

Do not
let your
hearts be
troubled

JOHN 14:1



+ Fifth Sunday Of Easter +

May 6-7, 2023

AS WE GATHER

We continue to focus our attention on Jesus' resurrection. We see that Jesus is the stone that was rejected by the religious leaders. He was crucified and killed by them. Yet God raised Jesus from the dead, making Him the cornerstone, the foundational stone upon which all the other stones in the building are aligned and built. As we build upon the foundation and cornerstone of Jesus, we are conformed and aligned to Him.

REGARDING COMMUNION

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

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

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

Liturgical Color:

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

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

(Prayer request cards will be collected by an usher passing through the aisle.)

Invocation Hymn..... "Awake My Heart with Gladness", #467



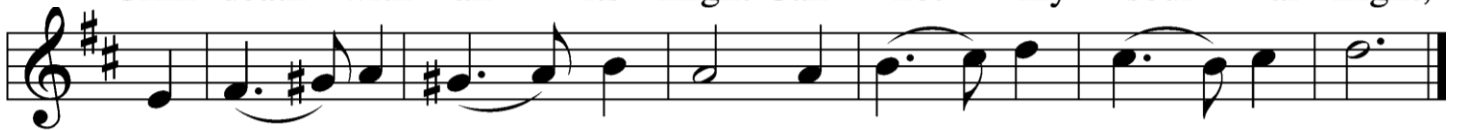
1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness, See what to - day is done;
2 The foe in tri - umph shout - ed When Christ lay in the tomb;
3 This is a sight that glad - dens—What peace it doth im - part!
4 Now hell, its prince, the dev - il, Of all their pow'r are shorn;



Now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, Comes forth the glo - rious sun.
But lo, he now is rout - ed, His boast is turned to gloom.
Now noth - ing ev - er sad - dens The joy with - in my heart.
Now I am safe from e - vil, And sin I laugh to scorn.



My Sav - ior there was laid Where our bed must be made
For Christ a - gain is free; In glo - rious vic - to - ry
No gloom shall ev - er shake, No foe shall ev - er take
Grim death with all its might Can - not my soul af - fright;



When to the realms of light Our spir - it wings its flight.
He who is strong to save Has tri - umphed o'er the grave.
The hope which God's own Son In love for me has won.
It is a pow'r - less form, How - e'er it rave and storm.

5 The world against me rages,
Its fury I disdain;
Though bitter war it wages,
Its work is all in vain.
My heart from care is free,
No trouble troubles me.
Misfortune now is play,
And night is bright as day.

6 Now I will cling forever
To Christ, my Savior true;
My Lord will leave me never,
Whate'er He passes through.
He rends death's iron chain;
He breaks through sin and pain;
He shatters hell's grim thrall;
I follow Him through all.

7 He brings me to the portal
 That leads to bliss untold,
 Whereon this rhyme immortal
 Is found in script of gold:
 “Who there My cross has shared
 Finds here a crown prepared;
 Who there with Me has died
 Shall here be glorified.”

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Please rise.

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 . . .
- C** Amen.

Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn“How Great Thou Art”, #801



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er
 2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
 3 But when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to
 4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y
 birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; When I look down from loft - y moun - tain
 die, I scarce can take it in— That on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
 gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
 bear - ing He bled and died to take a - way my sin;
 ra - tion And there pro - claim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee, How great Thou



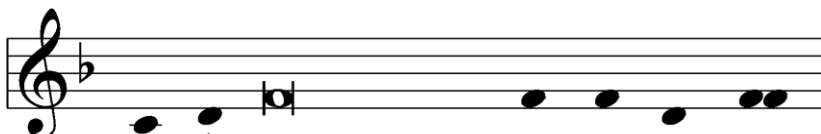
art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

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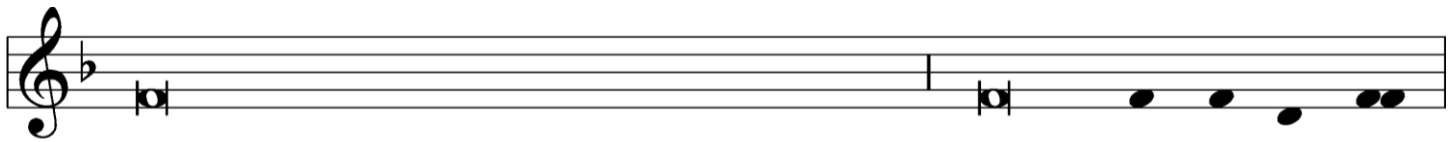
Kyrie.....*pages 152-153*



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.



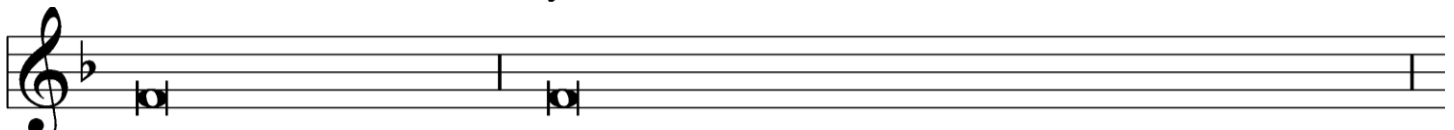
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



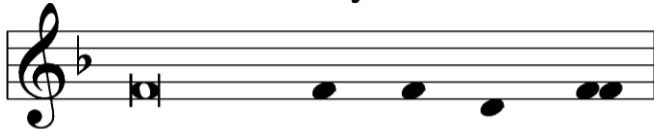
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



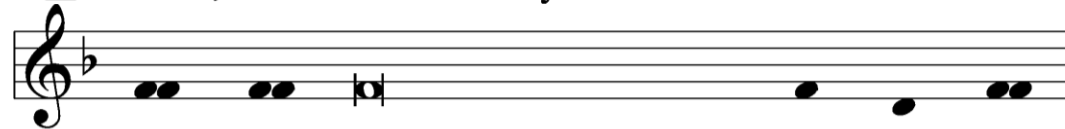
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C A - men.



Refrain

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



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



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



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



Final Refrain

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



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

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, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading **Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60**

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . .

And Stephen said:

"Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . .

You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." But they

cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken in unison*)

Christ has risen from the dead.

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

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

he has put all things under his feet. (*Matt. 28:7, Heb. 2:7; Psalm 8:6*)

Epistle Reading **1 Peter 2:2-10**

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please rise.

Alleluia and Versepage 156



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

Holy Gospel**John 14:1-14**

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

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

[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

Hymn of the Day *"I Am Jesus' Little Lamb", #740*



1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb, Ev - er glad at
2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my
3 Who so hap - py as I am, E - ven now the



heart I am; For my Shep - herd gent - ly guides me,
staff and stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me,
Shep - herd's lamb? And when my short life is end - ed,



Knows my need and well pro - vides me, Loves me ev - 'ry
In - to pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; When I thirst, He
By His an - gel host at - tend - ed, He shall fold me



day the same, E - ven calls me by my name.
bids me go Where the qui - et wa - ters flow.
to His breast, There with - in His arms to rest.

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Sermon..... *"A Stumbling Stone"*

Choir Anthem *"Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me"*

Please rise.

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.

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.


Please be seated.

Offering

Please rise.

Offertorypages 159-160

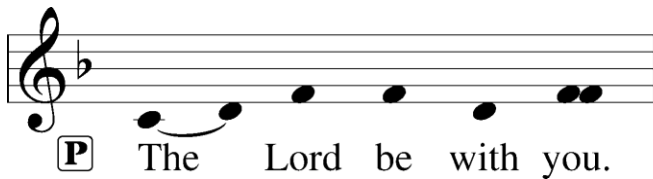
C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
 me? I will of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will



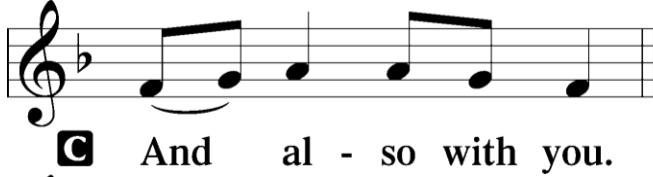
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
 va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
 vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

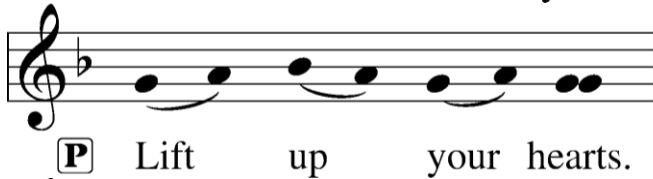
Communion Liturgypages 160-163



P The Lord be with you.



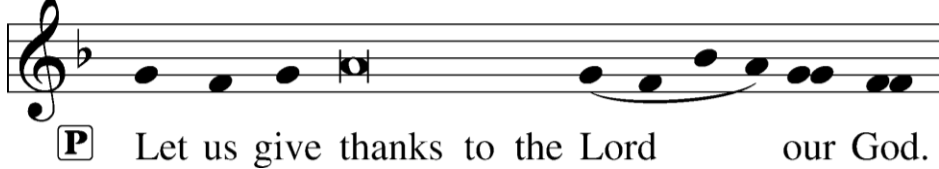
C And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



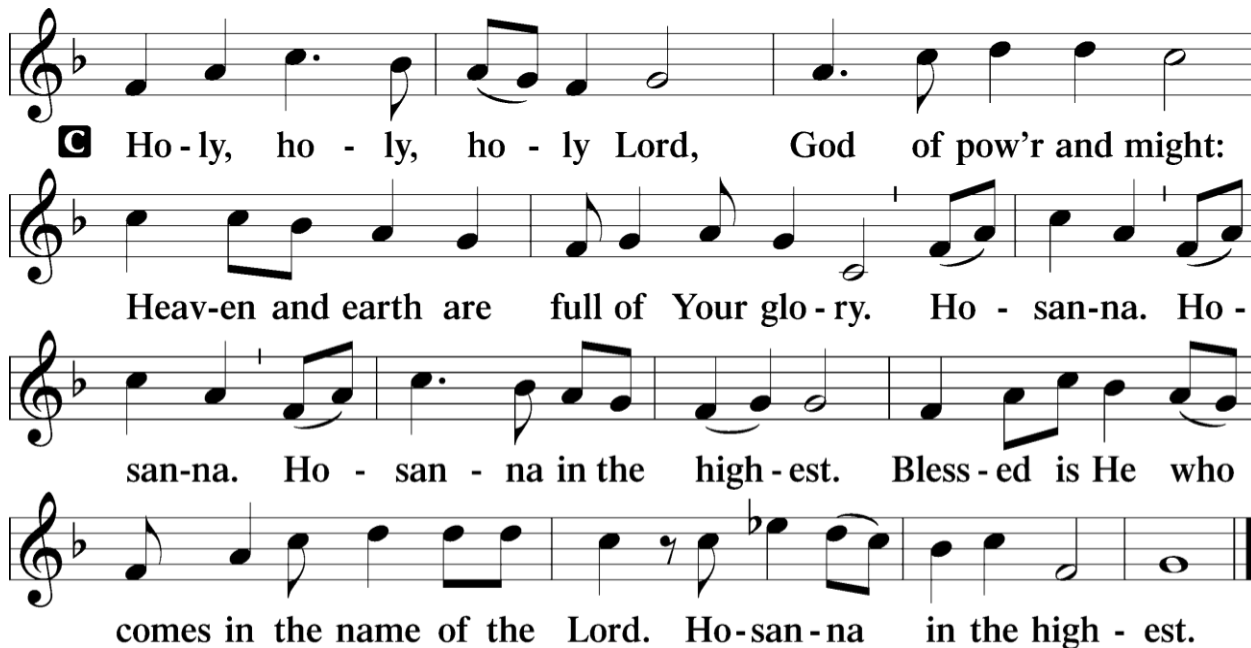
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving.....page 161

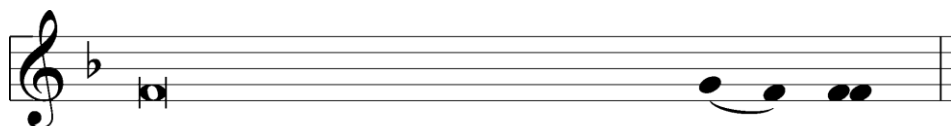
P Blessed are You . . . one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini.....page 163



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



C A - men.

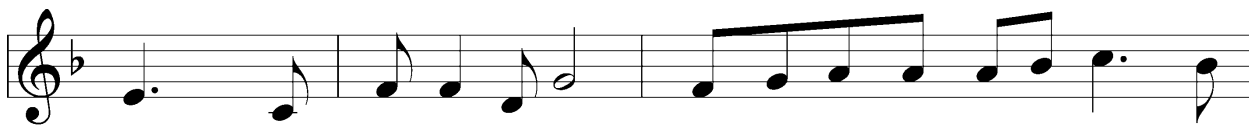
Agnus Dei.....page 163



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

Communion Distribution

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

Instrumental

(Sunday Only)

Communion Hymn "The Church's One Foundation" #644



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more
And mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,
O bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.
That we, like saints be - fore us, May see You face to face.

Communion Hymn "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less", #575



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'
 2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on
 3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me
 4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I



blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my
 His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and
 in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly
 then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -



own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol-id rock, I stand; All oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

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Please rise.

Post Communion Canticle "Thank the Lord" page 164



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



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



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

P Let us pray.

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

Sending Hymn..... "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light", #411



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.
Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.
And show me the way to the Fa - ther.
We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

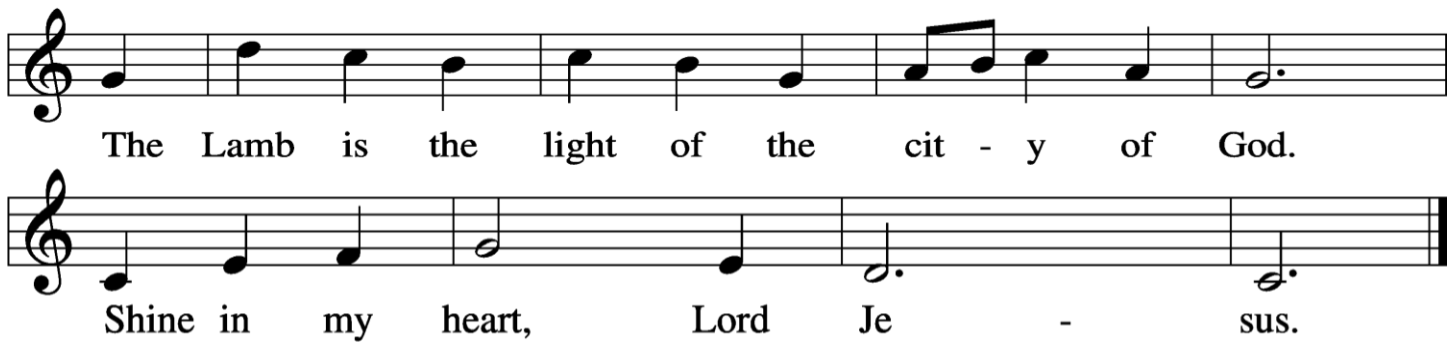
Refrain



In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.



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Dismissal (Bethlehem’s Mission)

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

Postlude

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Next week’s readings:

First: Acts 17:16–31; Epistle: 1 Pet. 3:13–22; Gospel: John 14:15–21

Attendance Last Saturday: 43	Attendance Last Sunday: 44
Total Offering: \$6,297.00	Missions: \$232.00
Home Use: \$6,051.00	Benevolences: \$14.00

Serving us today:

- Elders.....Jack Easterwood (Sat), Alan Miller, Willie Crespo (Sun)
- Musicians Jerrode Marsh, Daniel Johnson (cello)
- Altar Committee.....Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Erika Freeman, Mary Creswell
Peggy Hoyer, Lynn Lowe, Cindy Smith
- Flower CommitteeLana Vanderburgh (Chair), Penny Humphrey

This Week’s Schedule

Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots
	6:00 p.m.	Mary Martha Guild Meeting (Heroes) <i>(White Elephant Exchange)</i>
Tuesday	9:30 a.m.	Quilting
	2:00 p.m.	Community Organizational Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Thursday	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	7:00 p.m.	Adult Bible Study

Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Worship
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Christian Education
	10:30 a.m.	Worship

Absence/Presence

Pr. Joel will be gone through May 15—backpacking the last leg of the Camino de Santiago in Spain (see his Pastor’s Page in the May issue of *The Tidings*). We are thankful that Pr. Ricky will be filling in for the weekend services and Bible studies! If an emergency arises during this time, please contact your elder or the head elder (as listed at the back of the bulletin).

Thank You

Joe Zeman would like to thank everyone for the cards, visits and prayers as he continues his recovery. It is so nice to be remembered.

Prayers

Prayers of Rejoicing for Our Youth Catechumens who will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday next month: Anna Florida, Morgan Holmberg, Aedan Pederson, and Neil Tebbenkamp. May our Lord continue to strengthen them in their baptized faith and lead them forth in continued faith and service this Easter season!

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: Charlie Becker, Mel Bockelman, Paula Brewer, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Bob & Barbara Compton, Marion Droege, Wilma Gertz, Karen Haase, Karon Harding, Mary Johnson, Miriam Kurz, Wanda Kreisel, 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—Lauryn Schumaker-6th, Carol Kurz-8th, Matthew Privett-9th, Brady VanWey-11th, **Anniversaries**-Ron Niemeyer & Mary Beth Snodgrass-6th, Rohn and Georgia Luker-7th, Jordan and Amy Martin-8th, Joe and Brittany Brown-11th.

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.

Ascension Day Service—Join with others in our sanctuary on **Thursday, May 18th at 7:00 p.m.** as we mark the 40th day after Easter Sunday and reflect on the meaning of Christ's Ascension for our lives.

Sunday School and Christian Education

Wednesday Bible Study will return on **May 17** when Pr. Joel gets back from vacation.

Sunday Bible Study (normally 9:15-10:10 a.m. in the conference room) will still be happening while Pr. Joel is gone, but instead of the regular study, Pr. Ricky will be leading a discussion of the Sunday lectionary texts. Please come for this time of growth in the faith!

Youth

Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings downstairs for ages Preschool through 12th 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.

Summer Camps—Saint Paul Lutheran High School is offering a variety of camps over the summer for students entering Kindergarten through 8th grade (depending upon the camp). Camps include athletic training, volleyball, basketball, soccer, football, Spanish, and Hispanic cooking. More information and access to the Google registration form can be found at splhs.org/events.

Concordia Music Conservatory—Looking for music (vocal and/or instrumental) instruction for your child? This program offers camps as well as private music lessons. Choral Camp is June 5-9 and Orchestra Camp is June 12-16. For more information and registration go to the Concordia Music Conservatory's Facebook page.

Vacation Bible School—Mark your calendars for **June 23-25!** Those wanting to help with reading, crafts, music, games, snacks, etc., please get in touch with Ellen Pederson.

Music

Choir Practice will be taking a break for the summer. We will resume in late August. Thanks to Peggy for leading us through our Easter season. Anyone who loves worshiping together and singing can join us for the fall and Christmastime choir. Watch the monthly newsletter for more information.

Opportunities to Serve

Food Center Help—Bethlehem's month to staff the Food Center is June. We are responsible for **Tuesday and Thursday afternoons**. Please sign up to help so we can help impact food insecurity in Johnson County. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the mailboxes.

Fellowship

Mary Martha Guild will be meeting at **Heroes on Monday, May 8 at 6:00 p.m.** Please call the office or contact Darlene Laubenstein if you know you will be attending. We will be having a **White Elephant Exchange**—bring something you want to get rid of.

Powell Gardens—**The Mary Martha Guild is inviting anyone from the congregation to come on a trip to Powell Gardens on Saturday June 10th.** We will meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. and carpool. You can bring your lunch or buy a boxed lunch there. We plan on being back sometime after 1:00 p.m. Please contact Darlene Laubenstein if you would like to go.

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.

This & That

Circus Marvelous is coming to town this **Monday, May 8 and Tuesday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Johnson County Fairgrounds. **Bethlehem has FREE tickets** to the circus. If you arrive one hour before the show you can ride animals and meet the Stars. Please get in touch with the office if you would like tickets.

Mother's Day Organ Concert on Sunday, May 14 at 2:30 p.m. at the Kauffman Center of the Performing Arts—Helzberg Hall. The concert is FREE but you do need to get tickets. For more information, go to: tickets.kauffmancenter.org.

The Katy Trail medical mobile unit continues to be in Warrensburg each **Tuesday from 9am-3pm**. If you know someone who has medical needs and would benefit from *affordable or free healthcare* (thanks to a generous Bethlehem donor), *along with prescription help as well*, please pass on this information! The unit is located behind the food pantry at **137 E. Culton Street Warrensburg**. First Presbyterian Church is currently hosting a **free lunch** at that time (with others, such as us, donating the ingredients). **The lunch is served from 11:30am-1pm**. All are welcome. Most insurances are accepted. **Call 877-733-5824 to schedule an appointment.**

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 in shining the light of Christ! If you'd ever like to hear some of the stories from how these funds have been used, just ask Pr. Joel.

2023 Elders

Willie Crespo (last name begins A-F) 660-679-8121, crespo6fam@gmail.com

Ricky Bertels (last name begins G-K), 660-262-8080, rick1janice2@gmail.com

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

Alan Miller (last name begins P-Z) 660-909-1764, alormiller@aol.com



Christ is Our Cornerstone

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

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Email: pastor@blchurch.com

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

Bookkeeper:

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 9am-11am

Thursday: 9am-11am

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.