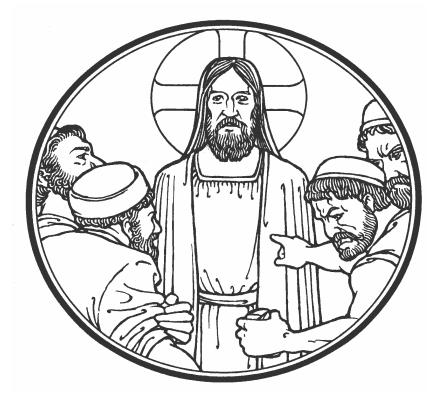
Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church 6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



Fifth Sunday in Lent *Judica*

Divine Service – Setting Three March 17, 2024 Vol. 126-16

<u>Judica Sunday</u> - Christians have observed the practice of covering certain images in church buildings during Passiontide, a two-week period beginning on Judica Sunday. Most statues, crosses, crucifixes, and the like are generally veiled between Judica and the Easter Vigil. Jesus describes the cross as a place where he is glorified. Many see the veiling of crosses during Passiontide as a form of "fasting" from this glorious emblem until Good Friday, when the cross is unveiled, and we can see more plainly this instrument upon which our Lord was lifted up.

Invocation (Please stand)

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** who made heaven and earth.
- **P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ⅓ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Service of the Word pg. 184

Introit



Vindicate me, O God,*

and defend my cause against an ungodly | people,

from the deceitful and unjust man de- | liver me!*

For you are the God in whom I take | refuge.

Send out your light and your truth; let them | lead me;* let them bring me to your holy hill and to your | dwelling!

Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my ex- | ceeding joy,* and I will praise you with the lyre, O | God, my God.

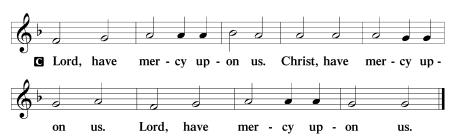
Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil with- | in me?* Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation | and my God.

Vindicate me, O God,*

and defend my cause against an ungodly | people,

from the deceitful and unjust man de- | liver me!*
For you are the God in whom I take | refuge.

Kyrie



Salutation and Collect of the Day



P Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading

Genesis 22:1-14

¹After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." ²He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." ³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." ⁶And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it

on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

⁹When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." ¹²He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Deliver me from my enemies, | O LORD!*

Teach me to do your will, for you | are my God!

[You] delivered me from my | enemies;*

you rescued me from the man of | violence.

Epistle Hebrews 9:11–15

¹¹When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹²he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. ¹⁵Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Tract

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"Greatly have they afflicted me | from my youth"—*
let Israel | now say—
"Greatly have they afflicted me | from my youth,*
yet they have not prevailed a- | gainst me.
The plowers plowed up- | on my back;*
they made long their | furrows."
```

The LORD is | righteous;*
he has cut the cords of the | wicked.

Holy Gospel John 8:42–59

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.



⁴²Jesus said to them. "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. 43Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. 44You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. 46Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do vou not believe me? ⁴⁷Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God." ⁴⁸The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that vou are a Samaritan and have a demon?" ⁴⁹Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." 52The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death,' 53 Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" ⁵⁴Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say. 'He is our God.' 55But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷So the Jews said to him. "You are not vet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" 58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." ⁵⁹So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

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

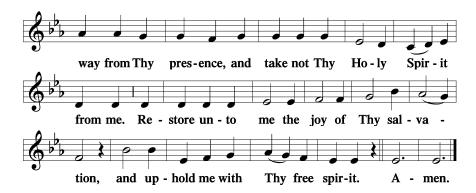
and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day

#430 My Song Is Love Unknown

Sermon





Offering

Prayer of the Church

We remember all those in need of continued strength and healing:

Ron Whitesel

Shelby Evans (stage 4 lung cancer)

Sandy Avey, Joellen Meyer

Ellie Anderson (friend of Sarena Wirgau)

Brandon Tomlinson (son in-law of the Brinkleys)

Tom Black (father of Ed Black), Sandra Flum (Susan Graft's sister)

Barbara Murphy (Melissa Price's grandmother)

We pray for our expectant mothers: Sierra Patrick, Abigail (Springer) Mayer,

Megan Morrow, Margaret Moore, Reese Springer, Lauren Stoppenhagen

We pray for protection: Pastor and Mrs. Moehring's son Stephen in Israel.

We pray for our members shut-in:

Jackie Werling, Ruth Witte (Ossian Healthcare)

Imogene Bultemeier- in Hospice, Marilyn Meyer (Kingston)

Marilyn Franke (Christian Care)

Gloria Siela (home), Charlotte Bultemeier (StoryPoint West)

Rev. Donald Lutz (Lutheran Life Village)

Norwin Bauermeister (Astral in Auburn)

We pray for our Church, School and all her workers

We pray for all military personnel

Service of the Sacrament pg. 194

Preface



Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:







Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

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

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My Holood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

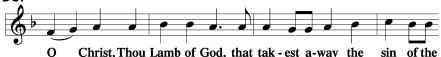


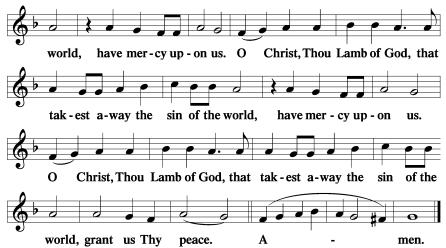


P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



Agnus Dei





Distribution

<u>Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper</u> in our worship. Bethlehem Lutheran Church administers this Holy Supper in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive, along with the Bread and Wine, the very Body and Blood of Jesus through which we receive the forgiveness of sins. Furthermore, the communicants as a body of believers make a confession of the unity of their faith. Those desiring to receive the Sacrament with us, who are not communicant members of Bethlehem or of a sister congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, are asked to please speak with the Pastor before the service.

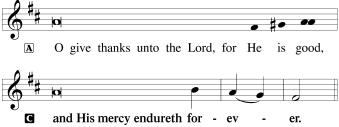
Distribution

#440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now #437 Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed #798 The God of Abraham Praise #564 Christ Sits at God's Right Hand





Thanksgiving



Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Salutation



P The Lord be with you.



Benedicamus



A Bless we the Lord.



Benediction





His face shine upon you and be gra-cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.



Hymn to Depart

#655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

IN HIS SERVICE

Preaching	Rev. Anthony Dodgers
Celebrant	Rev. Samuel Wirgau
Fieldworker	Sem. Morgan Phillips
Deaconess	Wendy Boehm
Head Elder	Glen Werling
Elders on Duty	Glen Werling and Bruce Werling
Kantor	Richard Brinkley
Organist	Emilie Meyer
Acolytes	Alex Fuhrmann and Vinny Fuhrmann
Altar Guild Chairman	Tisha Laley and Cheryl Louison
Ushers	Todd Ottinger, Ethan Ottinger, Landon Geiger
	Jay Werling, Collin Laley, Kaden Laley

Pastor: Rev. Samuel Wirgau	260-273-7595	
(<u>Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com</u>)		
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Office	260-597-7121	
Bethlehem Lutheran School	260-597-7366	
Assoc. Pastor, Headmaster: Rev. Anthony Dodgers	616-648-6489	
Kantor: Mr. Richard Brinkley	260-705-4105	
Deaconess: Wendy Boehm	260-415-8526	
Website for Church and School: www.BethlehemOssian.org		

TODAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service with Holy Communion
	10:15 a.m.	Adult Bible Class and Sunday
	11:15 a.m.	Board of Elders Meeting
	11:30 a.m.	Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)
MONDAY	6:00 p.m.	PTL Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Handbell Choir Practice
6:00p.m an	nd 7:00 p.m.	WholyFit Class
TUESDAY	5:30 p.m.	Board of Christian Education Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Women of Bethlehem Bible Study

WEDNESDAY	10:00 a.m.	Chapel Service
	5:00-5:30 p.m.	Private Confession and Absolution
	5:30 p.m.	Adult Catechesis Class
	4-6:00 p.m.	Kindergarten Roundup
	6:00. p.m.	Lenten Supper
	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Evening Service
	8:00 p.m.	Adult Choir Practice
THURSDAY	1:00 p.m.	Blanket Sewing
	7:00 p.m.	WholyFit Class (Fellowship Hall)
FRIDAY	NO SCHOOL	L March 22-April 1 (Spring Break)
SUNDAY	9:00 a.m.	Palm Sunday Divine Service
	10:15 a.m.	Adult Bible Class and Sunday School
	11:30 a.m.	Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)

Announcements can be emailed to the church secretary at bethlehemossiansec@gmail.com or the church office at 597-7121.

https://www.youtube.com/bethlehemlutheranchurchossian 9:00 a.m. Livestream

WE WELCOME ALL OUR VISITORS this morning to our church and worship service in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We ask that you please complete a green visitor's card from the pew and place it in the offering plate. Also, please be sure to introduce yourself to the Pastor and to others in attendance and feel free to worship with us again.

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION - As in years past, for all the Wednesdays of Lent Pastor will be available for Individual Confession and Absolution (LSB page 292) from 5:00-5:30 in the sanctuary of Bethlehem for those who would desire this as part of the Lenten devotions. As with the rite of Confession and Absolution that begins each of our Sunday services, the rite for individuals is yet another opportunity for us to confess our sins and receive forgiveness from Christ through the pastor. Every sin does not need to be listed nor do any particular sins need to be named. But for those sins "which we know and feel in our hearts" (Small Catechism) this is a wonderful opportunity to hear and receive the comforting forgiveness of Christ. Pastor will never speak of the sins confessed as he vowed in his ordination. He is happy to familiarize you with the rite either before Wednesday or when you come in. He is also available at other times by appointment. If you have questions, reach out to him.

WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Evening Prayer with Holy Communion on Wednesday, March 20th at beginning at 7:00 pm. Also, feel free to attend the morning Chapel Service at 10:00 am. The Bethlehem Youth and parents will be serving a Lenten Dinner beginning at 6:00pm. and the meal for Wednesday, March 20th is Soup, Salad, Bread and Dessert. <u>PALM SUNDAY – March 24th</u> we will have the Sunday School kids process in with palms. Please arrive at 8:45am in the Narthex and

find your Sunday School teacher. Teachers will help students find parents after the processional.

HOLY WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE:

Maundy Thursday Service at Bethlehem 7:00pm

Good Friday – Tre Ore Service at St. John, Bingen from noon-3:00p.m

Good Friday Service at Bethlehem 7:00p.m.

Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil at St. John, Bingen starting at 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service at Bethlehem 6:30 a.m.

Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall starting at 7:30 a.m.

Easter Day Service at Bethlehem 9:00 a.m.

The LYF would like to get a headcount for the Easter Breakfast. If you are planning on attending, there is a table in the narthex with tickets. Please grab 1 ticket per person. There is no cost to attend but there will be free will donation on the day of the event.

NEW RIBBON BOOKMARKS have been added to the sanctuary hymnals. Thank you to the Bethlehem 7/8th grade students who participated in completing this project for the church!

THE AUDIO/VISUAL TEAM will have a meeting after church in the upstairs A/V room on Sunday, March 24th. If you are interested in serving on the A/V team, please talk with Evan Springer, Bruce Bultemeier, or Josh Boehm. Thank you!

ALTAR – Please consider preparing the altar for Sunday services. We have many openings, especially in April and May. If this is your first time, we are happy to help you. You can sign up on the bulletin board or contact Tisha Laley or Cheryl Louison. Thank you

CHURCH RESTROOMS—During the remodel, members are asked to use the school restrooms in the back hallway or upstairs. Mothers with babies may use the nursery room in the narthex which is also equipped with a changing table. Thank you for your patience.

We have a military display board in the church hallway. If you have a family member who is currently serving in the military and would like to add them to the board, please send Deaconess Boehm the following information: military picture, name, rank, branch and any other information you would like to add. If you have a family member who was a veteran please send: name, rank and time served. Thank You!

Offering March 10, 2024		<u>Financial Report</u>
Average weekly need	\$13,818	Home Fund Balance \$351,83
Home Fund Env.	\$20,413.86	Next week bills due: \$5,000
Synod	190.15	Bills due two weeks: \$30,000
Loose	255.30	Savings Account Balance \$45,985.37
Scholarship Fund	125.00	Borrowed from Savings: \$0.00
Improvement Fund	350.50	Operating Loan Debt: \$22,300
Endowment Fund	25.00	
Music Fund		Church/Communion Attendance

 Sunday School
 5.36
 Sunday
 189/140

 Total
 \$21,365.17
 Wednesday
 77/45

Library Phase II Project: \$6,186.06

<u>Library Improvement Phase II</u> funds for Phase II, will go to improve our library with new bookshelves. These will be wooden bookshelves, handmade by a member of our church. This project will also create more space for books, with shelves for all three walls of the new library, which will add room for our collection to grow. Please consider making a donation to this beautiful and useful project. Make checks out to Bethlehem Lutheran School and include a memo: Library Phase II.

Here is the monthly report for the Bethlehem Lutheran School Endowment Fund by the Lutheran Foundation. The following information is accurate as of January 31, 2024:

\$214,927.82 - Amount Bethlehem sent in since 2009

201,883.00 - Amount the Lutheran Foundation matched

261,462.19 - Amount generated since 2009

-124,500.00 - Amount disbursed to Bethlehem since 2009

\$553,773.01 - Value of the Endowment Fund as of January 31, 2024

RECITATION & PRAYER FOR CLASSROOM AND HOME

The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A hymn may be sung.

Recite Together:

The Ten Commandments

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it Holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Apostle's Creed

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.

Additional Memory Work for the week may be recited.

Scripture Reading and/or Devotion Lesson

Prayers and Intercessions

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Learn-by-heart all or some of the provided text as age and ability of your household allows.

What is the Office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

What is Matthew 16:19?

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Matthew 16:19

What is 1 John 1:8-9?

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8-9