



April 25, 2021 Good Shepherd Sunday (80th Anniversary of Bethlehem's Charter—28th)

AS WE GATHER

All praise to

God

Of all the animals that could have been used to portray humanity, does it feel strange to be called a sheep? After all, it is not the most honorable creature. There are no defense mechanisms to escape a predator, no intimidating roar, and limited ability to fend for one's self when it comes to seeking nourishment, water, and safety. Yet these things reveal the point we are called to understand. It may not be good to be a sheep on our own, but it is great to be a sheep with a Good Shepherd to care for the flock. Jesus is our perfect shepherd who protects and defends, feeds and nourishes, leads and provides all we need in this body and life. Together as His flock, we are blessed to follow Him as by His Word and Means of Grace He leads us to streams of living water and paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

The pottery vessels on the altar remind us that although Holy Communion is not celebrated today, our Lord's sacred gifts are still central to our life of faith. Holy Communion is celebrated every 1^{st} , 3^{rd} , and 5^{th} weekend (and major festivals).

Liturgical Color:

White is the color of purity and is associated with festivals of Christ and his Church

Welcome Gathering Hymn"The Day of Resurrection" #478 (3&4) the heav'ns be joy Fa ful, 3 Now let Let earth its song \triangle 4 All praise to ther, the God All praise to God the the world keep tri umph And all that

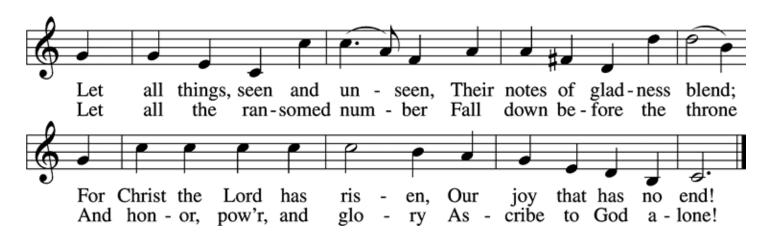
it,

Ε

ter - nal Three in

Spir

the



Text and tune: Public domain

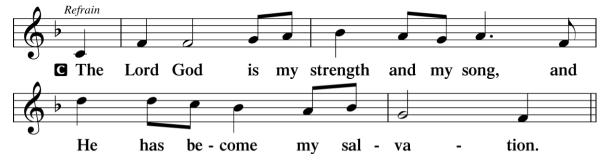
Stand

Service of Prayer and Preaching

Opening Versicles (Common)......page 260

- This is the day which the Lord has made;
- let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- P From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- **C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- P Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;
- I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- P Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.
- **C** Teach me Your paths.
- P Sanctify us in Your truth.
- **C** Your Word is truth.
- **P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- C the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Old Testament Canticlepages 261-262







Sit

Readings

First Reading Acts 4:1-12

As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people

of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

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

Epistle Reading 1 John 3:16-24

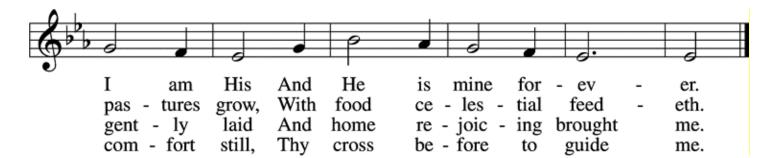
By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

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

Psalm 23 Hymn "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" #709





- 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!

Tune and text: Public domain

Stand

Holy GospelJohn 10:11-18

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.
- **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

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

Responsory (Common)......page 263

- **P** Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
- Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.
- P Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
- Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

- P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

Catechism (All)......page 264

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 give 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.

Apostles' 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,

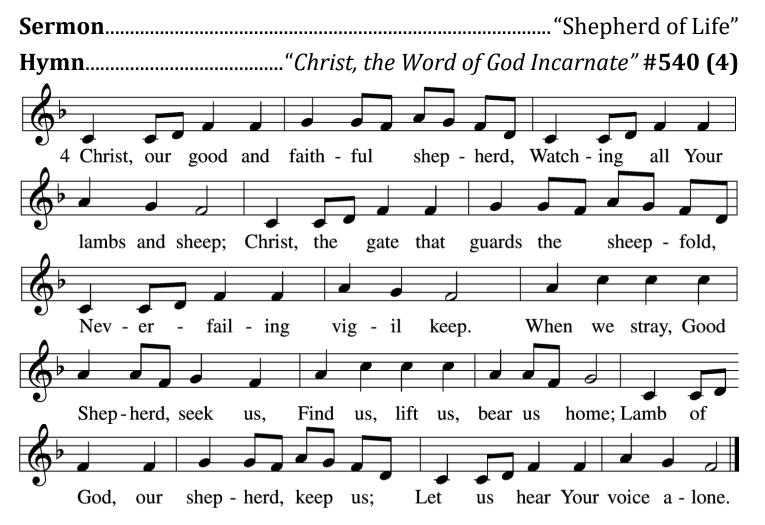
the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

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.

Sit



Offering

Offering plates will not be passed during the service; worshipers may place their offerings into the plate located at the entrance.

"Through him (Jesus) then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." (Hebrews 13:15-16)

Prayers

_	_			1
6	t		n	
	L	u	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	ш

Stan	nd .
Pra	yerspage 265
	Let us pray to the Lord, Lord, have mercy.
P	Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.
Col	lect of the Day(spoken in unison)
of Y Shep lead	ighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd our sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our pherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where Hels; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
Col	lect for the Wordpage 265
P	Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever.
	·

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all

Morning Prayer.....page 266

things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

New Testament Canticlepage 266



Blessingpage 267 P Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God. $[\mathbf{P}]$ The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us. C Amen. Sending Hymn "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us" #711 (1&4) 1 Sav - ior, like shep - herd lead Much we a us; 4 Ear ly let seek Your fa Ear us vor, ly



PostludeSheri Mattson

Acknowledgments: Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotation 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 © 2021 Concordia Publishing House.

Next Week's Readings First: Acts 8:26-40; Epistle: 1 John 4:1–21; Gospel: John 15:1-8

Attendance Saturday: 28	Attendance Sunday: 55
Total Offering: \$1750.00	Missions: \$0.00
Home Use: \$1,530.00	Benevolences: \$220.00

Serving us today:

Elders/Ushers	Jeff Harris (Sat), Jeremy VanWey (Sun)
Musicians	Lorraine Miller (Sat), Sheri Mattson (Sun)
Altar Committee	Sheree Moody (Chair), SueAnn Carter,
	Erika Freeman, Peggy Hoyer
Flower Committee	Lana Vanderburgh (Chair), Karen Haase

This Week's Schedule

ting
Vith God in the Garden"
oadcast on 96.9
(can also be heard at
inder the Sermons tab)
d Sr. Youth Sunday School
۸ (ا

Prayers

Of Rejoicing for David Gates, a new member by transfer from Our Saviour in Kansas City, Kansas. May the Lord richly bless his life shared with us in Chirst!

For Sustenance, Healing, and Provision—We remember those who are dealing with illness, are homebound or in nursing homes, undergoing and recovering from surgery, as well as going through hospitalization, rehabilitation, and chemotherapy: Don Apprill (Cindy Schnell's dad), Paula Brewer, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Denise (Penny Humphrey's sister), Marion & Leona Droege, Wilma Gertz, Ralph Hein, Sharon Hochsprung, Mary Johnson, Creed Kueker (Pr. Jesse Kueker's son—Trinity, Clinton), Marty Lehn, Marvin Logan (Nicole Clemons' father), Kathy Marshall, Vivian Meyer (young daughter of Kaye Fair's close friend), Johnny Nichol, Christopher Pierce (Judy Pierce's son), Sue Rice (Judy Pierce's niece), Jim Rudy, Pat Spanton, Bryan Tebbenkamp, Lynne Trimble (Kaye Fair's sister). We remember the healthcare providers who have worked tirelessly to prevent the spread of COVID and treat those who've been ill ... and pray in thanksgiving for the diminishment of the illness!

For Pregnant Mothers, especially Bridgette & Jonathan Sharp, Corinne & Jeremy Allison, and Bekah & Chris Kelley. May the Lord grant good health and joyful expectation!

For Seminarian Jonathan Sharp and his wife Bridgette as they prepare to find out where they'll be spending the next year on vicarage. All who would like to watch the livestream from Concordia Seminary can do so on the 28th via their website: www.cls.edu/callday.

For Military Members—We remember all service and support personnel who are deployed and stationed away from us and their families: Andy Burden, Ty Carter, Ethan Hillsman, Chance Hillsman and Logan LeBaige.

For Our Confirmands who will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday—the 50th day after Easter Sunday—**May 23rd**: Zach Brown, Gabby Fatka, Azriel Hartwig, Nate Stewart and Gracyn VanWey. The Lord continue to guide them with his Holy Spirit!

Prayer Requests & Spiritual Care—If you would like to make a prayer request, contact Pr. Joel or email the church office. Also, if you're feeling the strain and needing to talk and be encouraged in the living of life from day to day, don't hesitate to call or text Pr. Joel or contact your elder or the church office. We rely upon the Holy Spirit and his gifts in Christ during every time of uncertainty, and can never be thankful enough for the gift of each other!

Mask Information

Masks or face coverings are optional. Please exercise grace and mercy with each other as we navigate this area. Many in the congregation support the use of masks while many do not support the use of masks. Elders and Pastor will continue to wear face coverings while greeting at the doors as well as while serving Holy Communion.

Worship Services

Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m. You can also watch them live on Facebook or YouTube, or go to it directly from the webpage at blchurch.com.

Saturday Services are at 5:30 p.m. and will be outdoors—out back under the cottonwood tree—again from May 1st through September 4th. In case of inclement weather, the service will be moved indoors. All of the Saturday services will be a non-Communion devotional service, but Wednesday Communion services will be held indoors during those months.

Wednesdays Communion Services will be at 7:00 p.m. on the Wednesday following the 1st, 3rd or 5th Communion Sunday—from May 5th through September 1st. For these nine devotional Communion services, we'll be meditating on the nine fruits of the Spirit—one at a time. Consider making this part of your spiritual growth this summer!

Opportunities to Serve

June is Bethlehem's month to staff the Food Center! We will need 6 volunteers every Tuesday and Thursday in June from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Food Center is still serving clients curbside, so 4 people will fill orders indoors and 2 people will meet the clients socially distanced at the curb. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board by the mailboxes soon.

Food Center Needs: small Gatorade, flavored tuna pouches, soft granola bars (not crunchy, no peanuts), canned fruit, canned vegetables except corn and green beans and size 4T-5T pull ups. Monetary donation as also welcome. Monetary donations to the Food Center can be claimed at a 50% rate on State Income Tax. Do not take charitable donation, the Food Center will fill out a form for you.

Bethlehem's Community Garden, converted to raised beds this year, will hopefully be planted soon! Everyone is welcome to participate. Pick up one of the new pamphlets to learn more, talk to Pr. Joel or Shawn Lindley about helping, or take a stroll to the far end of our backyard to see for yourself. Keep your eyes and ears open for ways to be involved!

Faith Discussion and Bible Study

"Reading Romans" Study on Sunday Mornings! We're working through the remaining chapters of this important biblical letter, and you're more than welcome to join us in the conference room from 9:15-10:10 a.m. as we cover a lot of good ground yet together!

"With God in the Garden" Study on Thursday Evenings! Gardening is more than growing flowers, fruits, and vegetables. It is a spiritual experience that allows us to

reflect on our lives, sins, and biblical truths. Martin Luther wrote, God is entirely and personally present in the wilderness, in the garden, and in the field. This Zoom Bible Study will begin **Thursday**, **April 15 at 7:00 p.m**. We will be using "With God in the Garden" by Christianity Today International. If you are interested in finding God in your garden, please contact Rebecca or Cindy.

Youth

Sunday Youth Bible Study—Jeremy VanWey is currently leading a study that is exploring C.S. Lewis's classic on the wily ways of evil, *The Screwtape Letters*. Make sure to make it, and spread the word to others so that a good group can work through it together!

Vacation Bible School (Outdoors) — Mark your calendars for June 13-17 for Vacation Bible School! We will be serving a sack meal starting at 5:00 p.m. Bible School will run from 5:30-8:15 p.m. We will be Rainforest Explorers, learning how Jesus leads the way. If you would like to volunteer your time and talents to help make VBS happen, please contact Ellen Pederson or the church office. Registration forms for children will be coming out soon. You can pick one up from the church or download one from Facebook or the church website.

Fellowship

Mary Martha Guild will be meeting on Monday, May 10 at 6:00 p.m. at Heroes Restaurant. They will be celebrating the arrival of Brittany and Joe Brown's baby daughter, Grace Lynn. All ladies are welcome. Please let Sheree Moody (660-525-0822) know if you plan on coming so that she can make reservations.

Together Again. The Elders are sponsoring a "Together Again" outdoor event on **Sunday, May 16 from 2:00-5:00 p.m.** in Bethlehem's backyard. There will be drinks and snacks, bouncy houses, outdoor games, and a time of fellowship for everyone.

The Merry Widows will have their monthly meeting on **Wednesday, May 19 at 11:30 a.m.** in the church basement. Just bring yourself! They will be calling in food and having cake and ice cream to celebrate Martha Toellner's birthday.

Exercise Class is being held at **9:30 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays** in the Fellowship Hall. This class is low impact exercise open to anyone. For more information, contact Judy Smith.

The Card Group meets on **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone is welcome to join in for some games, coffee and fellowship. If you have any questions, please contact Melvin Theroff.

Miscellaneous

Lilies—The Easter lilies were beautiful. Thank you for providing them for the Easter season. They are now ready for you to take home for planting in your garden. They will come up and bloom next June. You will find the plants in the custodial closet. Help yourself. The Flower Committee.

Dinner and Show—Saint Paul Lutheran High will host a semi-formal FAMILY event on Saturday, May 1 on campus in the Krueger Dining Hall. Men, women, and children, come decked out in your finest cocktail dresses, suits and sparkly attire! Upon arrival, you'll be entertained with showtunes by the SPLHS Orchestra while you feast on hors d'ouvres in preparation for an elegant 4-course meal. You'll hear some of your favorite songs from musical theater and Disney movies! Dinner will be prime rib with a wonderful array of desserts, including the 'grey stuff' from "Beauty and the Beast!" Doors open at 5:15pm, and we will "proudly present your dinner" at 6pm! NOTE: LIMITED SEATING SO RESERVATIONS MUST BE PAID FOR BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30TH. Email jmarsh@splhs.org or call or text 816-605-5173 for reservations. Reservations are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 10 and under. Children under 2 are free. The dinner and show itself will be freewill offering.

Offerings

You can mail your offerings to Bethlehem and have pastor put it in the offering plate on the altar with a prayer of trust for you, or you can give through the online offering called "Simply Giving".

Elders

Jeff Harris (last name begins A-E) 660-624-1571, elvis100669@yahoo.com
Willie Crespo (last name begins F-H) 660-679-8121, willie.crespo@fairwaymc.com
Jack Easterwood (last name begins I-Ma) 660-678-2045, easter.egg2380@gmail.com
Caleb Thomas (last name begins Mc-R) 660-441-2010, calebthomas50@gmail.com
Jeremy VanWey (last name begins S-Z) 606-909-4765, jeremy.vanwey@gmail.com

Contact Information

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 607 N. Maguire, Warrensburg, MO 64093

Our Mission

· Grow in Christ · Live in Love · Share the Faith

Our Vision

To be a community of believers, disciples, and servants while we deepen our personal faith and reach others for Christ.



Rev. Joel R. Kurz

Tuesday & Thursday: 8am-5pm, Wednesday & Friday: 10am-5pm

Otherwise by appointment Office: 660-747-6742

Cell Phone: 660-441-5710 Email: pastor@blchurch.com

Website: www.blchurch.com Facebook: blcwarrensburg

Office Manager:

Cindy Smith
Monday–Friday: 8am-5pm
660-747-6742
officemanager@blchurch.com

Congregational Life Facilitator:

Rebecca Stewart MTW: 8am-2pm Thursday by appointment clf@blchurch.com

Bookkeeper:

Teresa Hillsman
Tuesday: 3pm-6pm
Thursday by appointment
financial@blchurch.com

Please note that Bethlehem Lutheran Church has a closed-circuit video system. This allows for the viewing of the service on screens in the building and helps to enhance our security. Please see a trustee or an elder if you have any questions.