



I am the vine,  
you are the branches

JOHN 15:5





+ Fifth Sunday Of Easter +

**May 2, 2021**

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## **AS WE GATHER**

The images Jesus uses as He proclaims the kingdom of God often come from the world of agriculture. His parables are filled with plants and trees and birds and animals. Grapes, grapevines, and vineyards are all used as illustrations by Jesus as He teaches the people who are His first hearers and us also. As people who have been grafted as branches into Christ the Vine through Holy Baptism, we seek ways to strengthen that connection as the Holy Spirit works in and through us. We now nourish our faith as branches in Christ's vineyard as we grow in Him by Word and Sacrament.

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## **REGARDING COMMUNION**

*After his resurrection, the crucified but now-living Jesus appeared to his disciples and said to Thomas (who had his doubts that Jesus could really be alive again): 'Touch my pierced hands and feel my wounded side; stop doubting and believe.'*

*We come to the Lord's Table with our own doubts and worries, fears and sorrows, often lingering on uncertainty and the realities we think are beyond change. Our Lord points us to his unchanging yet life-changing reality—he has died, he has risen, he will come again. His Holy Supper is the place where we encounter his saving, risen, and healing Body and Blood ... as he said: 'Those who feed on my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'* **Since Christian denominations have differing understandings of Holy Communion, if you are not a member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation and have not communed here before, we ask that you speak with the pastor or elder prior to communing with us the first time. Those not communing are invited to cross their arms over their chests and approach the pastor for a blessing during the distribution. Also, if certain factors prohibit you from partaking of regular wine, non-alcoholic wine is available in the center circle of the tray. If you would like to begin sharing this sacred meal with us on a regular basis, please ask the pastor for a time of faith instruction and formation.**

**Liturgical Color:**

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

Prelude .....Sheri Mattson, Lorraine Miller, Gary Moege

## Welcome

*Stand*

## Invocation Hymn..... "Where Charity and Love Prevail" #845 (1-4)



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail There  
 2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear His  
 3 For - give we now each oth - er's faults As  
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; Let



God is ev - er found; Brought here to - geth - er  
 char - i - ty we learn; Let us with heart and  
 we our faults con - fess, And let us love each  
 all con - ten - tion cease; Be God's the glo - ry



by Christ's love By love are we thus bound.  
 mind and soul Now love Him in re - turn.  
 oth - er well In Chris - tian ho - li - ness.  
 that we seek; Be ours His ho - ly peace.

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# Divine Service, Setting One

## Confession and Absolution

*The sign of the cross † may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

## Confession and Absolution.....page 151

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** 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.

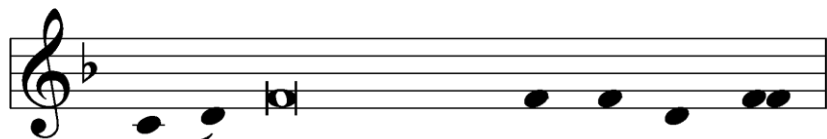
**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn ..... *“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”* #955

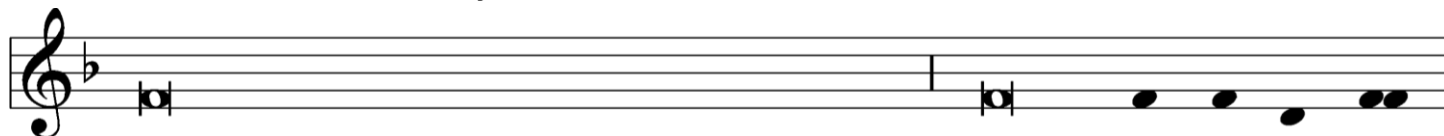
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, And fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were  
sown, That we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the  
hopes and the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we  
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and  
give us A fore - taste of the feast to come.



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



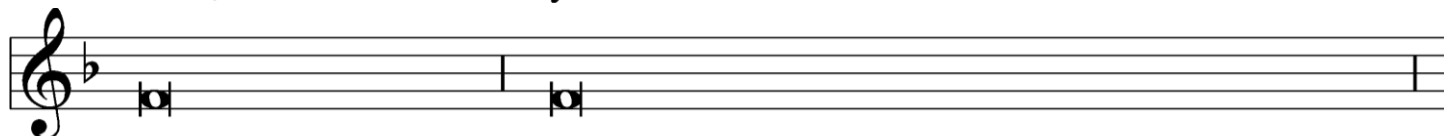
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



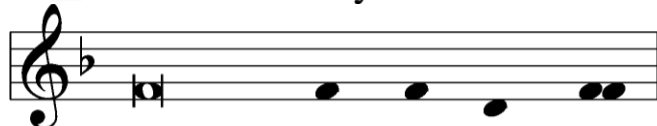
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



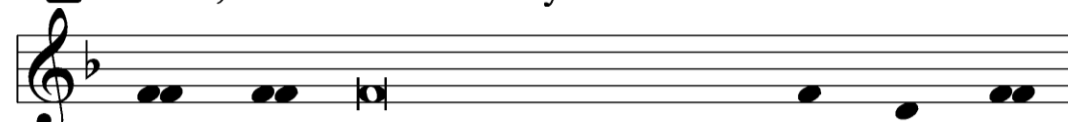
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

**C** A - men.

**This is the Feast** .....page 155

*Refrain*

**C** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and  
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and  
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to  
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*  
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*  
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*  
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*  
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

*Final Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Salutation** .....page 156

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Let us pray.

**Collect of the Day** ..... *(spoken in unison)*

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.

*Sit*

**First Reading** ..... **Acts 8:26-40**

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter  
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,  
so he opens not his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Gradual** ..... (*spoken in unison*)

**Christ has risen from the dead.**

**[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.**

**He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;**

**he has put all things under his feet.**

**Epistle Reading** ..... **1 John 4:1-21**

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.



**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**Alleluia and Verse** .....page 156

**C** 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 15:1-8**

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

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Hymn of the Day** .....*“O Blessed Spring” #595*

1 O bless-ed spring, where Word and sign Em - brace us  
2 Through sum-mer heat of youth-ful years, Un - cer - tain  
3 When au-tumn cools and youth is cold, When limbs their  
4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, We breathe our  
5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, Be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: Here Christ en - joins each one to  
 faith, re - bel - lious tears, Sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing  
 heav - y har - vest hold, Then through us, warm, the Christ will  
 last, re - turn to dust; Still held in Christ, our souls take  
 this blest mys - ter - y: That Word and wa - ter thus re -



be A branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.  
 rain, The boughs will shout for joy a - gain.  
 move With gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.  
 wing And trust the prom - ise of the spring.  
 vive And join us to Your Tree of Life.

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*Sit*

**Sermon**.....“Born of God & Growing Fruit”

*Stand*

**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.

## Prayer of the Church

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** . . . who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

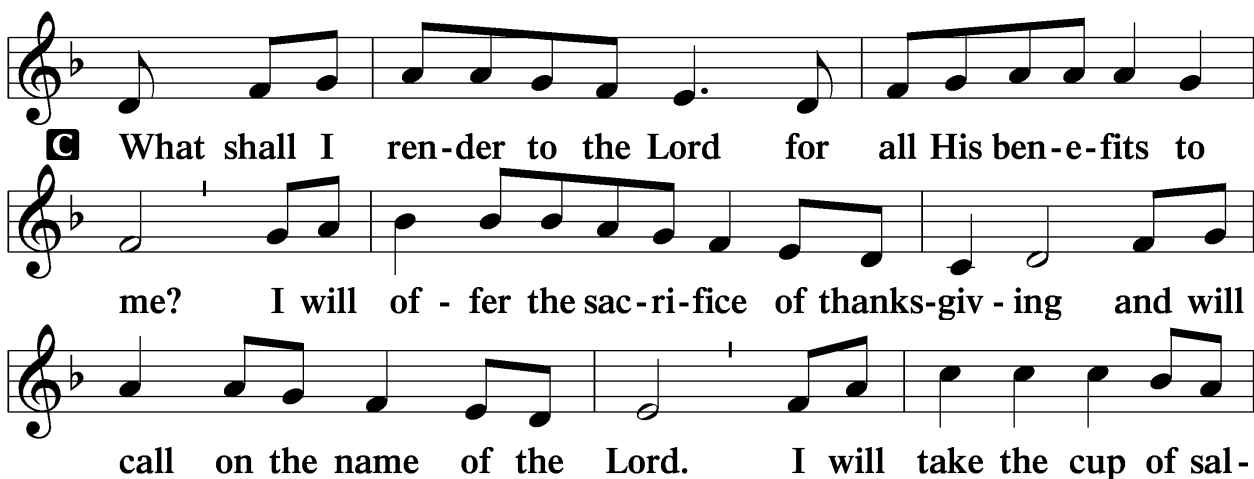
**C** Amen.

## Offering

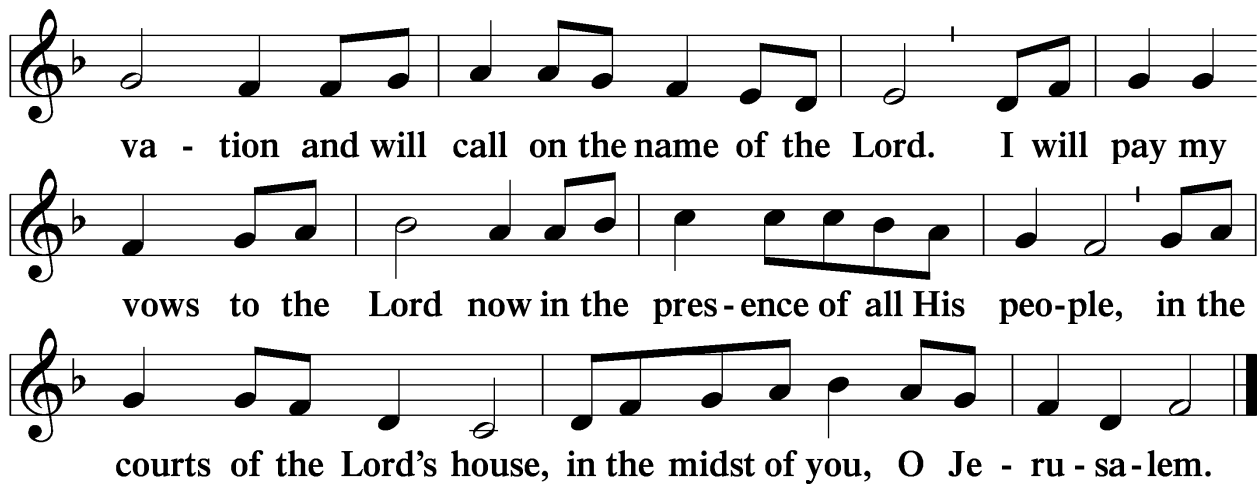
*Offering plates are not being passed during the service; worshipers may place their offerings into the plate located at the entrance.*

*“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)*

**Offertory** .....pages 159-160



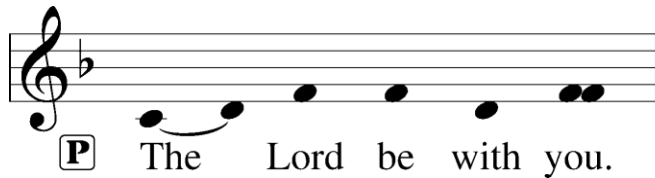
**C** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



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.

## Service of the Sacrament

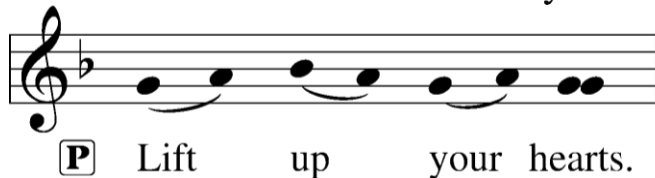
### Communion Liturgy .....pages 160-162



**P** The Lord be with you.



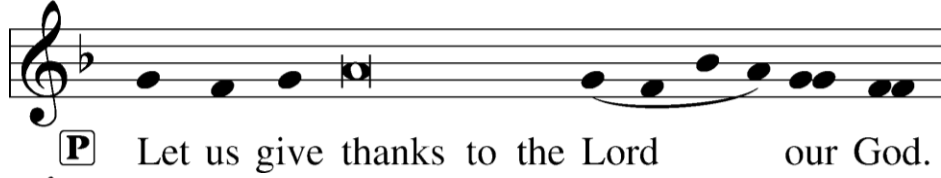
**C** And al - so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



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



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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

**P** It is truly good, right, and beneficial . . . Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



**C** 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.

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth . . .  
 To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- C** **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.**
- P** 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."



# Communion Hymns.....Instrumental

## “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing” #475



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice and sing! Now is the tri-umph  
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; Bring flow'rs of song to  
3 Praise we in songs of vic-to-ry That love, that life which  
4 Your name we bless, O ris-en Lord, And sing to-day with



of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:  
strew His way; Let all the world re-joice and say:  
can-not die, And sing with hearts up-lift-ed high:  
one ac-cord The life laid down, the life re-stored:



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!  
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!  
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!  
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

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### Stand

## Communion Blessing

### Post Communion Canticle.....“Thank the Lord” page 164



☐ 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



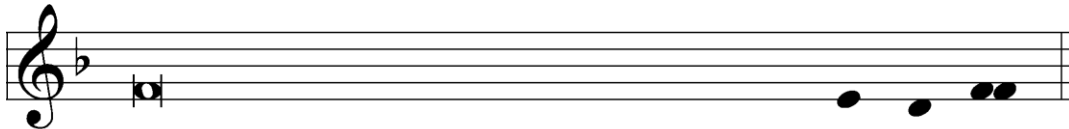
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

**Post Communion Collect..... page 166**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this beneficial gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Benediction..... page 166**



**P** 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.



**C** A - men.

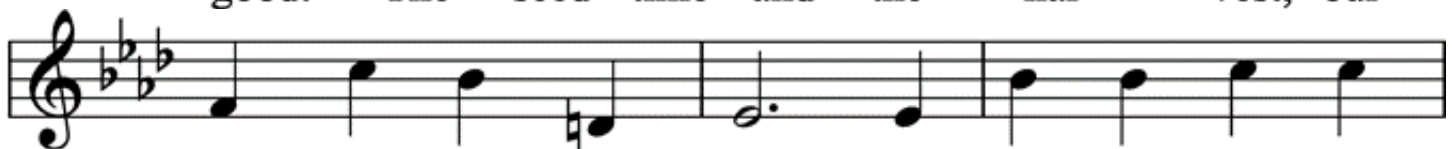
**Sending Hymn..... "We Plow the Fields and Scatter"**



1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the  
2 He on - ly is the mak - er of all things near and  
3 We thank You, our Cre - a - tor, for all things bright and



land, But it is fed and wa - tered by  
far; He paints the way - side flow - er, He  
good: The seed - time and the har - vest, our

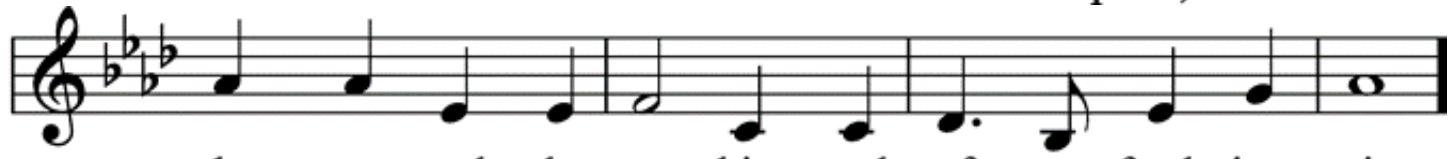


God's al - might - y hand. He sends the snow in  
lights the eve - ning star. The wind and waves o -  
life, our health, our food. Ac - cept the gifts we





win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain, The  
bey Him, by Him the birds are fed; Much  
of - fer for all Your love im - parts; Ac -



breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.  
more to us, His chil - dren, He gives our dai - ly bread.  
cept what You most wel - come: our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts!

*Refrain*



All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav' n a - bove; Then



thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all His love.

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**Dismissal** ..... (Bethlehem's Mission)

- P** Grow in Christ,
- C** Live in Love and Share the Faith!

**Postlude** ..... Sheri Mattson, Lorraine Miller, Gary Moege

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**Next week's readings:**

**First: Acts 10:34-48; Epistle: I John 5:1-8; Gospel: John 15:9-17**

**Attendance Last Saturday: 26**

**Total Offering: \$1,700.00**

**Home Use: \$1,190.00**

**Attendance Last Sunday: 50**

**Missions: \$0.00**

**Benevolences: \$510.00**

**Serving us today:**

Elders..... Jeff Harris (Sat) Jack Easterwood, Jeremy VanWey (Sun)

Musicians ..... Sheri Mattson, Lorraine Miller, Gary Moege

Altar Committee..... Sheree Moody (Chair), SueAnn Carter,  
Erika Freeman, Peggy Hoyer  
Flower Committee ..... Lana Vanderburgh (Chair), Karen Haase

### **This Week's Schedule**

Monday-3	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots
Tuesday-4	12:00 p.m.	Braille in Concordia
Wednesday-5	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	7:00 p.m.	Midweek Devotional Communion Service
Thursday-6	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at WCS
	1:00 p.m.	Card Group
	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study—"With God in the Garden"
Friday-7	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	4:30 p.m.	Manna Harvest Meal
	5:00 p.m.	Martin/Peterson Wedding Rehearsal
Saturday-8	10:00 a.m.	Elders' Meeting
	2:00 p.m.	Martin/Peterson Wedding
	5:30 p.m.	Outdoor Worship
Sunday-9		<i>Mother's Day</i>
	8:00 a.m.	The Lutheran Hour broadcast on 96.9
	9:00 a.m.	Radio Broadcast 98.5 (can also be heard at <a href="http://www.blchurch.com">www.blchurch.com</a> , under the Sermons tab)
	9:15 a.m.	Bible Study and Jr. and Sr. Youth Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship

### **Prayers**

**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), Lynn Lowe, 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 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 50<sup>th</sup> day after Easter Sunday—**May 23<sup>rd</sup>**: 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!

### 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](http://blchurch.com).

**Saturday Services are at 5:30 p.m. and will be outdoors—out back under the cottonwood tree—again from May 1<sup>st</sup> through September 4<sup>th</sup>.** 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> Communion Sunday—from May 5<sup>th</sup> through September 1<sup>st</sup>.** 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!

**Ascension Day Service**—Join with others in our sanctuary on **Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** as we mark the 40<sup>th</sup> day after Easter Sunday! We'll recall together the significance of Jesus' departure from the disciples as he returned to the Father and dwell a bit on its meaning for us.

## Opportunities to Serve

**Confirmand Bake Sale**—This year’s confirmands will be baking some goodies and having them available for sale by donation **on the weekend of May 15 & 16 following the services**—and at the afternoon get-together (if anything is left). The funds will be donated to With God’s Little Ones ([www.wglo.org](http://www.wglo.org)), an agency for which Pr. Joel serves on the board, that shows the love of Christ in the tangible ways needed by the most vulnerable in Cambodia and Madagascar.

**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 is on the bulletin board by the mailboxes. Contact Sue Cottrill for any questions.

**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—including a few rows of potatoes and corn! 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 be on **Thursdays, 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.

**Outdoor Congregational Get-Together**—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.

## 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](mailto:elvis100669@yahoo.com)

**Willie Crespo** (last name begins F-H) 660-679-8121, [willie.crespo@fairwaymc.com](mailto:willie.crespo@fairwaymc.com)

**Jack Easterwood** (last name begins I-Ma) 660-678-2045, [easter.egg2380@gmail.com](mailto:easter.egg2380@gmail.com)

**Caleb Thomas** (last name begins Mc-R) 660-441-2010, [calebthomas50@gmail.com](mailto:calebthomas50@gmail.com)

**Jeremy VanWey** (last name begins S-Z) 606-909-4765, [jeremy.vanwey@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:pastor@blchurch.com)

Website: [www.blchurch.com](http://www.blchurch.com)      Facebook: [blcwarrensburg](https://www.facebook.com/blcwarrensburg)

#### **Office Manager:**

Cindy Smith

Monday–Friday: 8am-5pm

660-747-6742

[officemanager@blchurch.com](mailto:officemanager@blchurch.com)

#### **Congregational Life Facilitator:**

Rebecca Stewart

MTW: 8am-2pm

Thursday by appointment

[clf@blchurch.com](mailto:clf@blchurch.com)

#### **Bookkeeper:**

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 3pm–6pm

Thursday by  
appointment

[financial@blchurch.com](mailto: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.