

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday, May 10, and Sunday, May 11, 2025



Bethlehem

LUTHERAN CHURCH

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are so glad you're here! Bethlehem is a caring community of believers committed to being a birthplace of hope in southeast Fort Wayne. We are a congregation of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, where Christ's sacrificial love shapes who we are and how we serve.

Our worship centers on God's gifts to us in His Word and Sacraments. Here, Jesus meets us through His promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and we respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. Whether this is your first time worshiping with us or your spiritual home, you are part of our family today.

Thank you for joining us as we rest in God's grace and grow in His love. May you be refreshed by the beauty of Christ's sacrifice and sent out to reflect His light in the world!

HOLY COMMUNION EXAMINATION

In the Bible the Apostle Paul wrote, "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup." (I Corinthians 11:28) In order to examine yourself before attending the Lord's Supper, ask yourself the following questions:

Do I believe that I am a sinner, and am I sorry for my sins?
(Proverbs 28:13; Romans 3:23; I John 1:8-9)

Do I believe that Jesus Christ by His death offers me forgiveness for all my sins?
(Romans 5:8; Colossians 2:13; Hebrews 9:28; I John 1:7)

Do I believe that I receive the body and blood of Christ in and with the bread and wine (not merely symbolically present)?
(Matthew 26:26-28; I Cor. 10:16; I Cor. 11:24-25)

Do I desire to turn from my sinful ways and live a God-pleasing life?
(Isaiah 1:16; John 8:11; Romans 6:12)

If you are unable to answer "yes" to these questions or believe further instruction is needed, please talk to a pastor or an elder before communing as participating without a proper understanding of Holy Communion can be spiritually harmful (I Corinthians 11:27-29). If you can answer "yes" to these questions, then come with a repentant heart and join us in the reception of the Lord's Supper. If not, adults and children who have not yet taken part in communion instruction classes are invited to come forward for a blessing and are asked to keep their arms folded over their chest during the distribution.

***(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

OPENING HYMN

LSB #690

HOPE OF THE WORLD



1 Hope of the world, Thou Christ of great com - pas - sion;
2 Hope of the world, God's gift from high - est heav - en,
3 Hope of the world, a - foot on dust - y high - ways,
4 Hope of the world, who by Thy cross didst save us
5 Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death vic - to - rious,



Speak to our fear - ful hearts by con - flict rent.
Bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life,
Show - ing to wan - d'ring souls the path of light,
From death and dark de - spair, from sin and guilt,
Who by this sign didst con - quer grief and pain,



Save us, Thy peo - ple, from con - sum - ing pas - sion,
Still let Thy Spir - it un - to us be giv - en
Walk Thou be - side us lest the tempt - ing by - ways
We ren - der back the love Thy mer - cy gave us;
We would be faith - ful to Thy Gos - pel glo - rious.



Who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.
To heal earth's wounds and end our bit - ter strife.
Lure us a - way from Thee to end - less night.
Take Thou our lives and use them as Thou wilt.
Thou art our Lord! Thou dost for - ev - er reign!

(Stand)

INVOCATION

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

Congregation Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor All we like sheep have gone astray;

Congregation we have turned every one to his own way;

Pastor and the Lord has laid on Jesus the iniquity of us all. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross

Congregation that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

(Silence for reflection and examination.)

Pastor Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

Congregation 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.

Pastor 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.

Congregation Amen.

Pastor He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

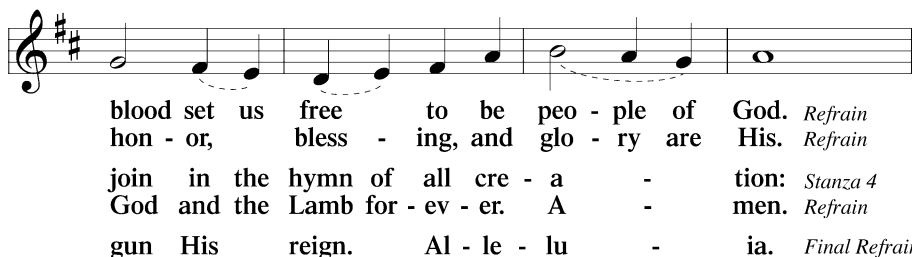
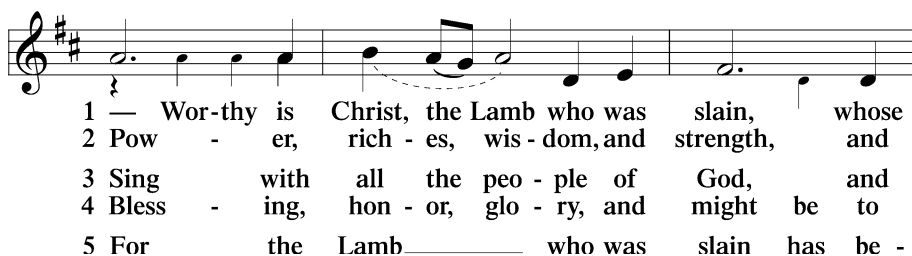
Congregation Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

HYMN OF PRAISE

LSB pg. 154

THIS IS THE FEAST



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation And also with you.

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 20:17–35

¹⁷Now from Miletus [Paul] sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸And when they came to him, he said to them:

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²²And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. ²⁴But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. ²⁶Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, ²⁷for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

²⁸Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

²⁹I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. ³²And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me.

³⁵In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Revelation 7:9–17

⁹After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵“Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB pg. 156

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.

GOSPEL

John 10:22-30

²²At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” ²⁵Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰I and the Father are one.”

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.

(Sit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB #709

THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul He lead - eth And, where the ver - dant
love He sought me And on His shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, Thy rod and staff my



I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid And home re - joic - ing brought me.
com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever!

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

“Nurturing Faith”

(Stand)

NICENE CREED

LSB pg 158

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;**

**who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

(Sit)

OFFERING

ANTHEM

COME JUST AS YOU ARE

Choir

(Stand)

OFFERTORY

LSB pg 159



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.

(Sit)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

LSB pg. 160

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation **And also with you.**

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

Congregation **We lift them to the Lord.**

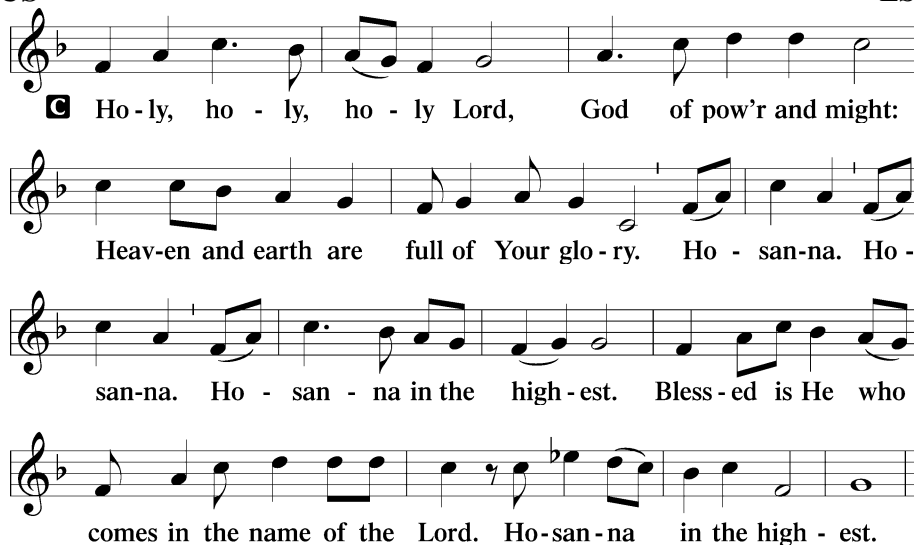
Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS

LSB pg. 161



G 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

LORD'S PRAYER

LSB pg. 162

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

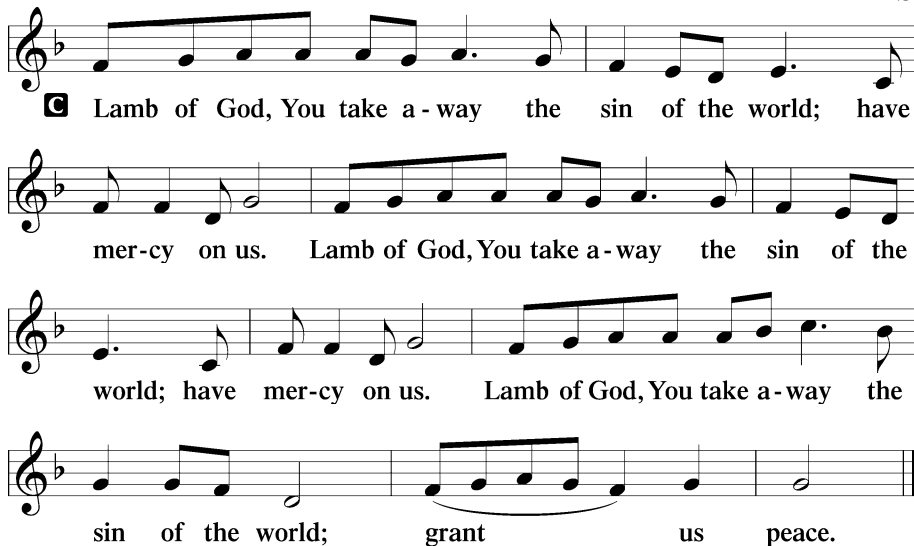
LSB pg. 163

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

LSB pg. 163



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.

(Sit)

DISTRIBUTION

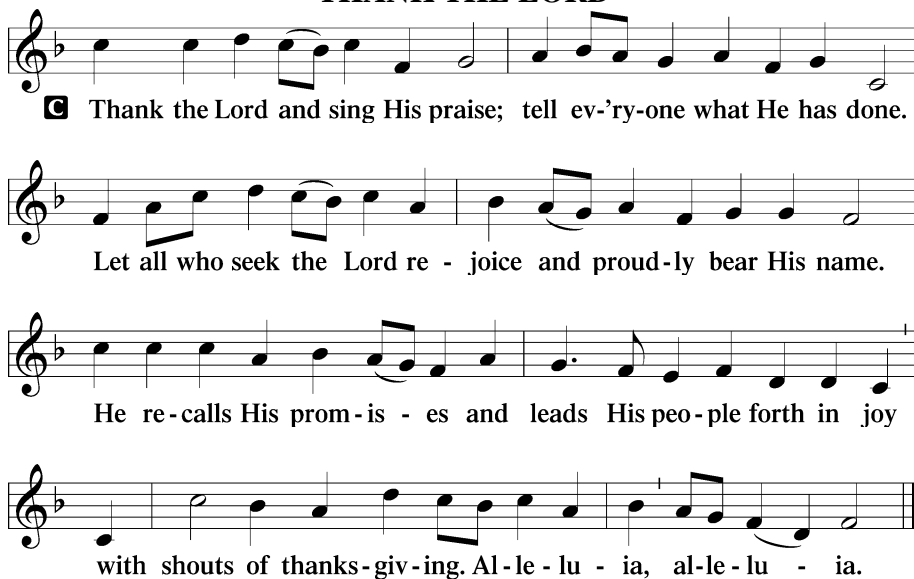
PRAYERFUL MEDITATION

(Stand)

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

LSB pg. 164

THANK THE LORD



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'-ry-one what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.
He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

BENEDICTION

LSB pg. 166

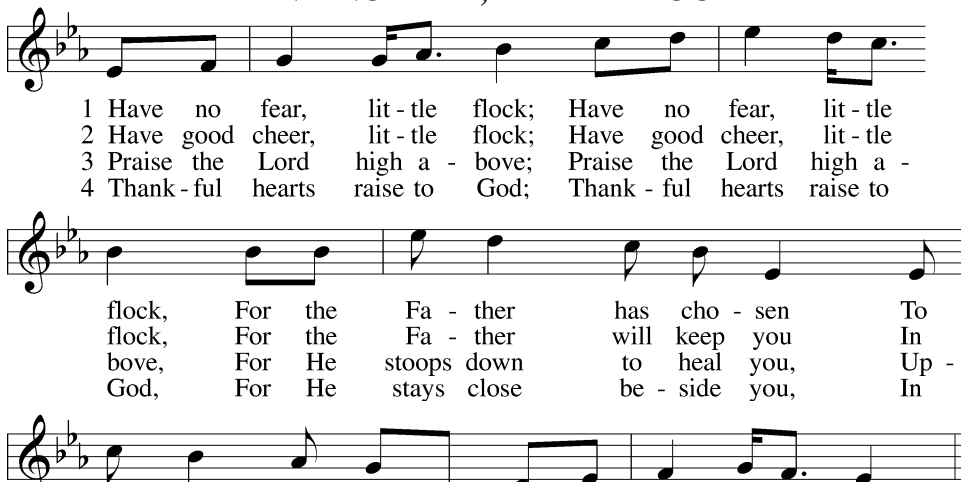
Pastor The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

Congregation Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

LSB #735

HAVE NO FEAR, LITTLE FLOCK



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; Have no fear, lit - tle
2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; Have good cheer, lit - tle
3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; Praise the Lord high a -
4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; Thank - ful hearts raise to

flock, For the Fa - ther has cho - sen To
flock, For the Fa - ther will keep you In
bove, For He stoops down to heal you, Up -
God, For He stays close be - side you, In

give you the King - dom; Have no fear, lit - tle flock!
His love for - ev - er; Have good cheer, lit - tle flock!
lift and re - store you; Praise the Lord high a - bove!
all things works with you; Thank - ful hearts raise to God!

Text (sts. 2–4): Marjorie A. Jillson, 1931–2010

Text (st. 1) and tune: Heinz Werner Zimmermann, 1930–2022

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

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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

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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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