

MAY THEY BE  
**ONE.**  
AS WE ARE  
**ONE**

JOHN 17:11



+ Seventh Sunday Of Easter +

**May 20-21, 2023**

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## **AS WE GATHER**

We don't like to suffer. In fact, there are times when we feel the slightest pain and we start feeling like we are being persecuted. We would much rather have God shatter those we perceive to be our enemies than deal with anything resembling suffering. When God deals with our "enemies," then, we will sing God's praises. But sometimes life is hard and sometimes it is hard because we are Christians, and our adversary, "the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). Jesus once said, "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Matthew 5:11–12). This same Jesus prayed for us, that our holy Father would keep us in His name. He knew suffering and is now experiencing glory. When we suffer because of our Christian faith, we share Christ's suffering and because He suffered, died, and rose again, we, too, will share that experience and join Him in His glory.

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## **REGARDING COMMUNION**

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

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

**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..... "O Christ, Our Hope, Our Hearts Desire", #553**

*Please rise for the last verse—as indicated by the triangle.*



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, Cre -  
2 How vast Your mer - cy to ac - cept The  
3 But now the bonds of death are burst, The  
4 O let Your might - y love pre - vail To



a - tion's might - y Lord, Re - deem - er of the  
bur - den of our sin And bow Your head in  
ran - som has been paid; You now as - cend the  
purge us of our pride That we may stand be -



fall - en world, By ho - ly love out - poured:  
cru - el death To make us clean with - in.  
Fa - ther's throne In robes of light ar - rayed.  
fore Your throne By mer - cy pu - ri - fied.

5 Christ Jesus, be our present joy,  
Our future great reward;  
Our only glory, may it be  
To glory in the Lord!

△ 6 All praise to You, ascended Lord;  
All glory ever be  
To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost  
Through all eternity!

# 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 ..... "I Know That My Redeemer Lives", #461

*(Congregation sings verses 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8, Students sing verses 3, 5, 7)*



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com - fort  
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -  
3 He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to  
4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; He lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who  
 ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious  
 plead for me a - bove; He lives my hun - gry  
 guide me with His eye; He lives to com - fort



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.  
 in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.  
 soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.  
 me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.

5 He lives to silence all my fears;  
 He lives to wipe away my tears;  
 He lives to calm my troubled heart;  
 He lives all blessings to impart.

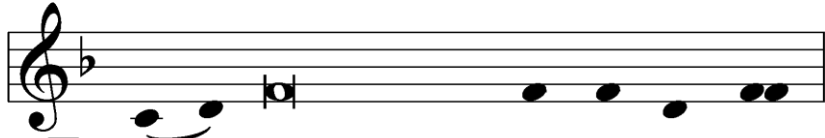
7 He lives and grants me daily breath;  
 He lives, and I shall conquer death;  
 He lives my mansion to prepare;  
 He lives to bring me safely there.

6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;  
 He lives and loves me to the end;  
 He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;  
 He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

8 He lives, all glory to His name!  
 He lives, my Jesus, still the same;  
 Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:  
 I know that my Redeemer lives!

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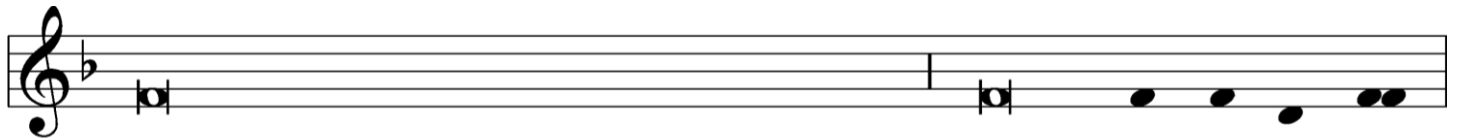
**Kyrie.....pages 152-153**



**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.



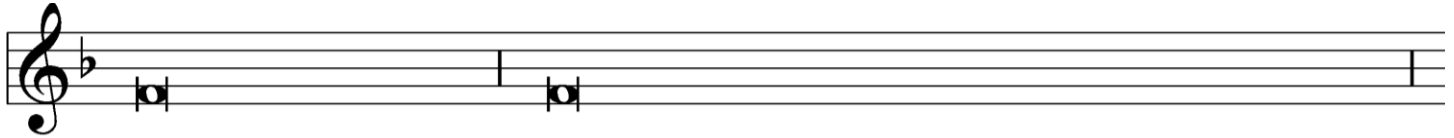
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



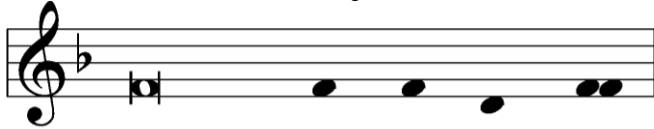
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



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



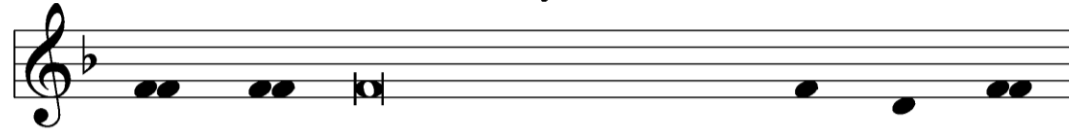
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



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



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



**C** A - men.

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



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



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



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



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

*Final Refrain*



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



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

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



**P** The Lord be with you.



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

**P** Let us pray.

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

O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

**First Reading** .....Acts 1:12-26

Then [the apostles] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." (Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) "For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

"May his camp become desolate,  
and let there be no one to dwell in it';

and

"Let another take his office.'

So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

**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 4:12-19; 5:6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved,  
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. . . .

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Please rise.*

## Alleluia and Verse .....page 156

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

# Holy Gospel ..... John 17:1-11

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

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

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one."

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

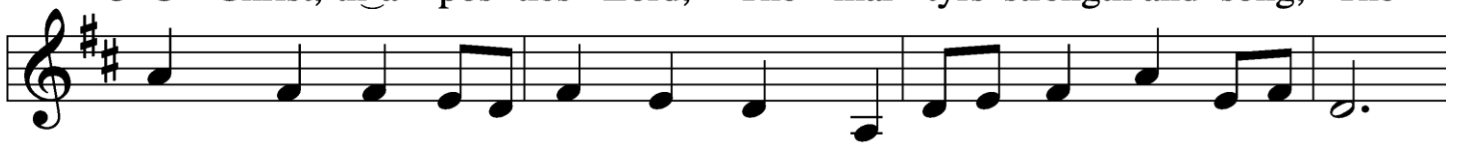
**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## Hymn of the Day ..... "O Christ, Who Called the Twelve", #856



1 O Christ, who called the Twelve To rise and fol - low You, For -  
2 O Christ, who taught the Twelve The truth for a - ges sealed, Whose  
3 O Christ, who led the Twelve A - mong the des - o - late And  
4 O Christ, who sent the Twelve On roads they'd nev - er trod To  
5 O Christ, th'a - pos - tles' Lord, The mar - tyrs' strength and song, The



sak - ing old, fa - mil - iar ways For ven - tures bold and new:  
words and works a - wak - ened faith, The ways of God re - vealed:  
broke as bread of life for all Your love com - pas - sion - ate:  
serve, to suf - fer, teach, pro - claim The near - er reign of God:  
cru - ci - fied and ris - en King To whom the saints be - long:



Grant us to hear Your call To risk se - cu - ri - ty And,  
 In - struct us now, we pray, By Your em - pow'ring Word. True  
 Lead us a - long the ways Where hope has near - ly died And  
 Send us on ways where faith Tran - scends ti - mid - i - ty, Where  
 Though gen - er - a - tions pass, Our trib - ute still we bring, Our



bound in heart and will to You, Find per - fect lib - er - ty.  
 teach - er, be for all who seek Their light, their life, their Lord.  
 help us climb the lone - ly hills Where love is cru - ci - fied.  
 love in - forms and hope sus - tains Both life and min - is - try.  
 hymns a sac - ri - fice of praise, Our lives an of - fer - ing.

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**Sermon**..... “Believing & Living as One”

*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.

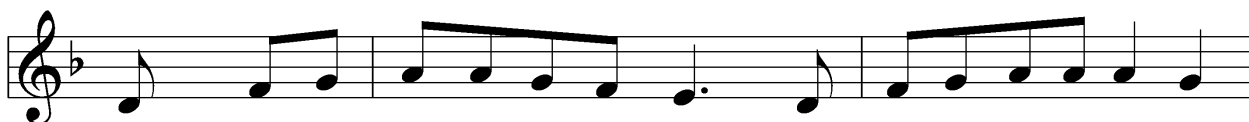
**C** Amen.

*Please be seated.*

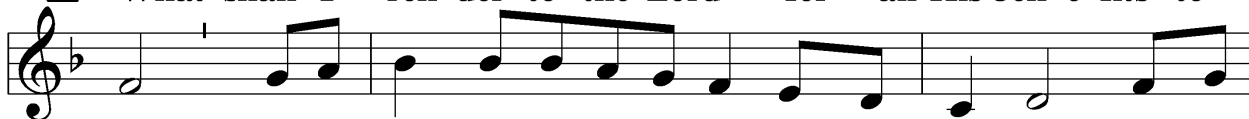
## Offering

*Please rise.*

Offertory .....pages 159-160



**C** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my

vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

## Service of the Sacrament

### Communion Liturgy .....pages 160-163

**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

sin of the world; grant us peace.

# Communion Distribution

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

## Instrumental

(Sunday Only)

### Communion Hymn ..... "Eat This Bread", #638

*(Cantors sing each verse; Congregation sings the refrain)*

*Refrain*



Eat this bread, drink this cup, Come to Him and nev - er be hun - gry.



Eat this bread, drink this cup, Trust in Him and you will not thirst.

*Cantor or Choir*



1 This is His bod - y giv - en for you; this is His blood that was shed for you.



2 As of-ten as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you show His death un-til He comes a-gain.



3 Eat His flesh and drink His blood, and Christ will raise you up on the Last Day.



4 An - y - one who eats this bread will live for - ev - er.



5 If we be-lieve and eat this bread, we will have e - ter - nal life.

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### Communion Hymn ..... "Baptismal Waters Cover Me", #616



1 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me As I ap -  
 2 I look to Christ up - on the tree, His bod - y  
 3 Lord, may Your wound - ed hand im - part Your heal - ing  
 4 From Your own mouth comes forth a word; Your shep - herd  
 5 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me; Christ's wound - ed



proach on bend - ed knee; My Fa - ther's mer - cy  
 bro - ken there for me; I lay be - fore Him  
 to my bro - ken heart; Your love a - lone can  
 speaks, but You are heard; Through him Your hand now  
 hand has set me free. Held in my Fa - ther's



here I plead, For griev - ous sins of thought and deed.  
 all my sin, My dark - est se - crets from with - in.  
 form in me A heart that serves You joy - ful - ly.  
 stretch - es out, For - giv - ing sin, de - stroy - ing doubt.  
 strong em - brace, With joy I praise Him for His grace.

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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**..... "Lead Me, Guide Me", #721

*Refrain*

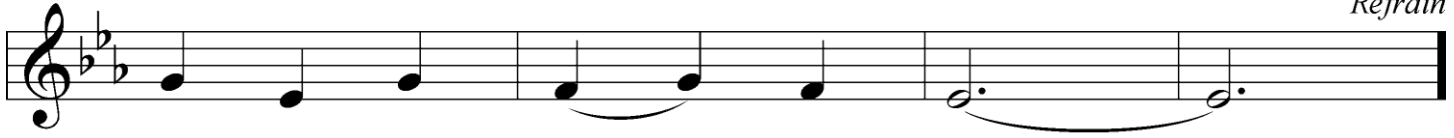
Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;  
 For if You lead me, I can - not stray.  
 Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.  
 Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak and I need Thy strength and pow'r  
 2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,  
 3 I am lost if You take Your hand from me,

To help me o - ver my weak - est hour.  
 Be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.  
 I am blind with - out Thy light to see.



Help me through the dark-ness Thy face to see.  
 I am put - ting all my trust in Thee.  
 Lord, al - ways let me Thy ser - vant be.



*Refrain*

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.  
 Lead me, O Lord, lead me.  
 Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

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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:**

**OT: Number 11:24-30; Second: Acts 2:1-21; Gospel: John 7:37-39**

**Attendance Last Saturday: 40**

**Attendance Last Sunday: 57**

**Total Offering: \$1,954.00**

**Missions: \$0.00**

**Home Use: \$1,454.00**

**Benevolences: \$500.00**

**Serving us today:**

- Elders.....Jack Easterwood (Sat), Alan Miller, Willie Crespo (Sun)
- Musicians .....Jerode Marsh and students
- Altar Committee.....Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Erika Freeman, Mary Creswell  
 Peggy Hoyer, Lynn Lowe, Cindy Smith
- Flower Committee .....Lana Vanderburgh (Chair), Penny Humphrey

**This Week’s Schedule**

- Sunday 12:00 p.m. Elders’ Meeting
- 3:00 p.m. Youth Catechesis
- Monday 9:30 a.m. Exercise Class
- 10:00 a.m. Moms and Tots
- 6:00 p.m. 4-H
- Tuesday 9:30 a.m. Quilting

	5:15 p.m.	Education Board Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
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.	Holy Communion/Pentecost/Youth Confirmation

### Thank-You

Karon Harding would like to thank everyone for all the cards, phone calls and prayers that were sent for God's healing on her broken arm. We are grateful for her good healing!

### Prayers

**Prayers of Rejoicing for Our Youth Catechumens** who will be confirmed next Sunday: 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 life as followers of Christ!

**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, Holli Burge, 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!

**Holli Burge** has moved to a rehabilitation facility. She will be there approximately three weeks. If you would like to send her a card her address is: Room 520, 100 Medical Plaza, Lake St. Louis, MO 63367.

### Special Days for Members This Week

**Birthdays**—Sandra Bell-21<sup>st</sup>, Connor Thomas-24<sup>th</sup>, Phil Frerking-25<sup>th</sup>, **Anniversaries**-Rick & Jeannie Peterson-26<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** continues to work its way through the book of the prophet Zechariah. Join us in the conference room from 10:30 to noon and be a part of this time growing in faith together.

**Thursday Bible Study**-Pastor Ricky is holding a Bible Study on the Old Testament book of Ezekiel on **Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.** Everyone is invited to attend and learn about the word of the Lord that Ezekiel prophesied long ago and its meaning for us still.

**Sunday Bible Study (9:15-10:10 a.m. in the conference room)**—We'll be finishing up (in a condensed way) *Clearly Christian* at the end of this month and be embarking on a new congregational study in June. Keep a lookout for more details, and consider making this part of your Sunday morning!

### Youth

**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!** Those wanting to help with reading, crafts, music, games, snacks, etc., please get in touch with Ellen Pederson.

### Music

**Choir Practice** will continue through the month of May. Join us on **Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.** for fellowship time and **7:00 p.m.** for practice. We are currently preparing a hymn to sing on June 4.

## Opportunities to Serve

**Food Center Help**—Bethlehem's month to staff the Food Center is June! We are responsible for **Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, starting at 12:30 p.m.** 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

**The Fellowship Board** will be serving cake and punch next Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> in celebration of those getting confirmed. Everyone is welcome to join us after service.

**Powell Gardens**—**The Mary Martha Guild is inviting anyone from the congregation to come on a trip to Powell Gardens on Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup>.** 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

**Birthday Party for Dick Luehrman.** It's no secret, Richard August Luehrman, (Dick, Dad, Grandpa, Great-grandpa, Uncle Dick) turned 95 this last December!! He will be exactly 95 1/2 on June 10<sup>th</sup> so we are going to celebrate. You are invited to a party on Saturday, June 10 at 1:00 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Warrensburg). A light lunch and cake will be provided with options for gluten sensitive people and vegetarians. Cards and well wishes are all he desires. Please RSVP to one of his children: Mick at: [mickluehrman@gmail.com](mailto:mickluehrman@gmail.com); Jane at: [janehillhouse@gmail.com](mailto:janehillhouse@gmail.com) and Jill at: [cjred1@comcast.net](mailto:cjred1@comcast.net)

**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](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.