

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday, April 26, 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

ONE GENERATION WILL CALL TO THE NEXT

1. We will ex - tol you, God and King, and bless your
2. Great is the Lord! In all his ways he's great - ly
3. We con - tem - plate the splen - dor of the world your
4. Now may your name be sung in ev' - ry tongue in

6
ho - ly name. Day af - ter day we'll sing your
to be praised. Were we to search for end - less
hand has made. Far great - er still the maj - es -
ev' - ry - place. Sing - ing the fame of your great

12
praise, for - ev - er and for - ev - er.
days, his great - ness none could fath - er.
ty we see in the Cre - a - tor!
love in ev' - ry gen - er - a - tion.

17
One gen - er - a - tion will call to the next: "Our God is

22
good and his hand is strong!" All of the world sings his

27
mar - vel - ous acts and our voice will join with

32
theirs in the song.

(Stand)

INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

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

Congregation Amen.

Pastor Preserve me, O God, for in You I take refuge.

Congregation I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from You."

Pastor The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; You hold my lot.

Congregation The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

Pastor Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.

Congregation You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor LORD, You were favorable to Your land;

Congregation You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

Pastor You forgave the iniquity of Your people;

Congregation You covered all their sin.

Pastor Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,

Congregation and grant us Your salvation.

Pastor Let us then confess our sins unto our gracious Lord.

Congregation Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, mighty Judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We have not lived up to our calling as Your peaceable people. We have not extended ourselves to bring Your peace in our homes, our neighborhoods, and our communities. We have not done the good You demand and have not been the people You would have us be. We do repent and are truly sorry for our sins in thought, word, and deed. Have mercy on us, merciful Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son. Forgive us all that needs Your forgiving grace and with the power of the Holy Spirit direct us to serve You faithfully all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Pastor God has promised His merciful forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him in confession. He will revive them and speak peace to His people. In His stead and by His command, therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation Amen.

Pastor God keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit, lead you in ways of peace and joy, and finally bring you to live with Him forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Congregation Amen.

HYMN

TFBF #264 (v.1)

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 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines. 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. Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation Amen.

(Sit)

FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Peter 2:19–25

¹⁹This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

ALLELUIA

LSB pg. 190



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

HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:1–10

¹[Jesus said:] “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Congregation Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

(Sit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

MY SHEPHERD WILL SUPPLY MY NEED

1 My Shep-herd, you sup-ply my need; most ho-ly
2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence
3 The sure pro-vi-sions of my God at-tend me

is your name. In pas-tures fresh you make me feed,
is my stay; one word of your sup-port-ing breath
all my days; oh, may your house be my a-bode

be-side the liv-ing stream. You bring my wan-d'ring
drives all my fears a-way. Your hand, in sight of
and all my work be praise. Here would I find a

spir-it back when I for-sake your ways, and lead me,
all my foes, does still my ta-ble spread; my cup with
set-tled rest, while oth-ers go and come; no more a

for your mer-cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
bless-ings o-ver-flows, your oil a-noints my head.
strang-er or a guest, but like a child at home.

The musical score consists of five systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are placed between the staves. The music is in a common time signature and features a simple, hymn-like melody. The lyrics are arranged in three columns, with the first column containing the first line of the hymn, the second column containing the second line, and the third column containing the third line. The lyrics are arranged in three columns, with the first column containing the first line of the hymn, the second column containing the second line, and the third column containing the third line.

SERMON

(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

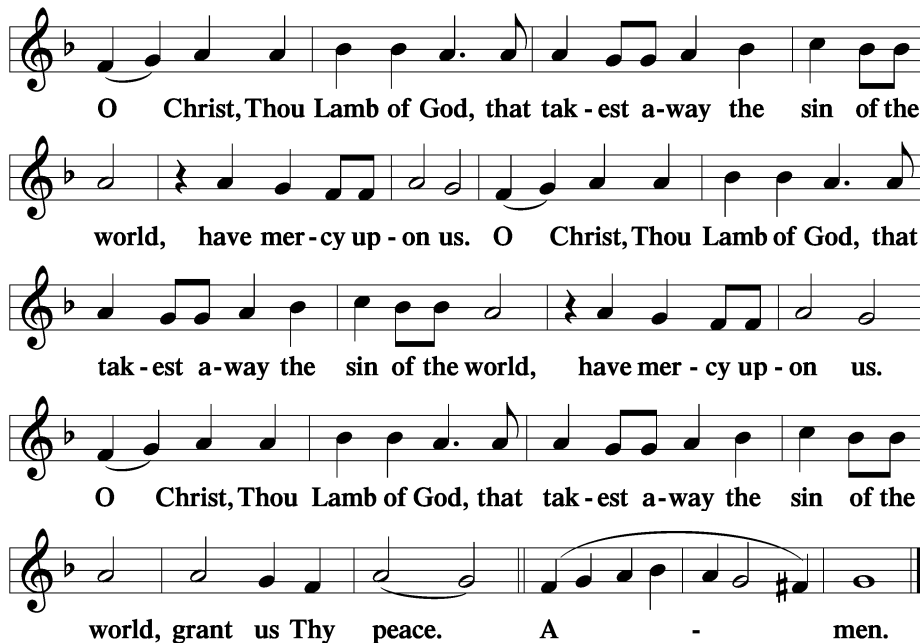
LSB pg. 197

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.

O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream Dies at the op'ning day.

6

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!

MINISTRY TEAM

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Greg Shediack

Vice President – John Stafford

Secretary – Blake Sebring

Treasurer – Brian Bates

At Large Members:

Dan Bates

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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

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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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