

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday, May 2 and Sunday, May 3, 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 #633

AT THE LAMB'S HIGH FEAST WE SING



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - umphant go
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5

Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light.
Alleluia!

6

Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise.
Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;
 From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be.
 Alleluia!

8 Please stand

Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,
 Spirit, guide through all our days: Three in One, Your name we praise.
 Alleluia!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt.
 Tune: Kirchengeseng, 1566, Ivancice Text and 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 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
 Congregation **The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

Pastor The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,
 Congregation **in those who hope in His steadfast love.**

Pastor O LORD, how manifold are Your works!
 Congregation **In wisdom have You made them all.**

Pastor May the glory of the LORD endure forever.
 Congregation **Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.
 Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and
 implore His forgiveness.

Congregation **O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**

Pastor
Congregation

God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.
Amen.

Pastor

As you believe, so let it be. 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.

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 five 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: "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 with clear notation and lyrics.

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, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through 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 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.

³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . .

²And Stephen said: “Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . .

⁵¹You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Peter 2:2–10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”

⁸and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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 14:1-14

¹[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹²“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

(Sit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB #722

LORD, TAKE MY HAND AND LEAD ME



1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Up - on life's way;
2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear,
3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en And night has come,



Di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me From day to day.
For You, the Rock of A - ges, Are al - ways near.
I know that You will strength - en My steps toward home.



With - out Your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;
Close by Your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,
Then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend;



So take my hand, O Sav - ior, And lead the way.
For when Your hand is guid - ing, In peace I go.
So take my hand and lead me Un - to the end.

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Tune: P. Friedrich Silcher, 1789–1860

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001608

Tune: Public domain

SERMON

“An Untroubled Heart in a Troubled World”

(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,



bles - ed is He, bles - 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

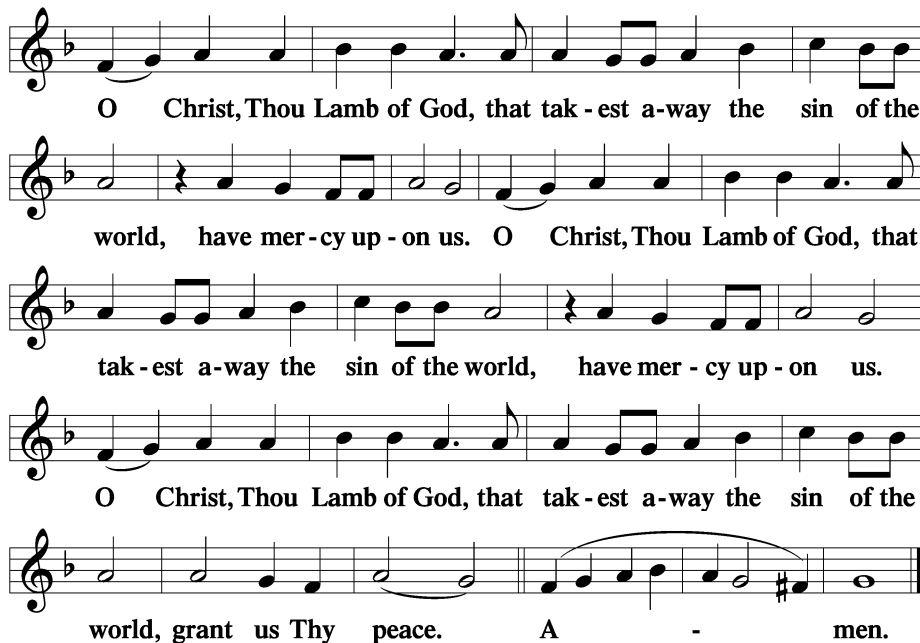
LSB pg. 197

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

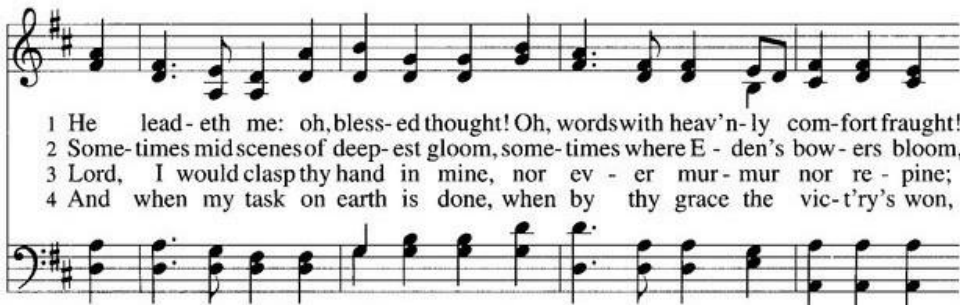
Pastor O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
Congregation and His mercy endureth forever.

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.

HE LEADETH ME



1 He lead-eth me: oh, bless-ed thought! Oh, words with heav'n-ly com-fort fraught!
2 Some-times mid scenes of deep-est gloom, some-times where E - den's bow-ers bloom,
3 Lord, I would claspy thy hand in mine, nor ev - er mur - mur nor re - pine;
4 And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace the vic-t'ry's won,

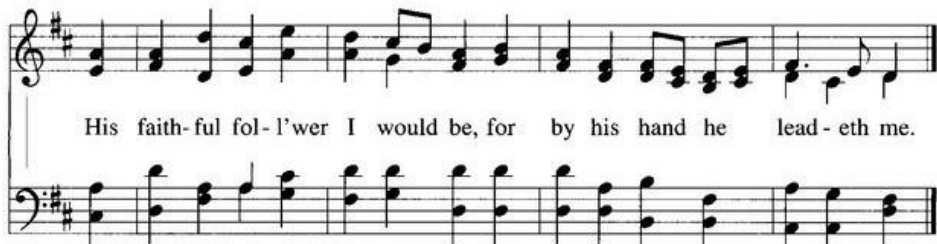


What-e'er I do, wher-e'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.
by wa - ters calm, o'er trou-bled sea, still 'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.
con - tent, what-ev - er lot I see, since 'tis my God that lead - eth me.
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jor - dan lead - eth me.

Refrain



He lead-eth me, he lead-eth me, by his own hand he lead-eth me.



His faith-ful fol-l'wer I would be, for by his hand he lead - eth me.

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.