

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
Saturday, April 18 and Sunday, April 19, 2026



**Bethlehem**

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LUTHERAN CHURCH

**100<sup>th</sup> 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 #477

#### ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! HEARTS TO HEAVEN



1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heav'n and voic - es raise:  
2 Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:  
△ 3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high:



Sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;  
See the an-cient pow'rs of e - vil In con - fu - sion and re-treat;  
Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior Who has gained the vic - to - ry;



He who on the cross a vic-tim For the world's sal - va-tion bled—  
Once He died, and once was bur-ied: Now He lives for - ev - er - more,  
Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir-it, Fount of love and sanc-ti - ty!



Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead.  
Je - sus Christ, the world's Re - deem - er, Whom we wor-ship and a - dore.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia To the tri - une Maj - es - ty!

## INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation Amen.**

Pastor Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD!

**Congregation Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!**

Pastor From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!

**Congregation The LORD is high above all nations, and His glory above the heavens!**

Pastor I must perform my vows to You, O God; I will render thank offerings to You.

**Congregation For You have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor Let us come before God in true repentance, seeking His mercy and forgiveness.

O God our Father, we admit and confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought and in word and in deed.

**Congregation Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor We confess that we have not lived as Your followers but have sought to go our own ways in directions that have not brought glory to You or blessing to others.

**Congregation Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor We confess that Your love has not reached others through us in every situation, admitting with guilt that there have been times in which we have been loveless, thoughtless, and judgmental toward others, unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.

**Congregation Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor We confess that Your will has not been our priority at all times and that we have not always been defenders of the weak and helpless in our circle of family, neighbors, and friends, and beyond.

**Congregation Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor We confess that we have not used every opportunity given to us to witness to the resurrection faith that is ours and have at times been slow to speak of the hope that is ours in Christ.

**Congregation Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation Amen.**

Pastor May the God of peace sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.

**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 ends with a double bar line.

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. O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Congregation Amen.**

*(Sit)*

### FIRST READING

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

<sup>14</sup>Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, . . .

<sup>36</sup>Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” <sup>38</sup>And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

<sup>40</sup>And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” <sup>41</sup>So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

1 Peter 1:17–25

<sup>17</sup>If you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, <sup>18</sup>knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. <sup>20</sup>He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, <sup>21</sup>who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

<sup>22</sup>Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, <sup>23</sup>since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; <sup>24</sup>for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, <sup>25</sup>but the word of the Lord remains forever."

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

## ALLELUIA



## HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:13–35

<sup>13</sup>That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. <sup>16</sup>But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, <sup>23</sup>and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive.

<sup>24</sup>Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” <sup>25</sup>And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup>And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup>So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, <sup>29</sup>but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” <sup>33</sup>And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, <sup>34</sup>saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” <sup>35</sup>Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

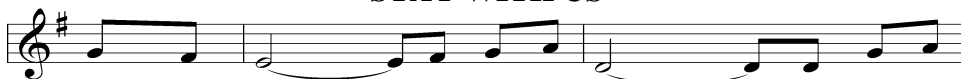
Congregation Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

(Sit)

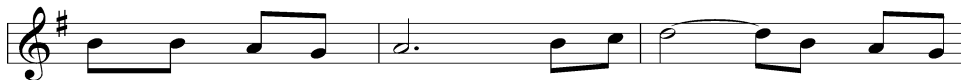
**HYMN OF THE DAY**

LSB #879

**STAY WITH US**



1 Stay with us,	till night has come:	Our praise to
2 Walk with us,	our spir - its sigh:	Hear when our
3 Walk with us,	the road will bend:	Make all our
4 Talk with us,	till we be - hold	A joy - ful
5 Stay with us,	till day is done:	No tears nor



You this day be sung.	Bless our bread,	O - pen our
wea - ry spir - its cry,	Feel a - gain	Our loss, our
weep - ing, wail - ing end.	Wipe our tears,	For - give our
life You will un - fold:	Heal our eyes,	To see the
dark shall dim the sun.	Cheer the heart,	Your grace im -



eyes:	Je - sus, be our great	sur - prise.
pain:	Je - sus, take us to	Your side.
fears:	Je - sus, lift the heav - y	cross.
prize:	Je - sus, take us to	the light.
part:	Je - sus, bring e - ter - nal	life.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926–2009

Tune: Walter L. Pelz, 1926

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**SERMON**

*“Standing in the Story”*

*(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

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

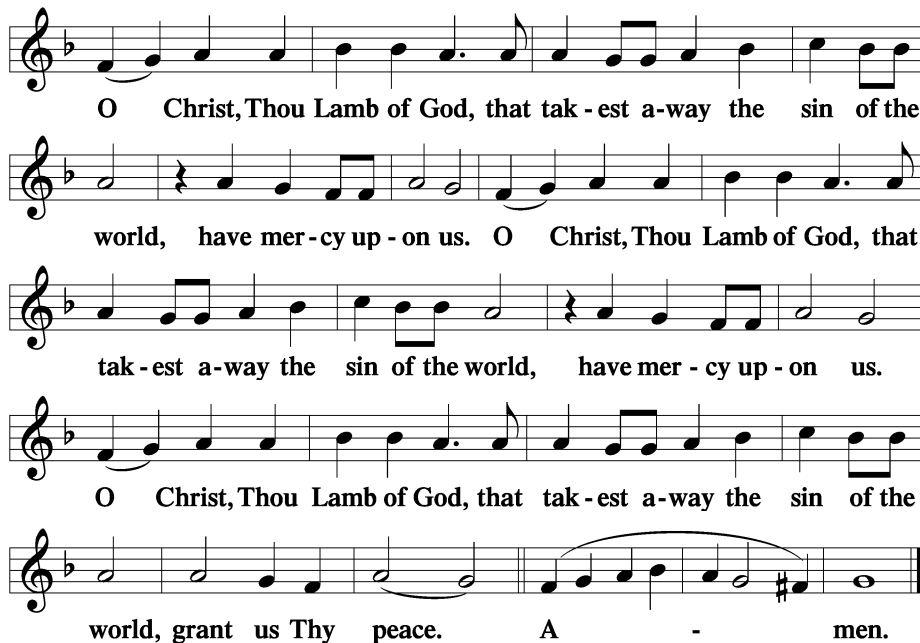
LSB pg. 197

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.

### THINE THE AMEN, THINE THE PRAISE



1 Thine the a - men Thine the praise Al - le -  
2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly Thine the  
3 Thine the tru - ly Thine the yes Thine the  
4 Thine the king - dom Thine the prize Thine the  
5 Thine the glo - ry in the night No more



lu - ias an - gels raise Thine the ev - er - last - ing head  
prom - ise let there be Thine the vi - sion Thine the tree  
ta - ble we the guest Thine the mer - cy all from Thee  
won - der full sur - prise Thine the ban - quet then the praise  
dy - ing on - ly light Thine the riv - er Thine the tree



Thine the break - ing of the bread Thine the glo - ry Thine the  
All the earth on bend - ed knee Gone the nail - ing gone the  
Thine the glo - ry yet to be Then the ring - ing and the  
Then the jus - tice of Thy ways Thine the glo - ry Thine the  
Then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly Then the ho - ly ho - ly



sto - ry Thine the har - vest then the cup Thine the  
rail - ing Gone the plead - ing gone the cry Gone the  
sing - ing Then the end of all the war Thine the  
sto - ry Then the wel - come to the least Then the  
ho - ly Cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee Thine the



vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.  
sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.  
liv - ing Thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.  
won - der all in - creas - ing at Thy feast at Thy feast.  
splen - dor Thine the bright - ness on - ly Thee on - ly Thee.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926–2009

Tune: Carl F. Schalk, 1929–2021

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## MINISTRY TEAM

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### Kasey Needham Hapner, Music Director

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### Janelle Deal, Organist

Email ..... [janelle.buford@my.wheaton.edu](mailto: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](http://lsusfw.org).....744-0459**

**Concordia Lutheran High School....[clhscadets.com](http://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](http://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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