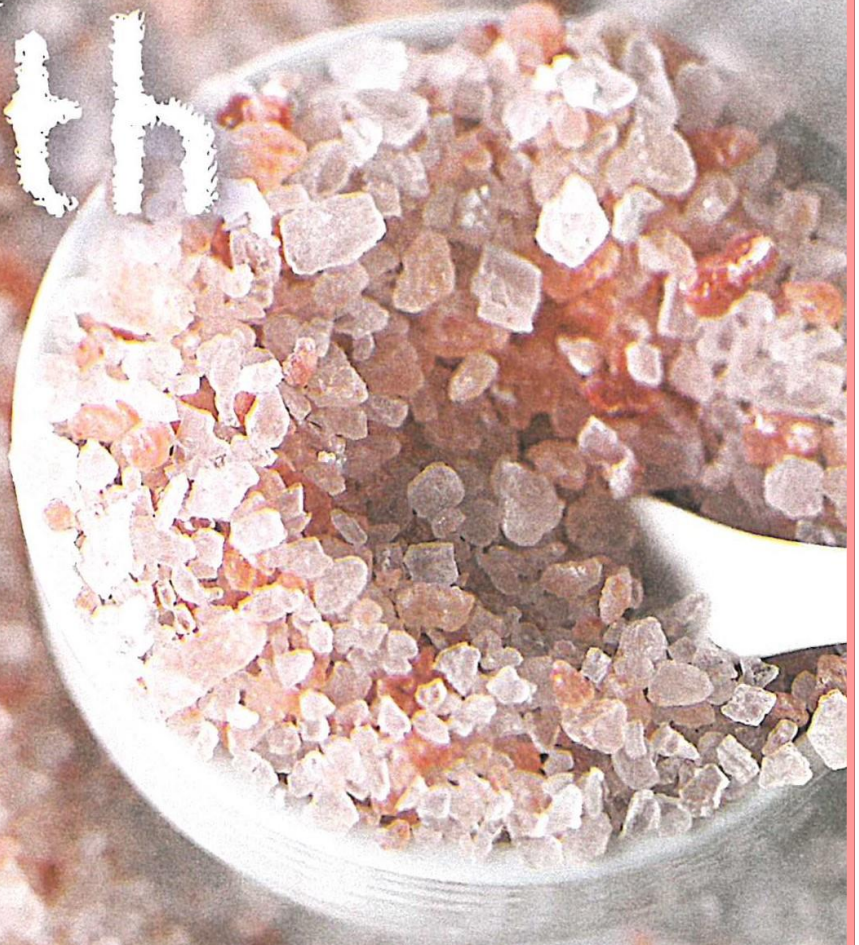


# You are the Salt of the earth

MATTHEW 5:13







+ Fifth Sunday After The Epiphany +

**February 4-5, 2023**

---

### **AS WE GATHER**

The Epiphany season continues to illuminate the miracle of Christmas shining its light forward to the goal and purpose of Christ's coming to us in the flesh. That purpose is the salvation of the world through the forgiveness of our sins. That forgiveness can and will happen only through the sacrifice on Christ's cross. As often as we Christians have heard this Gospel and believe it, however, the more often we tend to forget that this knowledge, this faith, remains a hidden mystery to the world, which ignores, rejects, or explains away "Jesus Christ and Him crucified." Many really don't get it! Yet, here through the Divine Word and Sacraments, God the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, enlightens minds and hearts to a spiritual epiphany.

---

### **REGARDING COMMUNION**

*Epiphany* means "the manifesting" or "showing forth." Jesus was *made known* as God in flesh by the descent of the Holy Spirit and voice of the Father when baptized, as well as through the miracles of healing he did for the ill and suffering. We come to our Lord's Table as a people baptized into the name of the Holy Triune God ... as Christians who desire to continue in the faith and life of Jesus. Our Lord Jesus *makes himself known* to us still as we gather at the altar to receive his body and blood in the bread and wine for our forgiveness and healing and strength. Then we go forth to *make him known* to others in word and witness. ***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.***

***If you are in need of a gluten-free wafer for Communion,  
please let Pastor or an Elder know.***

**Liturgical Color:**

**Green is the color of life and growth in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

**Visitors:** We are glad you have chosen to be with us today! We would especially like to follow-up with you beyond today, so please take a moment to leave your best contact information in the guest books at each entrance/exit. **A cry-room for parents and children is just off from the front entryway, and there's a wonderful nursery downstairs at the end of the fellowship hall for you to make use of at any time.** Do you have any questions about anything here? Don't hesitate to ask one of the ushers or elders, or talk to the pastor.

**Prelude**

*Please rise, as able.*

**Invocation Hymn ..... "God Has Spoken by His Prophets", #583**



1 God has spo - ken by His proph - ets, Spo - ken His un - chang - ing Word;  
2 God has spo - ken by Christ Je - sus, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Son,  
3 God is speak - ing by His Spir - it, Speak - ing to our hearts a - gain,



Each from age to age pro - claim - ing God, the one, the righ - teous Lord.  
Bright - ness of the Fa - ther's glo - ry, With the Fa - ther ev - er one;  
In the age - less Word de - clar - ing His own mes - sage, now as then.



In the world's de - spir and tur - moil, One firm an - chor holds us fast:  
Spo - ken by the Word In - car - nate, God of God, be - fore time was;  
Through the rise and fall of na - tions One sure faith yet stand - ing fast;



God is king, His throne e - ter - nal; God the first, and God the last.  
Light of Light, to earth de - scend - ing, He re - veals our God to us.  
God a - bides, His Word un - chang - ing; God the first, and God the last.

# Divine Service, Setting Four

## Confession and Absolution

### Invocation and Confession & Absolution .....page 203

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.  
**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** who made heaven and earth.  
**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.  
**P** Since we are gathered . . . God, be merciful to me, a sinner.  
**C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.  
**P** Almighty God, . . . through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**C** Amen.

## Service of the Word

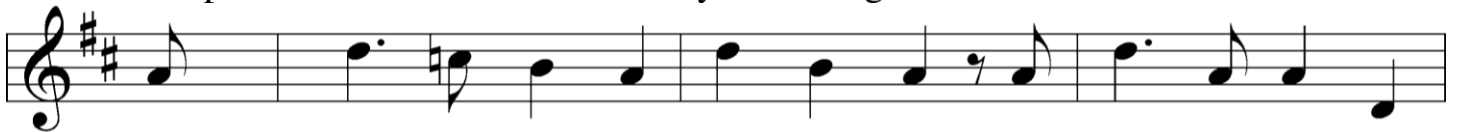
### Entrance Hymn ..... "All Who Believe and Are Baptized", #601



1 All who be - lieve and are bap - tized Shall see the Lord's sal - va - tion;  
2 With one ac - cord, O God, we pray: Grant us Your Ho - ly Spir - it.



Bap - tized in - to the death of Christ, They are a new cre - a - tion.  
Help us in our in - fir - mi - ty Through Je - sus' blood and mer - it.



Through Christ's re - demp - tion they shall stand A - mong the glo - rious,  
Grant us to grow in grace each day That by this sac - ra -



heav'n - ly band Of ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion.  
ment we may E - ter - nal life in - her - it.

**Kyrie**.....page 204

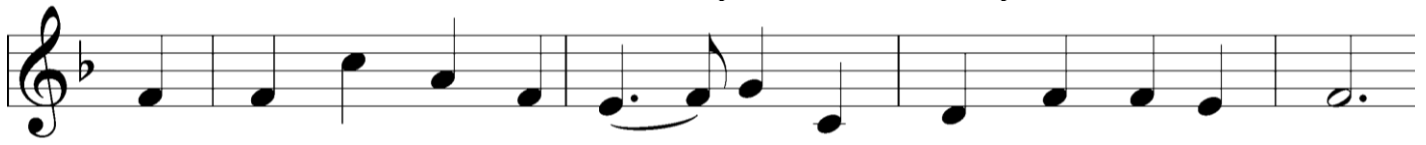


**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

**Gloria in Excelsis**.....page 204



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

**Salutation**.....page 205

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

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

O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty

power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Please be seated*

**Old Testament Reading.....Isaiah 58:3-9a**

“Why have we fasted, and you see it not?

Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?’

Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure,  
and oppress all your workers.

Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to hit with a wicked fist.

Fasting like yours this day

will not make your voice to be heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,

a day for a person to humble himself?

Is it to bow down his head like a reed,

and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?

Will you call this a fast,

and a day acceptable to the LORD?

“Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of wickedness,

to undo the straps of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry

and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover him,

and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,

and your healing shall spring up speedily;

your righteousness shall go before you;

the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;

you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

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

**Praise the Lord, all nations!**

**Extol him, all peoples!**

**For great is his steadfast love toward us,  
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.**

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

**Epistle Reading** ..... **1 Corinthians 2:1-16**

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the heart of man imagined,  
what God has prepared for those who love him” —

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia and Verse** .....page 205



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



**C** These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



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

**Holy Gospel** ..... **Matthew 5:13-20**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

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

[Jesus said:] “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

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



**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.**

*Please be seated*

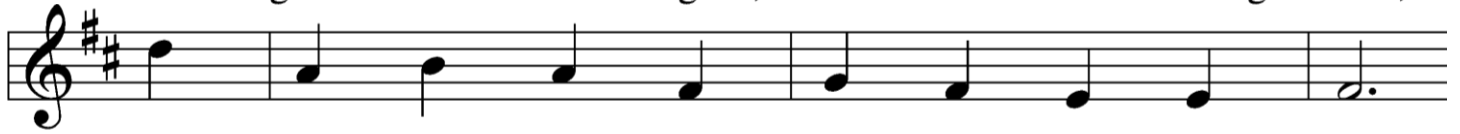
# Hymn of the Day ..... "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness", #788



1 For - give us, Lord, for shal - low thank - ful - ness,  
2 Teach us to thank You, Lord, for love and grace,  
3 For - give us, Lord, for self - ish thanks and praise,  
4 Teach us, O Lord, true thank - ful - ness di - vine,



For dull con - tent with warmth and shel - tered care,  
For life and vi - sion, for a pur - pose clear,  
For words that speak at var - i - ance with deeds;  
That gives as Christ gave, nev - er count - ing cost,



For songs of praise for food and har - vest press,  
For Christ Your Son, and for each hu - man face  
For - give our thanks for walk - ing pleas - ant ways  
That knows no bar - ri - er of "yours" and "mine,"



While of Your rich - er gifts we're un - a - ware:  
That shows Your mes - sage ev - er new and near.  
Un - mind - ful of a bro - ken broth - er's needs:  
As - sured that on - ly what's with - held is lost.

5 Forgive us, Lord, for feast that knows not fast,  
For joy in things that meanwhile starve the soul,  
For walls and wars that hide Your mercies vast  
And blur our vision of the Kingdom goal:

6 Open our eyes to see Your love's intent,  
To know with minds and hearts its depth and height;  
May thankfulness be days in service spent,  
Reflection of Christ's life and love and light.

Text: © 1965, renewed 1993 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555  
Tune: © 1990 Church of the Ascension, Atlantic City, N.J. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

**Sermon.....** "Salt of the Earth/Light of the World"

# Offering & Offertory

*Please rise*

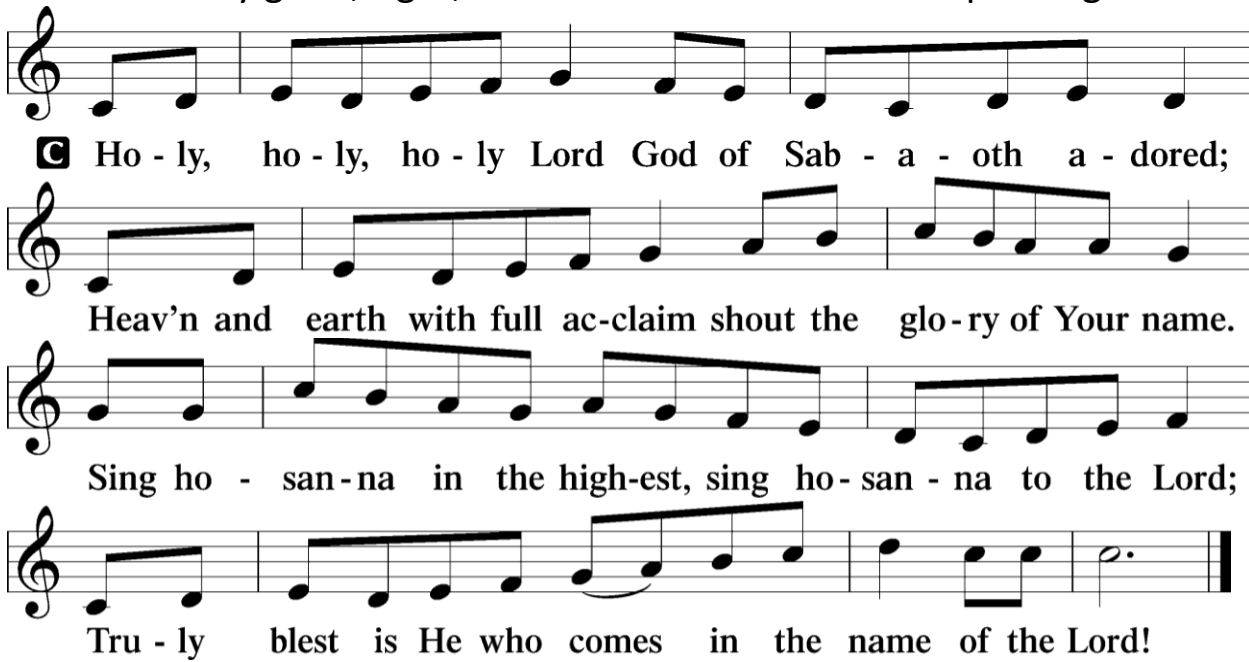
## Prayer of the Church

- P** Lord, in your mercy.
- C** Hear our prayer.

# Service of the Sacrament

## Communion Liturgy .....pages 208-210

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also 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 saying:



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
 Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.  
 Sing ho - san - na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;  
 Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## Agnus Dei.....page 210



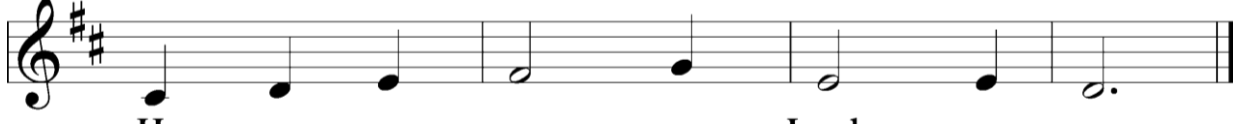
**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*Please be seated, until motioned to rise & proceed forward if going for Communion or a blessing.*

### Instrumental

### *(Communion Hymns—Sunday Only)*

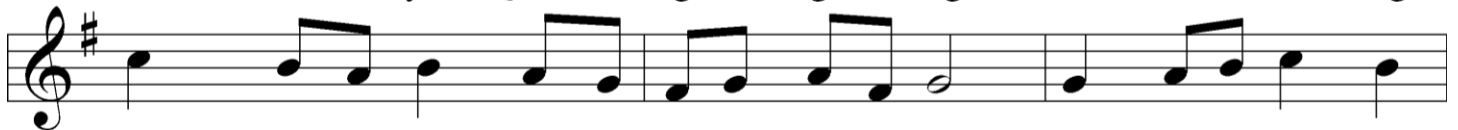
### Communion Hymn ..... "Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling", #650



1 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er dwell - ing In the ho - liest  
2 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er liv - ing As the Church's  
3 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er work - ing Through the Church's



realms of light; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er brood - ing  
ver - y life; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er striv - ing  
min - is - try; Quick - 'ning, strength - 'ning, and ab - solv - ing,



O'er a world of gloom and night; Ho - ly Spir - it,  
Through us in a cease - less strife; Ho - ly Spir - it,  
Set - ting cap - tive sin - ners free; Ho - ly Spir - it,



ev - er rais - ing Those of earth to thrones on high; Liv - ing,  
ev - er form - ing In the Church the mind of Christ: You we  
ev - er bind - ing Age to age and soul to soul In com -

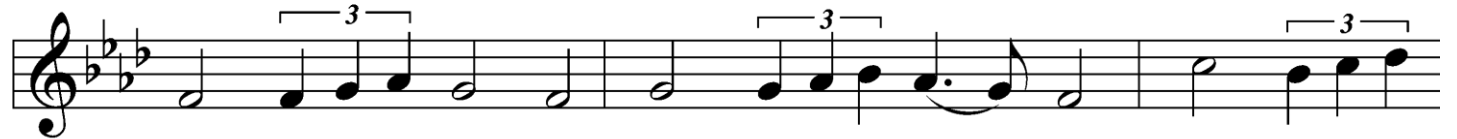




life - im - part - ing Spir - it, You we praise and mag - ni - fy.  
 praise with end - less wor - ship For Your gifts and fruits un - priced.  
 mu - nion nev - er end - ing, You we wor - ship and ex - tol.

Text and tune: Public domain. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

**Communion Hymn** ..... *“Thy Strong Word”, #578*



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy  
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as  
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with  
 4 From the cross Thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed  
 night and deep as death, Broke the light of  
 Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we  
 forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -



light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.  
 Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - breath - ing breath.  
 press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.  
 ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.



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



Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

(5) Give us lips to sing Thy glory,  
 Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,  
 Throats that shout the hope that fills us,  
 Mouths to speak Thy holy name.  
 Alleluia, alleluia!  
 May the light which Thou dost send  
 Fill our songs with alleluias,  
 Alleluias without end!

(6) God the Father, light-creator,  
 To Thee laud and honor be.  
 To Thee, Light of Light begotten,  
 Praise be sung eternally.  
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer,  
 Glory, glory be to Thee.  
 Mortals, angels, now and ever  
 Praise the holy Trinity!

Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555, Tune: Public domain

*Please rise*

**Post Communion Canticle**..... *“Nunc Dimittis”* page 211



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



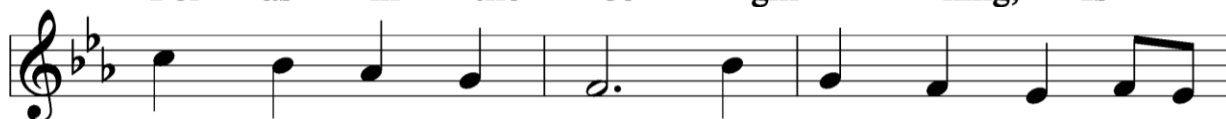
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is



to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -

peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

**Post-Communion Collect**..... page 212

**Benedicamus and Benediction**..... page 212

**Sending Hymn** ..... "Rise, Shine, You People", #825

1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered  
 2 See how He sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;  
 3 Come, cel - e - brate, your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,  
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent His Son to save us.

Our hu - man sto - ry; God in Him is cen - tered.  
 He brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing.  
 Your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing.  
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us.

He comes to us, by death and sin sur -  
 All men and wom - en, who by guilt are  
 To all the world go out and tell the  
 Tell how the Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry

round - ed, With grace un - bound - ed.  
 driv - en, Now are for - giv - en.  
 sto - ry Of Je - sus' glo - ry.  
 na - tion His new cre - a - tion.

Text and tune: © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, adm. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

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

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

**Postlude**

**Next week's readings:**

**OT: Deuteronomy 30:15–20; EP: 1 Corinthians 3:1–9; Gospel: Matthew 5:21–37**

---

<b>Attendance Last Saturday: 50</b>	<b>Attendance Last Sunday: 72</b>
<b>Total Offering: \$4,421.00</b>	<b>Missions: \$50.00</b>
<b>Home Use: \$2,807.00</b>	<b>Benevolences/Non-Offering: \$1,564.00</b>

---

**Serving us today:**

Elders .....Jack Easterwood (Sat), Alan Miller, Willie Crespo, (Sun)  
Musicians .....Jerrode Marsh, Lorraine Miller  
Altar Committee .....Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Julie Crespo,  
Karon Harding, Georgia Luker, Amy Martin  
Flower Committee .....Penny Humphrey (Chair), Lori Sloan

**This Week's Schedule**

Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	2:00 p.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park
	6:30 p.m.	Scouts
Tuesday	12:00 p.m.	Braille in Concordia
Wednesday	8:15 a.m.	Pastor at ILS—Higginsville for Chapel
	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
	7:00 p.m.	Scout Parent/Leader Meeting
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Garden Planning Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Worship
	6:30 p.m.	Valentine Fellowship (coffee and treats)
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)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
	11:45 a.m.	Valentine Fellowship (treats and more)
	2:30 p.m.	Country Club Center Service



## Prayers

**For Sustenance, Healing, and Provision**—We remember those who are dealing with illness, are homebound or in nursing homes, are undergoing and recovering from surgery, as well as going through hospitalization and rehabilitation: Jerry Bell, Mel Bockelman, Paula Brewer, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Bob & Barbara Compton, Marion Droege, Tommy Fatka, Wilma Gertz, Karen Haase, Bret & Valerie Hartwig, Mary Johnson, Wanda Kreisel, Rohn Luker, Neala Ann (Cody Droege's niece), Judy Pierce, Maryanna Savery, Denny Spanton, Rose Steitz, & Joe Zeman.

**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 and Chance Hillsman.

**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, feel free 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!

## Special Days for Members This Week

**Birthdays**—Justin Lowe-6<sup>th</sup>, Mike McMinn-7<sup>th</sup>, Katie Kurz-8<sup>th</sup>, Ken Hoemann-9<sup>th</sup>

## Worship Services

**Saturday Services start at 5:30 p.m. Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m.** Sunday's Services are live on Facebook and YouTube and the webpage at [blchurch.com](http://blchurch.com).

## Sunday School and Christian Education

**Wednesday Bible Study**—We are reading and discussing our way through the writings of the prophet Zechariah. **Join us in the conference room from 10:30 a.m. to noon** for this biblical journey together!

**Sunday Bible Study (9:15-10:10 a.m. in the conference room)**—We're using Trevor Sutton's 2018 book *Clearly Christian: Following Jesus in This Age of Confusion* as an inroad to Scripture, the Christian faith, and life. Join us for this discussion and exploration of who Christ is and what believing and living in Him really means!

**Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings downstairs for ages Preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.** We invite all children of the congregation (and outside too!) to come and be a part of this time set aside for growing together in Christ.

**Vacation Bible School**—Mark your calendars for **June 23-25!** Vacation Bible School will give children a chance to dive into *God's Living Water: Covered in Jesus' Grace*. Watch for more details as the date get closer.

**Family Discipleship Conference**—The Missouri District, as part of its goal to assist congregations in encouraging and equipping faith formation at home, will be hosting a “Tell the Next Generation” family conference called **The Christ-Centered Home on Saturday, March 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Lutheran High School of St. Charles**. Families’ identities are reflected in what they own, what they talk about, what they do, and where they go—thereby showing who they are and what they love. This conference aims to support families as they create Christ-centered homes and live out of their central identity. To see a list of the presenters and the wide range of topics covered that day, go to [www.mo.lcms.org/events](http://www.mo.lcms.org/events). We hope to have at least a few attend from here and bring back what they learned with the congregation. **Let Pr. Joel know by the end of the month if you plan to attend.** Registration is simply the cost of lunch and can be covered by funds Bethlehem has available.

### Youth Opportunities

**YouthLead Missouri** is a leadership training for high school youth. This conference will be held on **February 18-20, 2023 at Rocky Mount, Missouri**. Youth will receive practical training to help prepare them to be leaders in their own churches and community. Bethlehem would pay for any youth wanting to go to this mentorship/leadership training. Please let Pr. Joel or Penny Humphrey know if you are interested.

**The Jr. and Sr. Youth** will be planning their 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday event on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Look for upcoming details on the time and place it will be held.

### Music

**Choir Practice** is held on **Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.** in the conference room. The first half-hour is dedicated to fellowship, then a full one-hour rehearsal. All previous and **prospective** choir members are invited to attend. Please give this opportunity prayerful consideration to strengthen our church and the unified Body of Christ through songs of faith.

### Mary Martha Guild

**Altar Flowers**—The Mary-Martha Guild invites you to **donate flowers** to honor a birthday, anniversary or other occasion, or honor the memory of a loved one who has passed away. To do so, there is a poster across from the mailboxes and you can sign up for the specific date you would like. You can also contact Penny Humphrey.

**Recycling**—Please consider bringing all of your *aluminum cans* to Bethlehem to be recycled! You can place your bags by the shed in the parking lot. Proceeds go to the Lutheran World Relief through the Guild.

### Fellowship

**Valentine Fellowship**—The Fellowship Committee is planning a Valentine fellowship time after both **Saturday and Sunday services on the weekend of February 11-12**. Stay after and enjoy some tasty treats and drinks, plus worthwhile time visiting with others!

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

**The Games and Card Group** meets on **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Youth Room downstairs. Anyone, men and women, are welcome to come. If you have any questions, please contact Melvin Theroff.

**The Quilting Group** meets on the **second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.** (September through May). Anyone is welcome to help with this project. No special sewing skills are needed. Bring your own lunch. If you have any questions, please contact Georgia Luker.

### This & That

**2023 Food Shelf Challenge**—Bethlehem will be collecting **150 food items** (boxes, bags or cans) and our local Food Center will receive **\$150.00**. Bring your donations and place in the Food Center shopping cart before **March 31**. The Kansas & Missouri Thrivent Member Network has put this challenge out in order to help many food centers around the Kansas and Missouri regions. If we get 150 items they will make the monetary donation.

**“Souper” Bowl Drive**—The Food Center will be taking monetary donations to purchase soup this year. You can also donate cans of soup by leaving them at the church or taking them to the Food Center on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. There is a great need right now.

**Mark Your Calendars for a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner here on February 21 from 5-7 p.m.!** Known to many as Fat Tuesday (or Mardi Gras in French), this day before Ash Wednesday became associated with pancakes because the last of the eggs and fats had to be used up before the Lenten fast from them (until they could be eaten again on Easter Sunday). This will be an open-to-the-community event, with all free-will donations collected going to the Food Center. *You will also learn*

*how this more than 500 year-old tradition began in the same English town where "Amazing Grace" was written 250 years ago this year!* Spread the word and keep a lookout for opportunities to help, as well.

**Thrivent Choice Dollars**—Members with 2022 choice dollars available need to designate these funds **before March 31** 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/Thrivent Choice](https://www.thrivent.com/ThriventChoice), or by calling 800-847-4836 and when prompted say "Thrivent Choice". This past year Bethlehem Thrivent members used choice dollars to assist with the annual Warrensburg Angel Tree Project and food and supplies for Bethlehem's Vacation Bible School. We also funded several other mission type projects with either Choice Dollars or many Action Team Project Grants from various Thrivent members of Bethlehem. Please contact Larry Haase if you have questions or seek information on how you can be involved with our activities or projects.

**Thinking Spring & Garden/Trail Groups**—As we look toward the return of green growth before too long, consider staking your claim as part of the Garden & Greenspace Group (3G) or Nature Trail Crew! By helping out in this way, you're saying you want to be involved in tending to our wonderful spots of nature here at Bethlehem. Plan on attending an organizing and planning meeting on **Saturday, February 11 at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room**, and if you can't make the meeting, let Shawn Lindley or Pr. Joel know. Help us steward this treasure together and grow in gratitude for the Lord's good earth!

**Offering Envelopes**—We are still waiting on offering envelopes to arrive! For the time being, you may use a blank envelope for your offering. Please make sure you put your name and where you want the funds designated to on the front of the envelope.

**Country Kitchen Cards**—We have Country Kitchen Cards. Stop by the office if you would like to purchase one. They are \$10 and you get 10 buy-one- get-one free meal deals. All proceeds go to the youth group. Thanks for your support!

**Ongoing thanks** to those who generously give to the Bethlehem Emergency Fund, which enables Pr. Joel to assist members and certain people in the community who are in crisis situations. Much appreciation for your good support!

### **Other Events**

**Trivia Night, Saint Paul Lutheran High School, Concordia.** The event will be held on **Saturday, February 18th** in the Gym Annex at SPLHS. Doors open at 6:00pm, trivia begins at 6:30pm. **Cost is \$80 per table** with a maximum of 8 people per table. Cash



prizes for 1st and 2nd place, plus team prizes for best costumes/table decorations (choose your own theme). Teams can bring their own snacks and drinks will be available for purchase. To register a team, send name and contact person to [CGifford@splhs.org](mailto:CGifford@splhs.org) or call 660-463-2238 ext. 266 by Wednesday, February 15th.

**Chili-Soup Dinner**—St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Ernestville is sponsoring a Chili-Soup Dinner on **Sunday, February 19 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Proceeds will be used for the St. Paul's Elementary School Tuition Program.

**The Katy Trail medical mobile unit** will be in Warrensburg each **Tuesday from 9am-3pm**. If you know someone that has medical needs and would benefit from affordable or free healthcare with prescription help please pass on this information. The unit is located behind the food pantry at **137 E. Culton Street Warrensburg**. First Presbyterian Church is also hosting a **free lunch** on Tuesday's to coincide with the mobile unit. **The lunch will be from 11:30am-1pm**. All are welcome. Most insurances are accepted. **Call 877-733-5824 to schedule an appointment.**

### 2023 Elders

**Willie Crespo** (last name begins A-F) 660-679-8121, [crespo6fam@gmail.com](mailto:crespo6fam@gmail.com)

**Ricky Bertels** (last name begins G-K), 660-262-8080, [rick1janice2@gmail.com](mailto:rick1janice2@gmail.com)

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

**Alan Miller** (last name begins P-Z) 660-909-1764, [alormiller@aol.com](mailto:alormiller@aol.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)

#### **Bookkeeper:**

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 9am-11am

Thursday: 9am-11am

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

Please note that Bethlehem Lutheran Church has a closed-circuit video system. This allows for live streaming on the web, 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.