

Gather the wheat into my barn

MATTHEW 13:30





+ The 8th Sunday After Pentecost +

July 23, 2023

AS WE GATHER

God’s plans are far beyond our understanding. Even His divine existence sends our minds reeling. No wonder that Jesus’ disciples, and we who follow them, cannot figure out why He lets His and our spiritual enemies live with us. But because we have been given faith by the Holy Spirit, and although we cannot understand God’s plans, in the death and resurrection of Christ, our Lord, we trust His divine wisdom. We have the firstfruits of the Spirit and know that the Spirit intercedes for us. Thus, even in the groans of our prayers, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. In sure hope, we wait for the day when we shall “shine like the sun” in our Father’s kingdom.

The pottery vessels on the altar remind us that although Holy Communion is not celebrated today, our Lord’s sacred gifts are still central to our life of faith. Holy Communion is celebrated every 1st, 3rd, and 5th weekend (and major festivals).

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. ***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.***

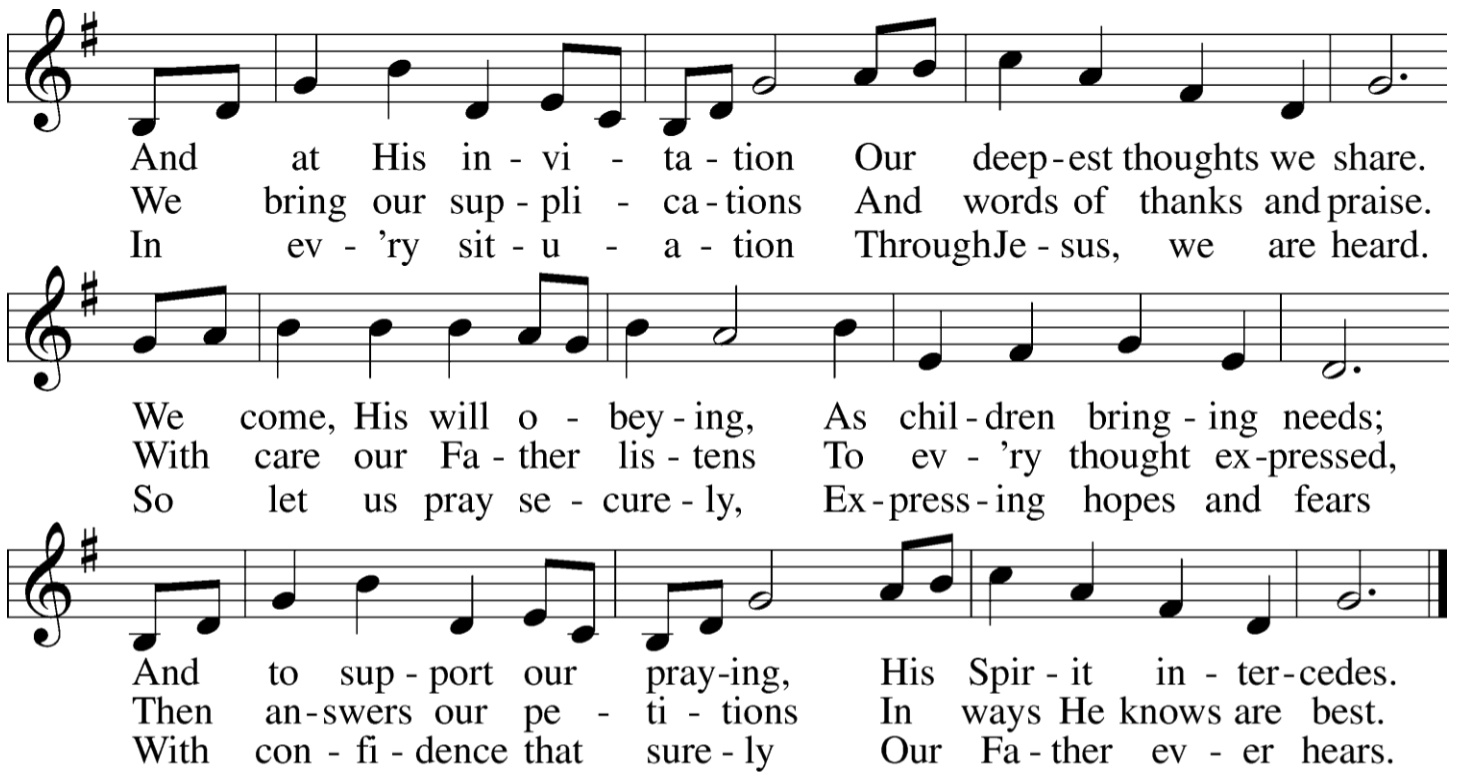
Prelude

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

Gathering Hymn..... “In Holy Conversation”, #772



1	In	ho - ly	con - ver -	sa - tion	We	speak	to	God	in	prayer,
2	These	ho - ly	con - ver -	sa - tions	Be -	gin	in	child-like	ways;	
3	As	ho - ly	con - ver -	sa - tion,	In	si -	lence	or	by	word,



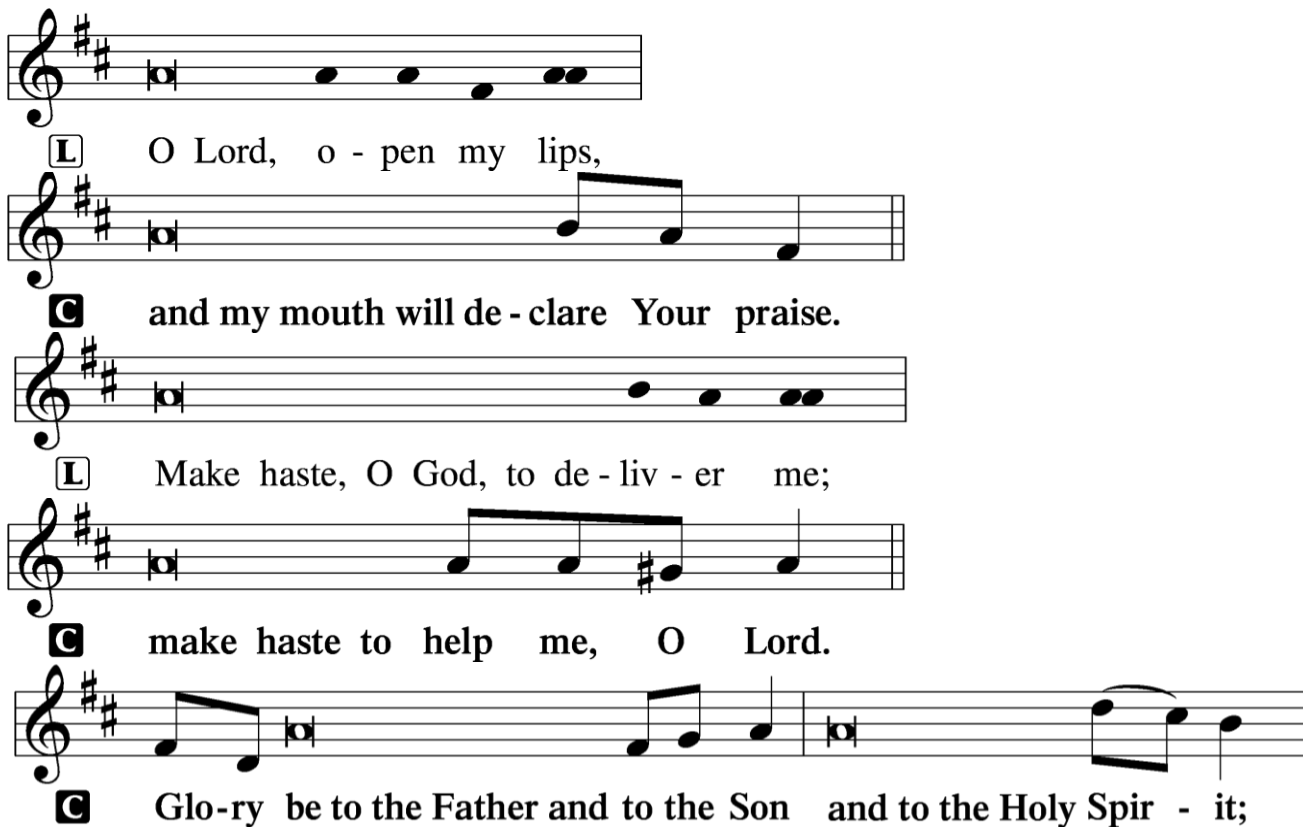
And at His in - vi - ta - tion Our deep - est thoughts we share.
 We bring our sup - pli - ca - tions And words of thanks and praise.
 In ev - 'ry sit - u - a - tion Through Je - sus, we are heard.
 We come, His will o - bey - ing, As chil - dren bring - ing needs;
 With care our Fa - ther lis - tens To ev - 'ry thought ex - pressed,
 So let us pray se - cure - ly, Ex - press - ing hopes and fears
 And to sup - port our pray - ing, His Spir - it in - ter - cedes.
 Then an - swers our pe - ti - tions In ways He knows are best.
 With con - fi - dence that sure - ly Our Fa - ther ev - er hears.

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Please rise.

Matins

Opening Verses..... page 219



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,
C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.
L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.
C Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.

Psalmody

Antiphon page 220

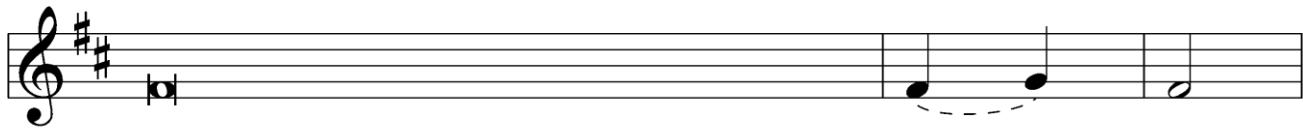


L Blessed be God, the Fa - ther, the Son, and the Ho - ly Spir - it.

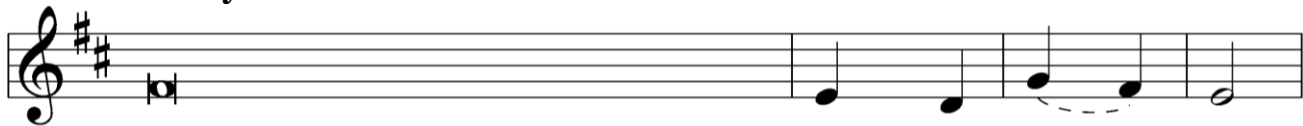


C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

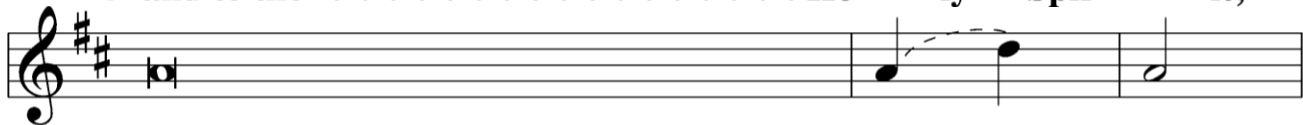
Venite pages 220-221



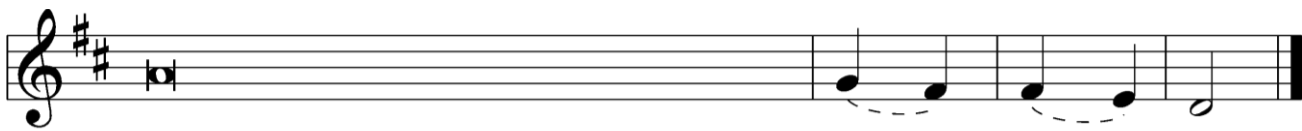
- C** 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
- 2 For the Lord is a great God
- 3 The sea is His, for He made it,
- 5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son



- 1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
- 2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
- 3 and His hand formed the dry land.
- 5 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



- 1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,
- 2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
- 3 O come, let us worship and bow down,
- 4 For He is our God,
- 5 as it was in the be - gin - ning,



1 let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.
2 the strength of the hills is His al - so.
3 let us kneel before the Lord, our mak - er.
4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.
5 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Antiphon *page 221*



L Blessed be God, the Fa - ther, the Son, and the Ho - ly Spir - it.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Psalm 119:57-64 (front of hymnal, spoken in unison)

The LORD is my portion;
I promise to keep your words.
I entreat your favor with all my heart;
be gracious to me according to your promise.
When I think on my ways,
I turn my feet to your testimonies;
I hasten and do not delay
to keep your commandments.
Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me,
I do not forget your law.
At midnight I rise to praise you,
because of your just and righteous decrees.
I am a companion of all who fear you,
of those who keep your precepts.
The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love;
teach me your statutes!
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Office 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.

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Please be seated.

Readings

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 44:6-8

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
"I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.
Let him declare and set it before me,

since I appointed an ancient people.

Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.

Fear not, nor be afraid;

have I not told you from of old and declared it?

And you are my witnesses!

Is there a God besides me?

There is no Rock; I know not any."

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading Romans 8:18-27

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise.

Holy Gospel Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us

to go and gather them?’ But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” . . .

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory.....page 221



- L** 1 Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
- 2 Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep— it.
- 3 Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.



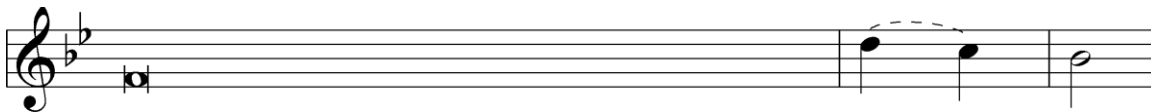
C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glo-ry dwells.

Please be seated.

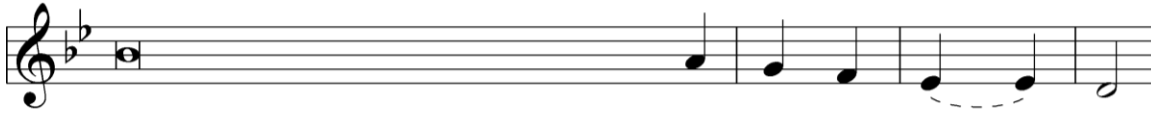
Children’s Message

Sermon.....Pr. Kuddes

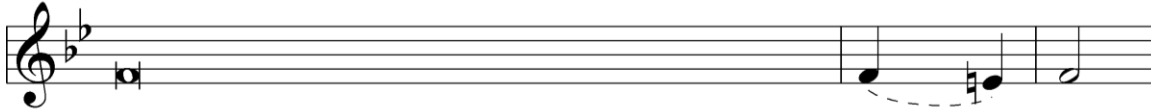
Canticle.....page 223



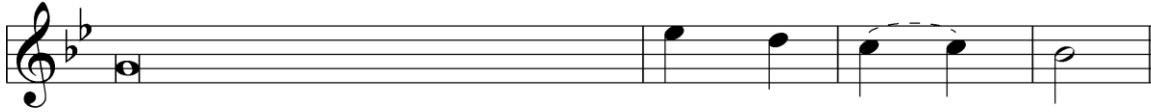
1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
 2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
 3 The noble army of martyrs praise — You.



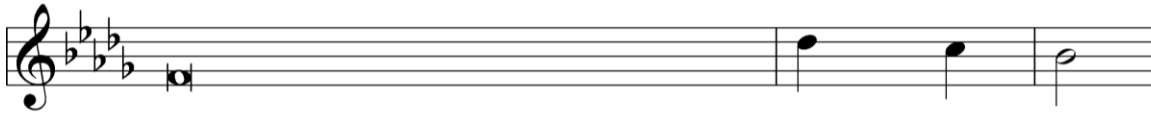
1 All the earth now worships You, the Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing.
 2 heaven and earth are full of the majes - ty of Your glo - ry.
 3 The holy Church throughout all the world does ac - knowl-edge You:



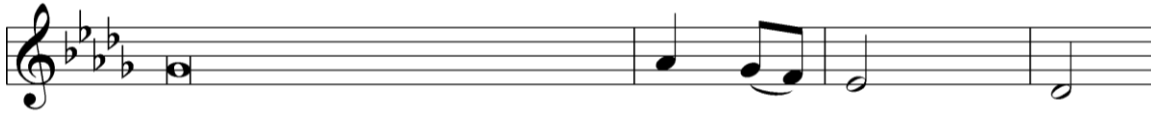
1 To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs there-in.
 2 The glorious company of the apostles praise — You.
 3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and on - ly Son;
 4 You are the king of glory, O — Christ;



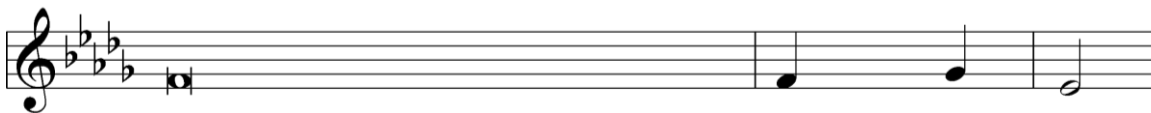
1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
 2 The goodly fellowship of the proph-ets praise — You.
 3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com-fort - er.
 4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.



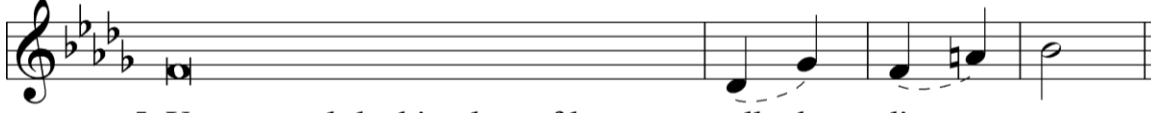
5 When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,
 6 You sit at the right hand of God



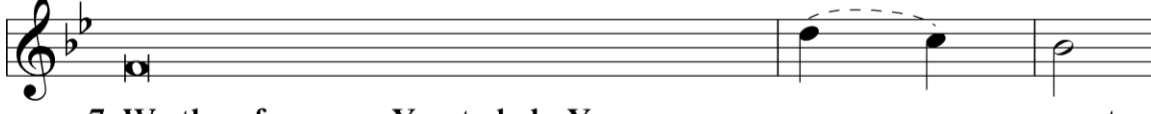
5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
 6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



5 When You had overcome the sharpness of death,
 6 We believe that You will come



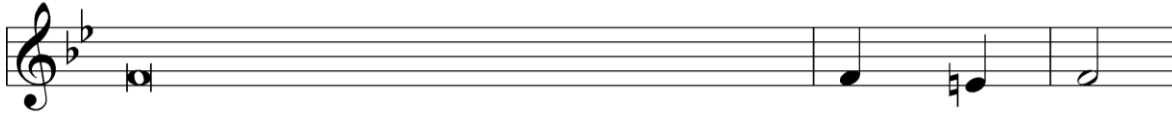
5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
 6 to be — our — judge.



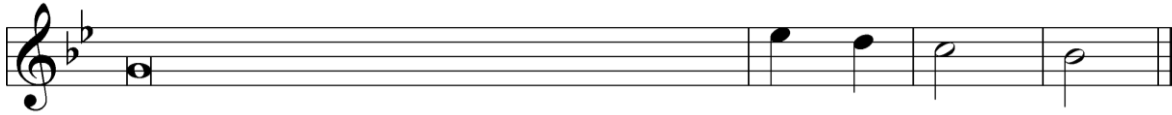
7 We therefore pray You to help Your ser - vants,
 8 O Lord, save Your people and bless Your . . . her - i - tage.
 9 Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day with - out — sin.



7 whom You have redeem - ed with Your pre - cious blood.
 8 Govern them and lift them up for - ev - er.
 9 O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy up - on us.



7 Make them to be numbered with Your saints
 8 Day by day we magni - fy You.
 9 O Lord, let Your mercy be upon us, as our trust is in You.



7 in glory ev - er - last - ing.
 8 And we worship Your name for - ever and ev - er.
 9 O Lord, in You have I trusted; let me never be con - found - ed.

Offering & Offertory

Please rise.

Apostles Creed.....*back cover of hymnal*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.
 And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died and was buried.
 He descended into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Announcement of Prayers

Prayer

Kyrie.....page 227



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

Lord's Prayer

Collects.....page 227-228



L O Lord, hear my prayer.



C And let my cry come to You.

Collect of the Day (*spoken in unison*)

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Additional Collects ending Amen.

Benedicamus.....page 228

Benediction.....page 228

Sending Hymn..... "*Holy Spirit, Light Divine*", #496



1 Ho - ly Spir - it, light di - vine, Shine up - on this heart of mine;
2 Let me see my Sav - ior's face, Let me all His beau - ties trace;
3 Ho - ly Spir - it, pow'r di - vine, Cleanse this guilt - y heart of mine;
4 Ho - ly Spir - it, joy di - vine, Cheer this sad - dened heart of mine;
5 Ho - ly Spir - it, all di - vine, Dwell with - in this heart of mine;



Chase the shades of night a - way, Turn the dark - ness in - to day.
 Show those glo - rious truths to me Which are on - ly known to Thee.
 In Thy mer - cy pit - y me, From sin's bond - age set me free.
 Yield a sa - cred, set - tled peace, Let it grow and still in - crease.
 Cast down ev - 'ry i - dol throne, Reign su - preme, and reign a - lone.

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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: Deuteronomy 7:6–9; Epistle: Romans 8:28–39; Gospel: Matthew 13:44–52

Attendance Last Saturday: 29

Total Offering: \$4,757.00

Home Use: \$4,732.00

Attendance Last Sunday: 51

Missions: \$0.00

Benevolences: \$25.00

Serving us today:

Elders.....Willie Crespo
 Musicians Cody Clemons
 Altar Committee..... Peggy Hoyer (Chair), Mary Creswell,
 Stephanie Schumaker, Lauryn Schumaker
 Flower CommitteePenny Humphrey (Chair), Diana Holland

This Week’s Schedule

Sunday	4:00 p.m.	Book Study (<i>Potluck at VanWey’s house</i>)
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	2:00 p.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park
	6:30 p.m.	4-H Meeting
Tuesday	5:15 p.m.	Education Board Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	7:00 p.m.	LCMS Convention Study
Thursday	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	7:00 p.m.	Ezekiel Bible Study

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

Absence/Presence

While Pr. Joel is on sabbatical this month, Pr. Ricky Bertels and Pr. Jeffrey Kuddes will be leading worship and preaching for the weekend services. If a need arises, please contact your elder or the head elder, Willie Crespo. The Lord blesses us and keeps us, upholding us by His grace!

Prayers

For Roy & Judy Schache as they are back in Papua New Guinea working with the brothers and sisters of the Gutnius Lutheran Church until August.

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, Mark Brown, Carrie Brunkhorst, Holli Burge, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Bob & Barbara Compton, Marion Droege, Becca Estanek, Wilma Gertz, Karen Haase, Mary Johnson, Wanda Kreisel, Lloyd McCarter, Jeannie Peterson, Judy Pierce, Jennifer Pint, Brayden Rohner, 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 and Ty Carter.

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—Danielle Meloy-22nd, Tim Schnell-24th, Nicole Clemons-26th, Braylee Hartwig-28th, Trevor Thomas-28th.

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.

Sunday School and Christian Education

Let's send our **Head Elder, Willie Crespo**, off to the LCMS convention in Milwaukee, July 29-August 3 with our collective support by engaging together in a 5-part bible study. The Participant Guide can be accessed digitally by visiting <https://www.lcms.org/convention/national/worship/bible-study>, or printed copies are available on the table by the mailboxes. Prompts for each part of the study will be published on our Facebook page on Mondays and Fridays to keep us moving through it. **The last face-to-face meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 26th from 7:00-8:00pm in the Conference Room.**

Wednesday Bible Study—This weekly study will be taking a hiatus for July as Pr. Joel is on sabbatical! Plan on joining us when we resume in August and start working our way through a different book of the Bible.

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 & learn about the word of the Lord that Ezekiel prophesied long ago and its meaning for us still.

Combined Summer Sunday School & Bible Study/Faith Formation—From **June 4th thru September 3rd**, we will be having family-style Sunday School **each Sunday morning at 9:15** in the church basement/fellowship hall. Whether you are part of a large family, small family, or are single, we hope you can join us for this opportunity to learn about God's love and grace in an intergenerational setting.

Book Study: *The Spiritually Vibrant Home*—Jeremy VanWey and Rebecca Holland will be hosting a book study on **the second and fourth Sundays of each month from 4-7 p.m.** at their home in Warrensburg **starting in July**. Resources from Lutheran Hour Ministries' "Households of Faith" kit will be used for the study. *Each evening will include a potluck meal.* Children are welcome and the chaos that shall ensue is just an average day around our house. Please RSVP to Rebecca (660-441-1271) if you are interested in attending any or all meetings so that she can order an appropriate number of books.

Opportunities to Serve

Rummage Sale—Items can be brought in starting Monday, July 31 through August 9. All items must be in clean, working condition. Do not bring big items until the week of the sale. The sale will be held on Friday, August 11 from 10am-7pm and Saturday, August 12 from 8am-1pm. Please sign up by the mailboxes to work during the sale. **Any and all help will be needed the week of the sale to set things up.** Please contact Peggy Hoyer or Barb Chasar with any questions.

How Do Our Gardens Grow? Well, but better with your help! **Come help with our gardens and greenspaces on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of July from 9:00 a.m. until noon or so** and enjoy the stewardship and harvest of the Lord's bounty here. Keep an eye for those soon-to-be ripe plums and blackberries out back that will be perfect for picking, eating, and sharing!

Fellowship

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.

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.

This & That

Survival House is in need of the following items: Size 5 diapers, toilet paper, paper towels, hand soap, toilet bowl cleaner, dish soap, laundry soap and dryer sheets. If you have any questions about donations give us a call at 660-429-1088.

Medical & Dental Care/Housing Assistance—Katy Trail Community Health continues to be in Warrensburg each Tuesday from **9am to 3pm**—in the basement fellowship hall of First Presbyterian Church (located beyond The Food Center's back 137 E. Culton lot, where the mobile clinic unit is). A free lunch is served **from 11:30am-1pm**, plus case managers from Journey Home are present to help with housing and employment needs. All are welcome, and financial assistance for medical & dental treatment is available! **The mobile dental clinic (a partnership of Compass & Katy Trail) is present every Thursday from 9am to 3pm as well, and lunch is served as well. Call 877-733-5824 to schedule an appointment.**

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 of 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

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: jkurz@blchurch.com

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

Office Manager

Cindy Smith

Monday–Friday: 8am-5pm

660-747-6742

csmith@blchurch.com

Congregation Life Facilitator

Rebecca Holland-VanWey

Wednesday: 1pm-5pm

Thursday: 1pm-5pm

rholland@blchurch.com

Bookkeeper

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 9am-11am

Thursday: 9am-11am

thillsman@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.