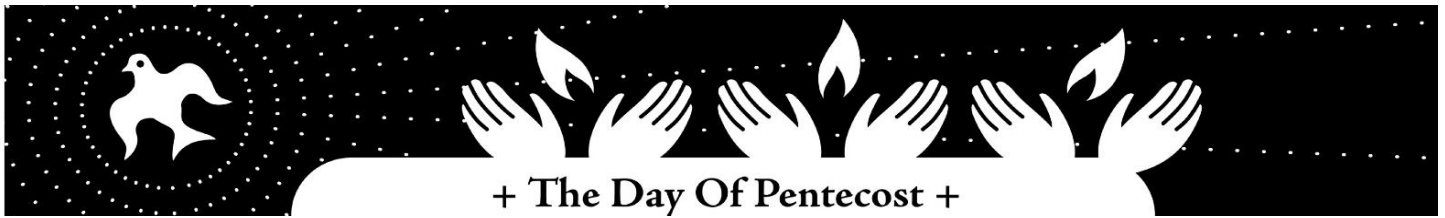


All of them were filled
with the Holy Spirit

ACTS 2:4





+ The Day Of Pentecost +

May 23, 2021

Confirmation Sunday

AS WE GATHER

A familiar sight along highways and roadways in summer is the posting of work-zone signs as repairs are made to streets and bridges during the season of good weather. These signs bring a special level of care and concentration for drivers. For Christian people, the Church is the “work zone” of the Holy Spirit. In his hymn paraphrasing the Apostles’ Creed, Martin Luther writes of the Holy Spirit at work: “Who the Church, His own creation, Keeps in unity of spirit. Here forgiveness and salvation Daily come through Jesus’ merit” (LSB 954:3). As we are called and gathered, we are assured that we are in the most vital of work zones—the one to which we can give our greatest care and concentration.

REGARDING COMMUNION

*When we gather at the Lord’s Table, the cup of blessing we receive is a sharing in the blood of Christ; the bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ. We who are many are one bread and body in Christ (I Cor. 10:16-17). As a people baptized into the life of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to us in this holy meal to renew us individually and together in our life of faith and following him. **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:

Red is the color of lifeblood and is associated with the Holy Spirit.

Prelude Rich Vanderburgh
(“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”, by Carl G. Glaser, arr. Mark Hayes)

(Please rise and turn to face the Narthex for the procession and turn to face the cross as it passes.)

Processional Hymn “Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord” #497



1 Come, Ho - ly Ghost, God and Lord, With all Your grac - es
2 Come, ho - ly Light, guide di - vine, Now cause the Word of
3 Come, ho - ly Fire, com - fort true, Grant us the will Your



now out-poured On each be - liev - er's mind and heart;
life to shine. Teach us to know our God a - right
work to do And in Your ser - vice to a - bide;



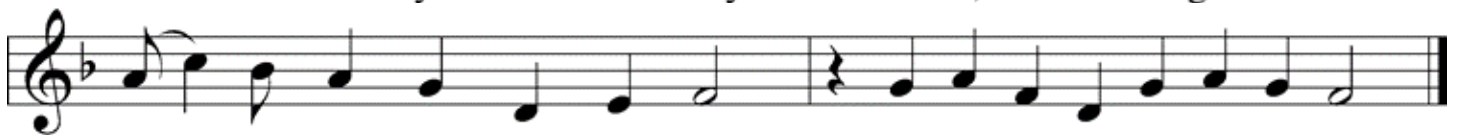
Your fer - vent love to them im - part. Lord, by the
And call Him Fa - ther with de - light. From ev - 'ry
Let tri - als turn us not a - side. Lord, by Your



bright-ness of Your light In ho - ly faith Your Church u - nite;
er - ror keep us free; Let none but Christ our mas - ter be
pow'r pre - pare each heart, And to our weak-ness strength im - part



From ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry tongue This to Your
That we in liv - ing faith a - bide, In Him, our
That brave - ly here we may con - tend, Through life and



praise, O Lord, our God, be sung: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Lord, with all our might con - fide. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
death to You, our Lord, as - cend. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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 "Create in Me" #956

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.

Text and tune: Public domain

Kyrie.....pages 152-153

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.

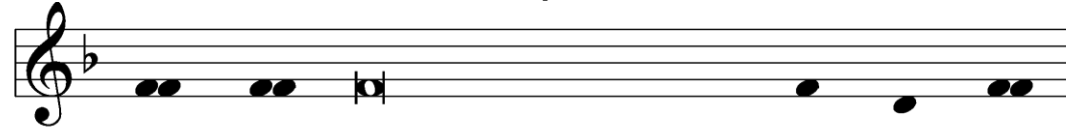
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



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 Feastpage 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-tory for our God.

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

Salutationpage 156

P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Collect of the Day (*spoken in unison*)

O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

Old Testament **Ezekiel 37:1-14**

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And

I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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

**I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.
With the heart one believes and is justified,
and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.**

Second Reading..... **Acts 2:1-21**

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

"And in the last days it shall be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams;
even on my male servants and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.
And I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;
the sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.
And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord
shall be saved."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Versepage 156

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel..... **John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15**

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

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning. . . .

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day *“Called and Gathered”*



1 Called and gath - ered, graced and gift - ed By the Spir - it's
2 Called and gath - ered, well - pro - tect - ed, Nev - er or - phaned
3 Called and gath - ered, Christ the cen - ter, Word and wa - ter,



pow'r made one; Truth - en - light - ened, hearts up - lift - ed
or a - lone; As the Spir - it's in - ter - ced - ing
bread and wine: Here we heav - en's por - tal en - ter;

In the Church - cre - a - ted home, We as
 Brings our prayer to Fa - ther's throne. With strong
 Now we fore - taste joy di - vine. Ho - ly

heirs of Christ in - her - it Trea - sured
 words of af - fir - ma - tion Guilt - y
 Spir - it, shape our liv - ing— Pour up -

peace for all our days. Guid - ed by the Ho - ly
 stains of sin re - move. By the Spir - it's mat - u -
 on us all that's best; Fill us with the gift for

Spir - it— Sanc - ti - fied, we of - fer praise.
 ra - tion Grow up seeds and deeds of love.
 giv - ing, En - ter in and make us blest.

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- Sit*
- Sermon**..... “Bones, Breath, & Life in the Spirit”
- Stand*
- Nicene Creed**.....*page 158*

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

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,**

being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Rite of Confirmation

Zachary Kendal Brown
Ephesians 5:19-20

Gabrielle Elizabeth Fatka
Psalms 119:105

Azriel Alexander Hartwig
John 3:17

Nathan Hunter Stewart
Psalms 27:1

Gracyn Allyene VanWey
Ephesians 2:8-10

Stand

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)


Offertorypages 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 Liturgypages 160-162



P The Lord be with you.



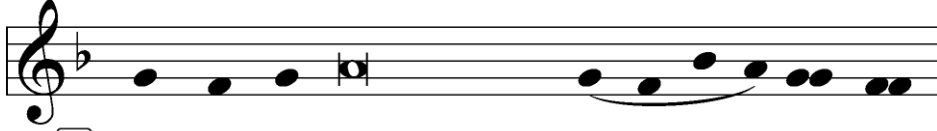
C And al - so with you.



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 . . . evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus.....*page 161*



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.

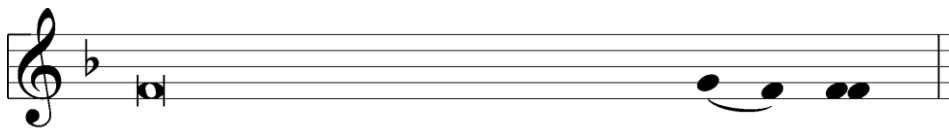
Lord's Prayer.....page 162

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.

The Words of Our Lord.....page 162

Pax Domini.....page 163



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



C A - men.

Agnus Dei.....page 163



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit (until motioned to rise and proceed forward if going for Communion or a blessing). The confirmands and their families will be partaking of Communion first, then others will be ushered up. Plus, we're returning to the Altar Rail today after more than a year of standing, continuous distribution. The chalice will be available again, along with individual cups.

Communion Hymns *Instrumental*
 ("I Know That My Redeemer Liveth", from Messiah, by George F. Handel)

..... *"Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord" #637*

1 Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
 2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
 3 Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,

And drink the holy blood for you out-poured;
 To all believers life eternal yields;
 And take the pledges of salvation here.

Of-fered was He for great-est and for least,
 With heav'n-ly bread He makes the hun-gry whole,
 O Lord, our hearts with grate-ful thanks en-dow

Him-self the vic-tim and Him-self the priest.
 Gives liv-ing wa-ters to the thirst-ing soul.
 As in this feast of love You bless us now.

..... "Bread of Heaven, Living Manna"



1 Bread of heav-en, liv - ing man-na, Love and mer - cy
2 Bread of heav-en, liv - ing man-na, Sure Your prom-ise—
3 Bread of heav-en, liv - ing man-na, Bread the an - cients



You ex - ude; Per - fect of - f'ring, free - ly giv - en
faith - ful, true: "Take and eat; this bread here bro - ken
nev - er knew; You, Lord Je - sus, came from heav - en,



On the blood - marked Pas - chal rood; Bread un - leav - ened,
Is My bod - y giv'n for you. Take and drink; this
That our world be fed by You; Now in You we



Lamb un - blem - ished, Free - ing sin - bound slaves from strife:
cup of bless - ing Is My ver - y blood out - poured."
nev - er hun - ger, And be - liev - ing, thirst no more;



Feed us on our des - ert jour - ney,
With thanks - giv - ing— sins for - giv - en—
Liv - ing in You, Lord, we ev - er



Ho - ly Je - sus, Bread of Life.
We will ev - er bless You, Lord!
Have our be - ing and a - dore.

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..... *“Fruitful Trees, the Spirit’s Sowing” #691*



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, May we rip - en
 2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing Gifts the Giv - er
 3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern
 4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, May we grow till



and in - crease, Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,
 loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,
 and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly fast - er,
 har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



Rich in love and joy and peace.
 Pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.
 Good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.
 Heav - en's love and joy and peace.

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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 - jice and proud - ly bear His name.



He re - calls His prom - is - es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy



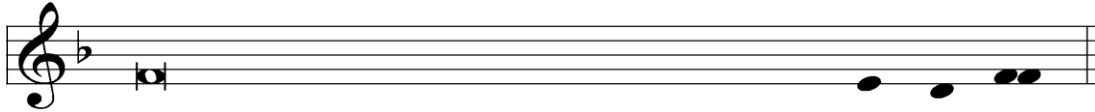
with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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.

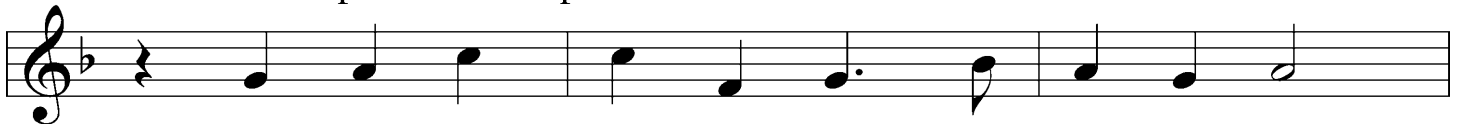
Sending Hymn..... "We Know That Christ is Raised" #603



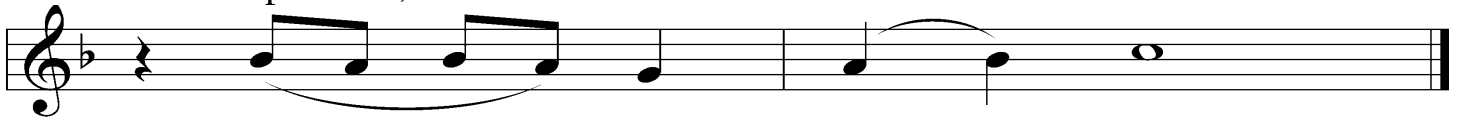
1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in His sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.



Em - braced by death, He broke its fear - ful hold;
Re - born, we share with Him an Eas - ter life
The Spir - it's pow - er shakes the Church of God.



And our de - spair He turned to blaz - ing joy.
As liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ.
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.



Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia!

Dismissal (Bethlehem's Mission)

P Grow in Christ,

C Live in Love and Share the Faith!

Postlude Rich Vanderburgh *("Shine, Jesus, Shine", by Graham Kendrick, arr. Mark Hayes)*

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The confirmands will be available for greeting out front.

Next week's readings:

OT: Isaiah 6:1-8; Second: Acts 2:14a, 22-36; Gospel: John 3:1-17

Attendance Last Saturday: 23

Attendance Last Sunday: 67

Attendance Wednesday: 13

Total Offering: \$3,848.38

Missions: \$100.00

Home Use: \$3,180.00

Benevolences: \$568.68

Serving us today:

Elders.....Jack Easterwood (Sat), Willie Crespo, Caleb Thomas (Sun)

Musicians Rich Vanderburgh

Altar Committee..... Sheree Moody (Chair), SueAnn Carter,
Erika Freeman, Peggy Hoyer

Flower Committee Lana Vanderburgh (Chair), Karen Haase

This Week's Schedule

Monday-24	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park
	6:30 p.m.	4-H Meeting
Tuesday-25		<i>Pastor and Cindy taking a vacation day</i>
	9:30 a.m.	Quilting
	7:30 p.m.	Education Board Meeting
Wednesday-26	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Thursday-27	1:00 p.m.	Card Group
	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study-"With God in the Garden"
Friday-28		<i>Cindy taking a vacation day</i>
	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Saturday-29	5:00 p.m.	Children's Message
	5:30 p.m.	Outdoor Worship

Office Hours & Days Gone

Pastor will be out of the office on Monday (his normal day off) and on Tuesday. Cindy will be out of the office on Tuesday and Friday of next week. Rebecca (8a-4p) and Teresa (after 3:00 p.m.) will be in the office on Tuesday if you need to get in touch with someone.

Altar Flowers

The altar flower arrangements have been provided by the parents and grandparents of the confirmands on this important and joyous occasion. May Christ's goodness and grace ever adorn the lives of these brothers and sisters in the faith!

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, Jim Rudy, Bryan Tebbenkamp, and Jan Trahan (Kaye Fair's mother).

For Pregnant Mothers, especially Bridgette & Jonathan Sharp, Corinne & Jeremy Allison, Bekah & Chris Kelley, and Kara & JeVon Savage. 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 Zach Brown, Gabby Fatka, Azriel Hartwig, Nate Stewart and Gracyn VanWey. May the Lord continue to lead them forth into their baptismal faith, strengthened by the gift of Christ's presence in his Holy Supper!

For Our High School Graduates. Congratulations on your graduation and best wishes for your next adventures in growing, learning, and living! *"You make know to me the path of life, O Lord; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11).*

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!

Gratitude

Confirmand Bake Sale—Many thanks and grateful appreciation for our five confirmands, their parents and grandparents, and all who helped make this a success last weekend! \$435.68 was raised, which will be sent to With God's Little Ones (www.wglo.org) for the purchase of dairy goats in Madagascar and the improvement of people's lives. (Pr. Joel is on the board of directors, and their annual meeting will be held on June 6th).

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.

Saturdays begin at 5:00 p.m. with a Children's Message, and services start at 5:30 out back under the cottonwood tree (through September 4th). In case of inclement weather, the service will be moved indoors. All of the Saturday services are a non-Communion devotional service, but Wednesday Communion services are being provided.

Wednesdays Communion Services are being held at 7:00 p.m. on the Wednesday following the 1st, 3rd or 5th Communion Sunday—**the next will be June 2nd.** These devotional services are focused on a different one of the nine fruits of the Spirit each time. Consider making this part of your spiritual growth this summer!

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!

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!

New Zoom Bible Study starting June 3—"Psalms: Poetry on Fire". Psalms 1-41 over the next 12 weeks. We will discuss poetry of praises, prayers, and laments. In each lesson, we will discuss: discover the heart of God, explore the heart of God, experience the heart of God, and share the heart of God. **This Zoom Bible study will begin Thursday, June 3 at 7:00 p.m.** We will be using "Psalms: Poetry on Fire" by Brian Simmons. If you are interested in this passionate Bible Study of the Psalms

please contact Rebecca or Cindy.

Wednesday & Saturday Bible Studies—Wednesday's 10:30 a.m.—12 noon study on 1 Peter will resume after a long hiatus on **June 2**; all are invited to join in this gathering in our conference room. Those interested in resuming our Saturday post-service study of Matthew should talk to Pr. Joel to see if they want to resume in June or wait a bit longer.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School (Outdoors)—Mark your calendars for **June 13-17** for V.B.S—**Rainforest Explorers: Jesus Leads the Way!** We will be serving a sack meal each night starting at **5:00 p.m.** Bible School will run from **5:30-8:15 p.m.**

VBS Mission—VBS students will be collecting items for Orphan Grain Train Christmas Gift Boxes this year. If you would like to donate items, please see the lists of needed items at the collection points near the church entrances. The packing list for OGT boxes is specific and variations are not allowed. OGT is a Lutheran-based relief agency, headquartered in Norfolk, NE, that connects people (often children) with needed resources for the flourishing of life. To learn more about them, visit www.ogt.org.

Calling all helpers—VBS needs you! Helpers are needed for the registration table, storytelling (this is a good role if you would like to help for just a night or two), team leaders (who will guide students from one station to the next and help them stay engaged), game helpers, packing sack meals, and decorating (this is a great option if you would like to help for just one day before VBS begins). **Please contact Ellen Pederson (Inpederson@gmail.com) if you would like to help.**

Opportunities to Serve

June is Bethlehem's month to staff the Food Center! We still need a few more volunteers for **Tuesdays & Thursdays in June from 12:30pm to 4:00pm.** A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the mailboxes. Contact Sue Cottrill if you can help.

A long—overdue Garden Work Day will be held on **Saturday, May 29, starting at 9:00 a.m.—if weather permits.** Come then or any time after that as works with your schedule! We will be planting vegetables, at long last, in the new raised beds, plus doing other necessary tasks. Come and join in the good work of the day!

Fellowship

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

Willie Crespo (last name begins A-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

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