwfin@gmail.com

Kasey Needham Hapner, Music Director

Email kaseyneedham92@gmail.com.

Janelle Deal, Organist

Email janelle.buford@my.wheaton.edu.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Greg Shediack

Vice President – John Stafford

Secretary – Blake Sebring

Treasurer – Brian Bates

At Large Members:

Dan Bates

John Bates

Rachelle Dance

David Schult

SCHOOLS

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

3705 South Anthony Boulevard, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46806-4329

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

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.