A close-up photograph of a golden wheat stalk, showing the intricate details of the grain and its husk. The wheat is set against a clear blue sky, with some other stalks visible in the background, slightly out of focus. The lighting is bright, highlighting the texture and color of the wheat.

**Unless  
a grain  
of wheat  
falls into  
the earth  
and dies,  
it remains  
just a  
single  
grain**

JOHN 12:24





+ Fifth Sunday In Lent +

**March 21, 2021**

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## **AS WE GATHER**

The ancient name for today, the Fifth Sunday in Lent, is Judica, the Latin behind “vindicate” in the Introit. This Sunday prepares us for next Sunday’s review of the Passion. Only in Christ are we truly vindicated. But the emphasis is on our response to God’s love and forgiveness. In today’s Gospel, Jesus inverts the usual triangle of power into an upside-down pyramid of service. The greatest in God’s kingdom, the position sought by His disciples in the Gospel, is now at the bottom, serving everyone above. Jesus is describing Himself! In contrast to priests who repeatedly pray for others and offer sacrifices also for their own sins, Jesus was a one-time priest, offering Himself as the sacrifice while being sinless. In this new covenant, promised in the Reading from Jeremiah, we know of our Lord’s great love, now written in our hearts. From the inside out, our desire is to return Christ’s sacrificial, forgiving love by serving one another in His name.

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## **REGARDING COMMUNION**

*Beginning on Ash Wednesday, the forty days of Lent mark off our journey to Easter. When we were baptized into the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the sign of the cross was made upon our foreheads and hearts to mark us as people redeemed by the cross of the Christ. We rose to newness of life through the resurrection of Jesus and began a life of pilgrimage in faith. The cross of ash made on our foreheads at the beginning of Lent reminds us that the Christian life is one of repentance (or change from wrongs done) ... a life of constant returning to our Lord’s Table to be forgiven and renewed, for here we have the bread of Christ’s Body and the wine of his Blood as strength for the journey. **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:**

*Purple is the color of humility and repentance.*

Near the large cross by the pulpit is a basket with slips of paper, pencils, and tacks. Feel free to write down any of your burdens, worries, wrongs, and sins and tack them to the cross at any time during this season of Lent. They will not be read but removed on Good Friday and burned in the Easter Vigil fire on Holy Saturday. Our Lord takes our darkness and replaces it with his light!

**Pre-Service Music.....** Rebecca Limback

("Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross", arr. by Terry Lewis; "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee", Music by John Dkkes 1866, arr. by Benjamin Esh; "And Can It Be", Charles Wesley, arr. by Helen Johnson; "Blessed Assurance", words Fany J. Crosby 1820-1915; Music by Phoebe Knapp 1839-1908; arr. by Helen Johnson; "The Lily of the Valley", words Charles W. Fry 1838-1882, Music William S. Hays, 1827-1907, arr. by Helen Johnson; "At the Cross", arr. by Joe Collins; "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley", arr. by Larry Conger; "In the Garden", C. Austin Miles, arr. by Helen Johnson; "Oh How I Love Jesus", arr. by Larry Conger)

**Welcome**

*Stand*

**Invocation Hymn.....** "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us" #851 (1-2)

1 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your  
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Glad - ly,  
 life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the  
 free - ly of Your own. With the sun - shine of Your  
 lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;  
 good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone  
 And with that have free - ly giv - en Bless - ings  
 Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by  
 count - less as length the sand To the un - thank - ful  
 You, at length be - lieve That more hap - py



and the e - vil With Your own un - spar - ing hand.  
and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Divine Service, Setting Three

# Confession and Absolution

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

### Confession and Absolution.....pages 184-185

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

# Service of the Word

## Entrance Hymn ... "Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service" #848 (1, 3)



1 Lord, whose love through hum - ble ser - vice Bore the weight of  
3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, Till Your love's re -  
hu - man need, Who up - on the cross, for - sak - en,  
veal - ing light In its height and depth and great - ness,  
Of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed, We, Your ser - vants, bring the  
Dawns up - on our quick - ened sight, Mak - ing known the needs and  
wor - ship Not of voice a - lone, but heart, Con - se -  
bur - dens Your com - pas - sion bids us bear, Stir - ring  
crat - ing to Your pur - pose Ev - 'ry gift that You im - part.  
us to tire - less striv - ing, Your a - bun - dant life to share.

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Tune: Public domain

## Kyrie.....page 186



**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## Salutation

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

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

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

*Sit*

**Old Testament Reading**..... **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

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

**[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,  
the founder and perfecter of our faith,  
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the  
shame,  
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

**Epistle Reading** ..... **Hebrews 5:1-10**

Every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him,



“You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you”;

as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,  
after the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**Holy Gospel** ..... **Mark 10:32-45**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the tenth chapter.

**C** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise.”

And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?” And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would

be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

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

**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

**Nicene Creed.....page 191**

**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

Hymn of the Day ..... "Since Our Great High Priest, Christ Jesus" #529 (2-3)

2 Since we have a priest who suf-fered, Know-ing weak-ness,  
 3 Sac-ri-fice and suf-f'ring o-ver, Now He sits at  
 tears, and pain, Who like us was tried and tempt-ed,  
 God's right hand, Crowned with praise, no more an out-cast,  
 Un-like us, with-out a stain— Since He shared our  
 His pre-em-i-nence long-planned; Such a great High  
 low-ly place, Let us bold-ly seek His grace.  
 Priest we have, Strong to help, su-preme to save.

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Sermon..... "Growing Pains, Loss, & Grace"

Stand

Offertory .....pages 192-193

☐ Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-  
 new a right spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-  
 way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho-ly Spir-it  
 from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of Thy sal-va-



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

*Sit*

**Reflection** .....Sheri Mattson

*(Music and time for while preparation is made for Holy Communion.)*

**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)*

*Stand*

**Prayer of the Church**

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

## Service of the Sacrament

**Communion Liturgy** .....page 194

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with thy spirit.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them up unto the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
- C** It is meet and right so to do.
- P** It is truly meet, right and salutary . . . evermore praising You and singing:

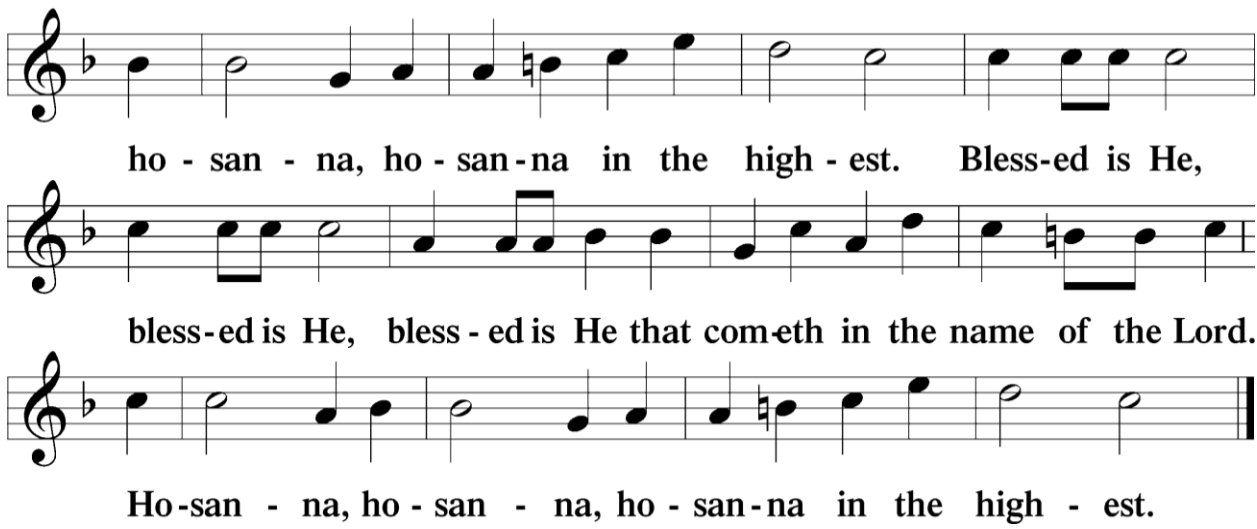
**Sanctus**.....page 195



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,  
 bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Lord's Prayer

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 197

**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."

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

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*Sit (until motioned to rise and proceed forward if going for Communion or a blessing).*

### Communion Distribution

*Distribution of the Lord's gifts in Holy Communion is in standing format with Pastor and the Elder near the chancel steps. You will be released by the usher to head forward, maintaining physical distance between each person or family unit. Pastor will drop the wafer into your hands, so please cup them together and hold them chest-level. Individual plastic cups only are being used, so if you're not taking the non-alcoholic wine from the center, please make sure to take from the outer circle first until all of those are gone before reaching for the next level in. A basket to the left of the table is available for you to place your used cup inside.*

### Communion Hymns .....Sheri Mattson

*Stand*

### Nunc Dimittis.....pages 199-200

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac - cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
 a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
 to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

**Thanksgiving** ..... *pages 200-201*

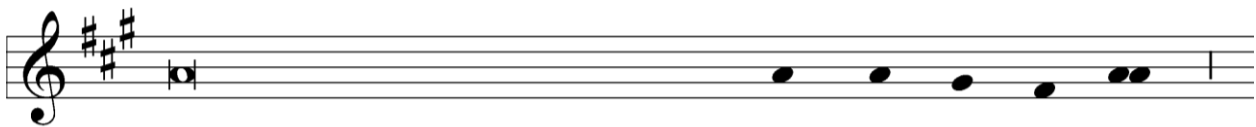
- P** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
- C** and His mercy endureth forever.
- P** Let us pray.
- C** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward 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.

**Salutation and Benedicamus** ..... *page 201*

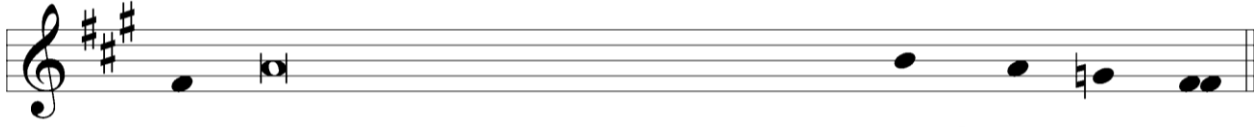
- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with thy spirit.
- P** Bless we the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

**Benediction** ..... *page 202*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



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



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



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

### Sending Hymn..... "Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way" #857(1-5)



1	Lord,	help	us	walk	Your	ser - vant	way	Wher -
2	You	came	to	earth,	O	Christ,	as	Lord,
3	No	gold - en	scep -	ter	but	a	towel	You
4	You	bid	us	bend	our	hu - man	pride	Nor
5	Lord,	help	us	walk	Your	ser - vant	way	Wher -



ev - er	love	may	lead	And,	bend - ing	low,	for -	
pow'r	You	laid	a - side.	You	lived	Your	years	in
place	with - in	the	hands	Of	those	who	seek	to
count	our - selves	a -	bove	The	low - est	place,	the	
ev - er	love	may	lead	And,	bend - ing	low,	for -	



get - ting	self,	Each	serve	the	oth - er's	need.	
ser - vant -	hood;	In	low - li -	ness	You	died.	
fol - low	You	And	live	by	Your	com - mands.	
mean - est	task	That	waits	the	gift	of	love.
get - ting	self,	Each	serve	the	oth - er's	need.	

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

**P** Grow in Christ,

**C** Live in Love and Share the Faith!

### Postlude .....Sheri Mattson



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**Next week's readings:**  
**Zechariah 9:9-12, Philippians 2:5-11; John 12:12-36**

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**Attendance Last Saturday: 26**

**Attendance Last Sunday: 34**

**Attendance Lenten Midweek: 25**

**Total Offering: \$3,862.57**

**Missions: \$0.00**

**Home Use: \$3,802.57**

**Benevolences: \$60.00**

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**Serving us today:**

Elders/Ushers.....Willie Crespo, Jeremy VanWey  
Musician..... Sheri Mattson  
Altar Committee.....Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Karon Harding,  
Esther Keseman, Georgia Luker  
Flower Committee .....Penny Humphrey (Chair), Sheree Moody

**This Week's Schedule**

Monday	10:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park
	6:30 p.m.	4-H Meeting
Tuesday	9:30 a.m.	Quilting
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Midweek Lenten Service
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School
	7:00 p.m.	“Jesus’ Final Week”—Zoom Bible Study
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Worship
Sunday	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)
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School—Jr. and Sr. Youth
	9:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Class—“Reading Romans”
	10:30 a.m.	Worship (Palm Sunday)
	1:00 p.m.	Youth Catechesis

**Prayers**

**For Catechumen** Amy Martin as she was confirmed last night and received into church membership. The Lord’s grace and peace to her as she grows in the way of Christ’s cross and resurrection with us!

**For New Member** David Gates as he is received into membership by transfer from Our Saviour—Kansas City, KS (after 33 years there without missing a service).

**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: Don Apprill (Cindy Schnell's dad), Leora Baack (Charlene McCarter's mother), Paula Brewer, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Scott Compton (Bob & Barbara's son), Kelley Corzine (Melvin's Theroff's granddaughter), Carie (Julie Crespo's friend), Crystal McDaniel (Diane McComas's daughter) Denise (Penny Humphrey's sister), Marion & Leona Droege, Laney Ethers, 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, Troy McCarter (Lloyd McCarter's brother), Johnny Nichol, Jim Rudy, Nathan Schultz (Samantha Browns' fiancé) Pat Spanton, Bryan Tebbenkamp, Lynne Trimble (Kaye Fair's sister), & Paula Willis (Bonnie Rich's friend). *We remember as well all who are dealing with COVID—19, especially the healthcare providers who are working to prevent, stem the spread, and treat those who are ill!*

**For Pregnant Mothers**, especially Brittany and Joe Brown and Bridgette and Jonathan Sharp as they await childbirth next month and this summer, respectively. May the Lord grant good health and joyful expectation!

**For Seminarian** Jonathan Sharp (and his wife Bridgette) as he continues his studies and prepares to receive his vicarage assignment at the end of April.

**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.

**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 (Masks required at all services)**

**Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m.** You can also watch it 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.** Holy Communion is observed on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> weekends of the month.

**Re+lent** means “to give up or abandon—to become less severe, to soften” and is of central importance to the passage from Joel that sets the tone for Lent: “Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God?” (2:13b-14). **Re-** is a prefix meaning “to go back or retrace to the original—to do again.” In the season of **Lent** (which has its origin in the root of the word “length”), we head through lengthening daylight toward Easter/spring and find that as we face what darkens our lives. **Join us for our last midweek service on Wednesday, March 24 as we get to the T—Trashing.**

**On Easter Sunday** we will be having two services, both with communion. Sunrise service will be at 7:00 a.m. and Easter celebration service will be at 10:30 a.m. **A sign-up for services will be sent out on Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. via email. If you do not have email, please call the office to sign up.** We will be livestreaming the 7:00 a.m. service for those choosing to stay home or be elsewhere.

**The Men’s Club** will be handing out **Hot Cross Buns** on Easter morning in lieu of the Easter breakfast. The Hot Cross Buns will be made fresh from our own Green Truck Bakery here in Warrensburg the day before. Keep your eyes open to learn more about these and the meaning for Easter Sunday.

### [Opportunities to Serve](#)

**Bethlehem’s Community Garden** began its overhaul last fall and winter with the building of raised beds for this year’s growing season, and recently got a dump-truck load of topsoil. This is an exciting new venture to which everyone is welcome to participate, and spring planting will be coming up soon! Pick up one of the new pamphlets to learn more, talk to Pr. Joel or Shawn Lindley if you’d like to know more, 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!

**SHINE! A Community Day of Service is planned for the morning of Saturday, April 17 here at Bethlehem (10 a.m. to noon, to be exact)!** Each congregation in the Missouri District is encouraged to do something good in and for its community in late April to let our light shine so that others may see and give glory to our heavenly Father here on earth with us (as Jesus said, Matthew 5:16). We are planning a giveaway of items from Amazon’s product philanthropy program, as well as other items accessed through our membership in the Jeremiah 29:11 warehouse, highlighting our community garden, and having a splendid spring morning of giving, receiving, and sharing. Everyone can help in some way, so let the church office know



if you'd like to be a part of this fun endeavor! More details will be coming, but **it will take some doing setting up earlier that morning and taking down in the afternoon.**

**Food Center Needs:** pouch tuna, canned meats, cake mixes and icing, diapers, jelly in squeezable bottles. Other staples are also welcome. Donations can be dropped off at 137 E. Culton, **T & TR, 1-4 pm & Saturday, 9-11 am** or left at the north church entrance in the round barrel by the bulletin board.

### [Faith Discussion and Bible Study](#)

**Sunday Youth Bible Study**—Jeremy VanWey has started a new one 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!

**"Reading Romans" Study on Sunday Mornings!** To all who attended the Sunday Bible study last year and didn't think we'd finish Romans by the end of the year, you were right! We have resumed class **from 9:30-10:10 a.m.**, keeping it a bit shorter while still packing a lot in. We'll be meeting in the conference room, unless you hear otherwise. Please consider joining us!

**"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 1 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.

**Easter Season/Spring Bible Study & Discussion Groups**—Pr. Joel plans to offer the study *Death, Heaven, Resurrection, and the New Creation* (by Kent Bureson and Beth Hoeltke at Concordia Seminary, with whom he's worked on projects) during the Easter season, as well as restarting the study and discussion *Reforesting Faith (What Trees Teach Us About the Nature of God and His Love for Us)* this spring. Keep a lookout for days and times based on the responses he received!

**Lutheran Hour Ministries—How can I use my gifts to love my neighbor, in my own neighborhood?** In 2020, a year like no other, many of us were forced to be become reacquainted with the neighborhood in which we live. We discovered neighbors we never knew, found gifts we didn't recognize before, and began to wonder how we could bring more hope to our neighborhood. If you found yourself thinking any of those thoughts, join Lutheran Hour Ministries and The Hopeful Neighborhood Project. You can learn more at [www.lhm.org/together](http://www.lhm.org/together).

## Upcoming Events

**Holy Thursday Altar Bread Making**—Join us in the kitchen as we pray our way through the steps and make the bread to be used for the Communion service that evening. Anyone is welcome to participate on the **1st at 5:00 p.m.**

**Easter Egg Hunt**—The Fellowship Board will be having an Easter Egg Hunt for children on **Saturday, April 3, starting at 11:00 a.m.** Bring your Easter baskets ready to hunt 500 eggs. There will also be 3 special **GOLDEN EGGS.**

## Offerings

**Thrivent Choice Dollars Alert**—Members with 2020 Choice Dollars available need to designate these funds before the end of March or they will expire. You may direct your Choice Dollars to Bethlehem or your choice of another organization on the Thrivent list. Choice Dollars may be designated at [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or by calling 800-847-4836 and when prompted say “Thrivent Choice”.

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*”.

## Miscellaneous

**Saint Paul Lutheran High School Annual Sausage Supper: Sunday March 28, 2021.** This Drive Through Sausage Supper will be held on the campus from **11 a.m. - 1 p.m.** To participate you will simply drive onto the campus from Main Street and proceed through the stations designated for ordering, donations and meal pickup. You never need to leave your car! Dinner includes bratwurst, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, green beans with bacon, applesauce, roll and cheesecake. All free will donations will benefit the students and organizations of Saint Paul High school.

**The Singing Saints** will be holding their **Home Concert on Sunday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m.** at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Concordia. It will be an evening of wonderful music!

## 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)

# HOLY WEEK—APRIL 1-4



## **MAUNDAY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE**

April 1-7:00 p.m.

## **GOOD FRIDAY NOONDAY PRAYER**

April 2-12:00 p.m.

## **GOOD FRIDAY**

**(Service will be livestreamed)**

April 2-7:00 p.m.

## **SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL**

April 3-7:00 p.m.

## **GREAT THE RISING SUN/SON**

April 4-6:30 a.m.

## **EASTER SUNRISE COMMUNION SERVICE**

**(Service will be livestreamed)**

April 4-7:00 a.m.

## **EASTER CELEBRATION COMMUNION SERVICE**

April 4-10:30 a.m.