



Jesus took her
by the hand
and lifted
her up

MARK 1:31



+ Fifth Sunday After The Epiphany +

February 4, 2024

AS WE GATHER

Everyone is trying to figure out who they are, to identify themselves to everyone around them, and to promote that identity. Our Lord knows exactly who He is and what He has come to accomplish. He opens our eyes so that we may come to know and define ourselves not according to the whims of time or the dictates of emotion but in Him. Sin must give way to His forgiveness, unrighteousness to His righteousness, and death to His life. We are not competing with the world for a reward but serving others as Christ has served us. Our identity in Christ will not be taken from us and as long as we live in this identity, we are free. That liberty is primarily shown by our willingness to serve.

REGARDING COMMUNION

Epiphany means “the manifesting” or “showing forth.” Jesus was made known as God in flesh by the descent of the Holy Spirit and voice of the Father when baptized, as well as through the miracles of healing he did for the ill and suffering. We come to our Lord’s Table as a people baptized into the name of the Holy Triune God ... as Christians who desire to continue in the faith and life of Jesus. Our Lord Jesus makes himself known to us still as we gather at the altar to receive his body and blood in the bread and wine for our forgiveness and healing and strength. Then we go forth to make him known to others in word and witness. ***Since Christian denominations have differing understandings of Holy Communion, if you are not a member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation and have not communed here before, we ask that you speak with the pastor or elder prior to communing with us the first time. Those not communing are invited to cross their arms over their chests and approach the pastor for a blessing during the distribution. Also, if certain factors prohibit you from partaking of regular wine, non-alcoholic wine is available in the center circle of the tray. If you would like to begin sharing this sacred meal with us on a regular basis, please ask the pastor for a time of faith instruction and formation.***

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

Liturgical Color:

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

Visitors: We are glad you have chosen to be with us today! We would especially like to follow-up with you beyond today, so please take a moment to leave your best contact information in the guest books at each entrance/exit or in the Record of Fellowship books found on each pew. **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

Pastoral Welcome

(Prayer request cards will be collected as the hymn is sung.)

Invocation Hymn....."Greet the Rising Sun" #871



1 Greet the ris - ing sun, Shin - ing with bright force,
 2 Fa - ther, hear my prayer, Keep me safe to - day;
 3 Lord, I will to - day On Your love re - ly;



Like an ath - lete strong, Set to run the course;
 Sanc - ti - fy my thoughts, All I do and say:
 Let no e - vil thought Cloud the clear blue sky.



Birds soar high a - bove, Wild-flow'rs bloom be - low;
 As I teach the young And es - teem the old,
 Joy - ful and con - tent With life's sim - pler things,



With the day's new light, Glad to work I go.
 May Your boun - teous grace By my life be told.
 Know - ing all I need From Your kind - ness springs.

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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 In the mercy of almighty God . . . Lord Jesus Christ.
C Amen.

Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn“On Eagles’ Wings” #727



1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, Who a -
2 snare of the fowl - er will nev - er cap - ture you, And
3 You need not fear the ter - ror of the night, Nor the
4 For to His an - gels He's giv - en a com - mand To



bide in His shad - ow for life,
fam - ine will bring you no fear;
ar - row that flies by day; Though
guard you in all of your ways; Up -



Say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, My
 Un - der His wings your ref - uge, His
 thou - sands fall a - bout you,
 on their hands they will bear you up, Lest you



rock in whom I trust!"
 faith - ful - ness your shield.
 Near you it shall not come.
 dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

Refrain



And He will raise you up on ea - gles' wings,



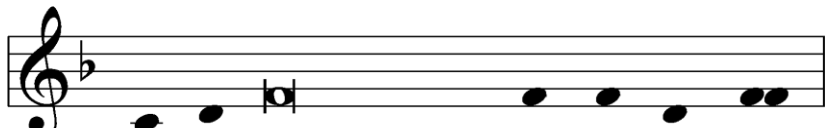
Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the



sun, And hold you in the palm of His hand. 2 The

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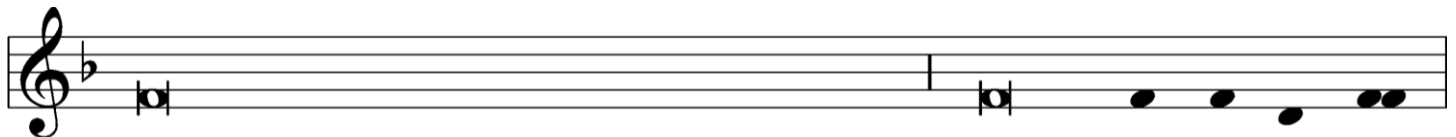
Kyrie.....pages 152-153



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



B 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.



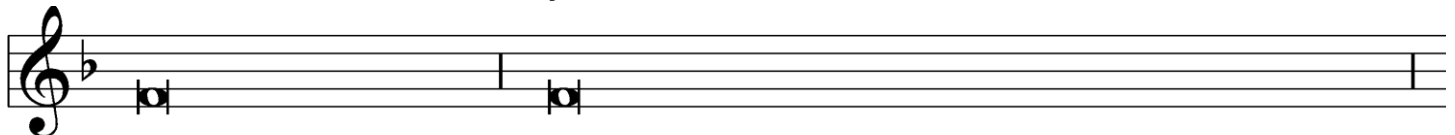
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



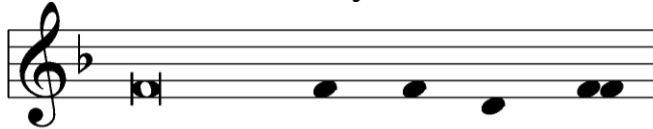
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



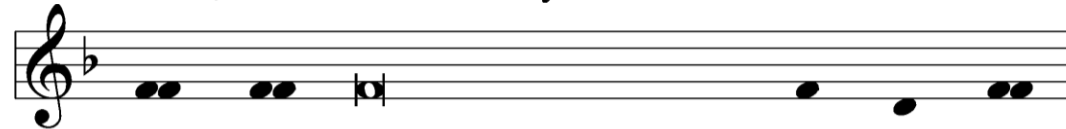
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

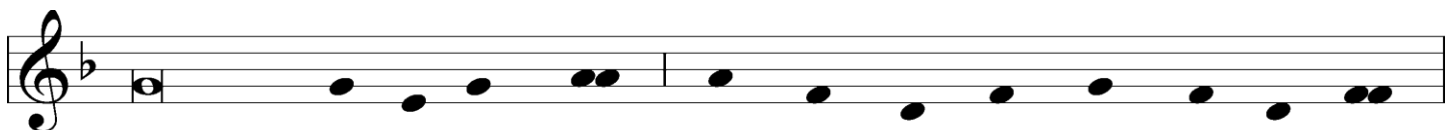


A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Gloria in Excelsis *page 154*



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

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 Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the

Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

Old TestamentIsaiah 40:21-31

Do you not know? Do you not hear?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;

who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;

who brings princes to nothing,
and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows on them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me,
that I should be like him? says the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high and see:
who created these?

He who brings out their host by number,
calling them all by name,
by the greatness of his might,
and because he is strong in power
not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.

Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;

but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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

Praise the Lord, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

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

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts! (*Psalm 117:1*)**

Epistle Reading **1 Corinthians 9:16-27**

If I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please rise.

Alleluia and Versepage 156



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 **Mark 1:29-39**

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

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

Immediately [Jesus] left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

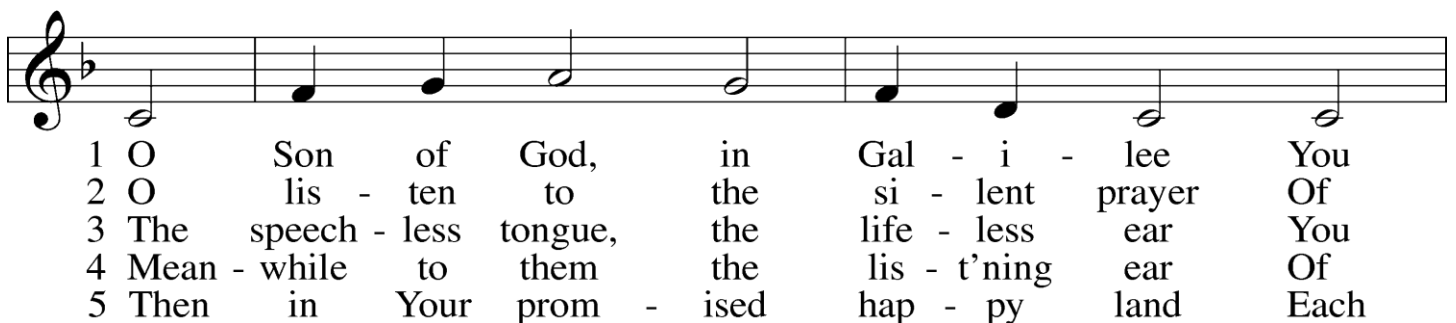
And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

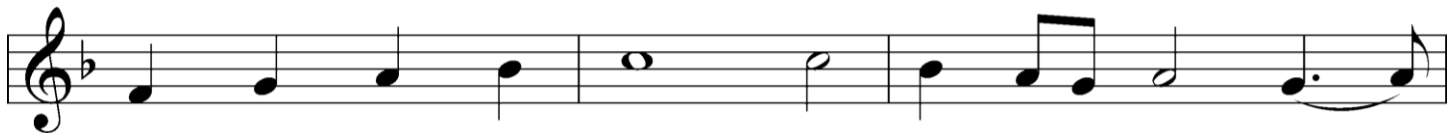
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Hymn of the Day *"O Son of God, in Galilee", #841*



1 O Son of God, in Gal - i - lee You
2 O lis - ten to the si - lent prayer Of
3 The speech - less tongue, the life - less ear You
4 Mean - while to them the lis - t'ning ear Of
5 Then in Your prom - ised hap - py land Each



made the deaf to hear, The mute to speak, the
 Your afflictions. O bid them cast on
 can restore, O Lord; Your "Eph - pha - tha," O
 steadfast faith impart, And let Your Word bring
 loss will prove a gain; All mys - t'ries we shall



blind to see; O bless - ed Lord, be near.
 You their care; Your grace to them make known.
 Sav - ior dear, Can in - stant help af - ford.
 light and cheer To ev - 'ry trou - bled heart.
 un - der - stand, For You will make them plain.

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Sermon..... "Lifted Up!"

Rite of Confirmation

Juanita Holcomb
Lamentations 3:22-24

Tom Sumpter
John 3:16; John 14:6

Teryn Vietor
Psalms 116:12-14

Angilia Steinmetz
Romans 5:1-2

Diana Steinmetz
Philippians 4:5b-6

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.

...

C Amen.

Please be seated.


Offering..... *“Jesus, Draw Me Ever Nearer”*
(Jerrode Marsh, Stephanie Schumaker, Gary Moege)

Please rise.

Offertory *pages 159-160*



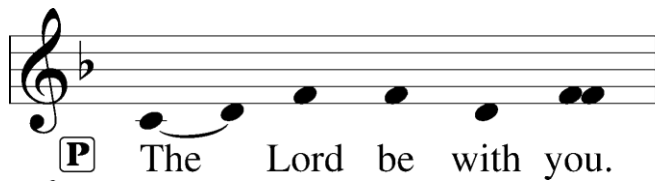
C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to



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

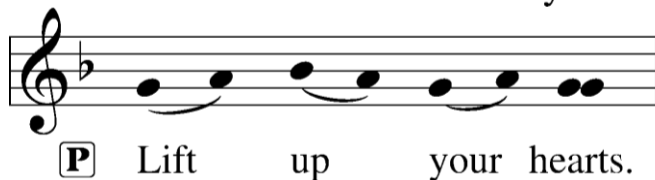
Communion Liturgypages 160-163



P The Lord be with you.



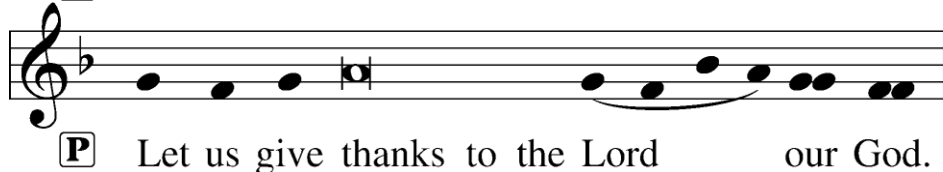
C And al - so with you.



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 beneficial . . . 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*

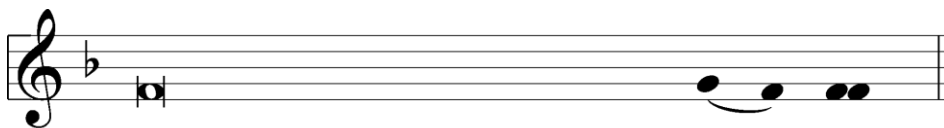
P Blessed are You . . . one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini.....*page 163*



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

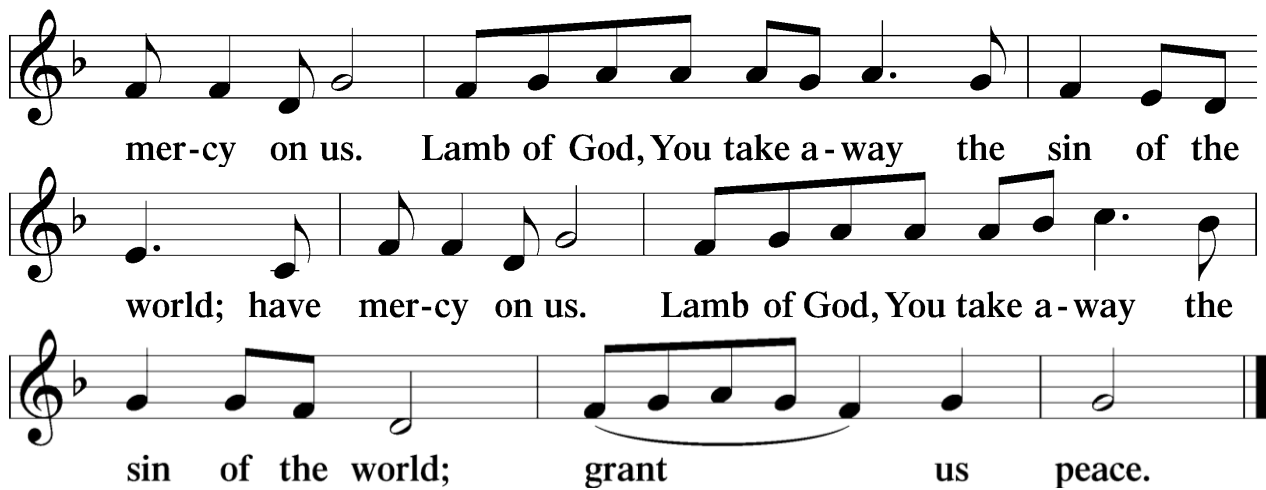


C A - men.

Agnus Dei.....*page 163*



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



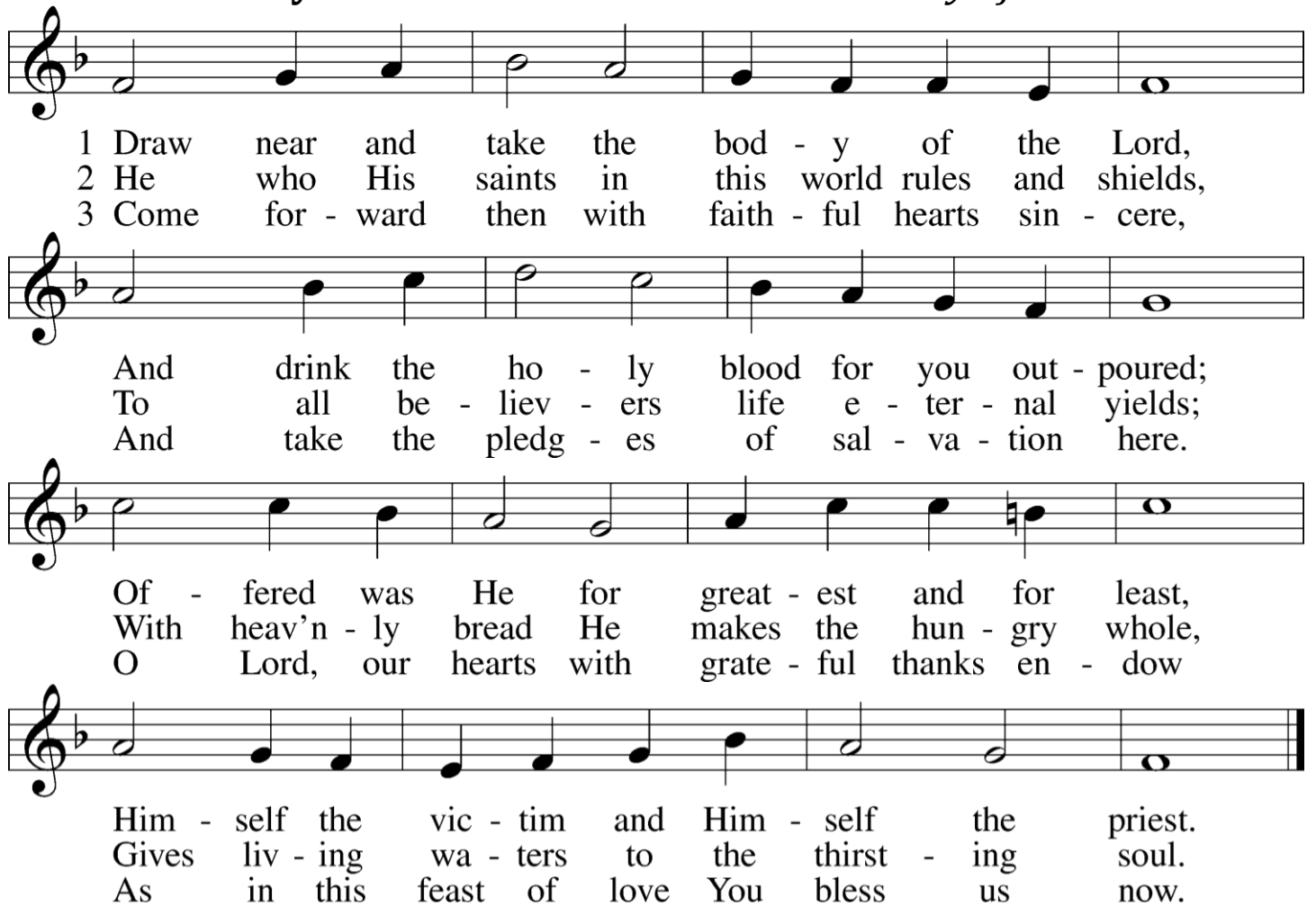
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Distribution

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

Instrumental/Silent Reflection

Communion Hymn ... "Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord" #637



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,
 2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
 3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,
 And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;
 To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;
 And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.
 Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,
 With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,
 O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow
 Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.
 Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.
 As in this feast of love You bless us now.

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Communion Hymn "Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower" #694



1 Thee will I love, my strength, my tow - er; Thee will I
 2 Thee will I love, my life, my Sav - ior, Who art my
 3 I thank Thee, Je - sus, Sun from heav - en, Whose ra - diance
 4 O keep me watch - ful, then, and hum - ble; Per - mit me
 5 Thee will I love, my crown of glad - ness; Thee will I



love, my hope, my joy. Thee will I love with all my
 best and tru - est friend. Thee will I love and praise for -
 hath brought light to me; I thank Thee, who hast rich - ly
 nev - er - more to stray. Up - hold me when my feet would
 love, my God and Lord, A - mid the dark - est depths of



pow - er, With ar - dor time shall ne'er de - stroy. Thee will I
 ev - er, For nev - er shall Thy kind - ness end. Thee will I
 giv - en All that could make me glad and free; I thank Thee
 stum - ble, And keep me on the nar - row way. Fill all my
 sad - ness, And not for hope of high re - ward, For Thine own



love, O Light di - vine, So long as life is mine.
 love with all my heart— Thou my Re - deem - er art!
 that my soul is healed By what Thy lips re - vealed.
 na - ture with Thy light, O Ra - diance strong and bright!
 sake, O Light di - vine, So long as life is mine.

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Please rise.

Nunc Dimittis *page 165*



Lord, now You let Your ser - vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -

veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.
 Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;
 as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

Post Communion Collect..... page 166

- P** Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father. . . one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Benediction..... page 166

Sending Hymn..... "When to Our World the Savior Came" #551

1 When to our world the Sav - ior came The sick and
 2 That good phy - si - cian! Night and day The peo - ple
 3 His prais - es then were heard and sung By o - pened
 4 Of long a - go: yet liv - ing still, Who died for
 5 His sov - 'reign pur - pose still re - mains Who rose in
 help - less heard His name, And in their weak - ness
 thronged a - bout His way; And won - der ran from
 ears and loos - ened tongue, While light - ened eyes could
 us on Cal - v'ry's hill; Who tri - umphed o - ver
 pow'r, and lives and reigns; Till ev - 'ry tongue con -
 longed to see The heal - ing Christ of Gal - i - lee.
 soul to soul, "The touch of Christ has made us whole!"
 see and know The heal - ing Christ of long a - go.
 cross and grave, His heal - ing hands stretched forth to save.
 fess His praise, The heal - ing Christ of all our days.

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:

O.T.: Exodus. 34:29-35; Epistle: 2 Cor. 3:12-18; 4:1-6; Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

Attendance Saturday: 37

Total Offering: \$1,991.00

Home Use: \$1,629.00

Attendance Sunday: 38

Missions: \$0.00

Benevolences: \$362.00

Serving us today:

Elders..... Willie Crespo, Evan Florida

MusiciansJerrode Marsh, Gary Moege, Stephanie Schumaker

Altar Committee..... Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Bambi Burden,
Julie Crespo, Diana Holland, Georgia Luker

Flower Committee Penny Humphrey (Chair), Lori Sloan

This Week's Schedule

| | | |
|-----------|------------|--|
| Sunday | 1:00 p.m. | Youth Catechesis |
| Monday | 9:30 a.m. | Exercise Class |
| Tuesday | 11:30 a.m. | Braille in Concordia |
| Wednesday | 9:30 a.m. | Exercise Class |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Bible Study |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Faith Night/Potluck and Discussion |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Choir Practice |
| Thursday | 1:00 p.m. | Games and Cards Group |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Galatians 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 |
| | 2:30 p.m. | Country Club and Arbors Care Center Services |

Prayers

Prayers of Rejoicing for Our Adult Catechumens who will be confirmed today: Juanita Holcomb, Angilia Steinmetz, Diana Steinmetz, Tom Sumpter and Teryn Vietor. May our Lord continue to strengthen them in their baptized faith and lead them forth in continued faith and life as followers of Christ!

Prayers for Roy and Judy Schache as they faithfully serve their brothers and sisters in Christ of all ages in Papua New Guinea from now until April.

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, Galen Cobb, Bob & Barbara Compton, Marion Droege, Rev. Tom Fatka (Tommy Fatka's dad), Peggy Forstad, Ana Fonseca (Willie Crespo's grandmother), Wilma Gertz, Winnie & George Goldsmith (Steve's parents), Karen Haase, Juanita Holcomb (Peggy Forstad's mother), Mary Johnson, Wanda Kreisel, Lloyd McCarter, Ronnie Moody (Sheree's mother), Maryanna Savery, 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.

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!

Weekly Worship Services

Saturday Services start at 5:30 p.m. Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m. Sunday Services are live on Facebook, YouTube and the webpage at blchurch.com.

Faith Formation & Special Services

Faith Night—Join others in the Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, February 7, from 5:30-6:00 p.m.** for a simple meal (bring something simple you'd like to share) and conversation, followed by a discussion from 6:00 to 6:45. We will reflect on heading from Epiphany to Lent and *Keeping Every Moment HOLY!*

Lenten Midweek Worship Services—Gather with us in the sanctuary on Wednesdays this Lent at **7:00 p.m.** as we explore the theme *The Carpenter's Cross: Making, Building, Repairing*. We'll enter the Lenten season together with the Divine Service on Ash Wednesday (Valentine's Day) by dwelling on *Greenwood, Drywood,*

& *Heartwood*. In the following weeks, we'll reflect together on *The Carpenter's Branch*, *A Carpenter's Yoke*, *A Carpenter's Plow*, *A Carpenter's Door*, & *A Carpenter's Stone*—all of those services being the evening prayer service of Compline. Plan to attend, and think of inviting others, too!

KinderLent will take place at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays (starting Ash Wednesday) through the Lenten season. Rebecca would like to preview and extend an invitation to the Lenten devotion series she is planning, as a focus on children whose bedtimes line up with the 7:00 services. But all are welcome to join us! She will be using **Gayle Boss's book *Wild Hope: Stories for Lent from the Vanishing***. Pastor used her Advent book several years ago. Her Lenten book is focused on animal species who are in trouble due to hunger, sickness, habitat loss, pollution, and hunting. Through focusing on these species' struggles, we will learn together how to make small sacrifices to protect Creation, increasing our focus on Christ's sacrifice for us.

Weekly Meals—To increase intergenerational fellowship, we plan to have a meal at **5:30 p.m. each Wednesday of Lent**, immediately following KinderLent. This is open to anyone that doesn't want to cook before the Lenten service. The menu will include soup, sandwiches, spaghetti, tacos, pizza & breakfast for dinner, along with some sides and desserts. Rebecca will be calling on different committees to help serve meals. We plan to cover the cost of meals with an Action Team and will take care of most of the preparation; we just need a few volunteer servers.

Offerings

PLEASE, PLEASE do not use your 2023 envelopes. The numbering of your 2024 envelopes is significantly different than last year's envelopes. Unless there is a name on the envelope it is very difficult to record the offering to the member's contribution statement. Thank you.

Children & Youth

Creation School—Join us on the first Friday of each month from **10-11 am** for our faith-focused version of the trendy forest school. We'll do our best to enjoy Creation in all weather, so be sure to dress appropriately. Please invite any families with young children that you know, as the hope is to welcome all in the community into our green space.

School and Christian Education

Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings downstairs for ages Preschool through 12th grade. We start out with a combined opening with the adults to kick off each Sunday. The children continue working on songs with the goal of singing in

the church service once per month. We invite all children to come and be a part of this time growing together in Christ!

Sunday Proverbs Bible Study—*Oh, to love wisdom and live wisely!* How many times have you said and thought that? Join us for our Sunday Bible study—*Living (& Loving) Wisdom*—which explores the book of Proverbs through the lens of the Ten Commandments and Christ “the Wisdom of God” (I Cor. 1:24. Pr. Joel is drawing from David Coe’s *Provoking Proverbs*. **We start at 9:15 a.m.** (in the conference room) and still have a lot of ground to cover!

Wednesday Bible Study—Join us **at 10:30 a.m.** in the conference room. We’re looking at the Apocrypha, from the time between the two Testaments. Come and find out what it’s about!

Thursday Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.—Pastor Bertels’ new Bible study on the book of Galatians meets in the conference room and is open to all who have the interest and time available. Come and join us!

Music

Begin your Lenten journey on **Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14** with an evening of food and fellowship, special music and worship. A soup supper and fellowship will begin at 5:30 followed by a **Pre-Service mini-concert of Lenten dulcimer music presented by Becky Limback**. The Ash Wednesday service will then start at 7:00 p.m. Please join us for this special evening as we begin this Lenten season of introspection and worship.

The Choir meets on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. for fellowship time and rehearsal from 7:00-8:00p.m. We are always looking for new members! Please contact Peggy Forstad with any questions about joining the choir.

Opportunities to Serve

Bulletin Board—A section of the bulletin board at the North entrance has been dedicated to our congregation members who are home-bound and in nursing homes. Please check it out to see how you can reach out to those who can no longer come to services regularly. Send a card or leave one in the pocket on the board to be delivered during a visit. If you have a picture of a loved one you can share, please send it to Rebecca to have it posted!

Want to be on the Bethlehem Woods Trail Crew? Yes, we have our own nature trail at the back end of our property! Two of the bridges are in need of some major attention, so if you’d like to help with that and some of the other occasional maintenance back there, please contact Ron Rode (660.238.1557) and he’ll let you know when the work is ready to start. Thanks!

Think Spring and Another Garden Growing Season! In order to get our community gardens in readiness for spring planting, plus, make needed improvements and gear-up for an outreach event in April, we'll be having work mornings on Saturday, **February 17th and 24th from 10-noon**. Think about joining us for this good, cooperative time together ... and put the **2nd Saturdays of March (9th & 23rd)** on your calendar, as well!

Fellowship

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. Since this was such a hit last year, we will be having the Pancake Supper again on Tuesday, **February 13 starting at 5:30 p.m.** The Men's Club will be cooking and flipping pancakes that you will be able to enjoy with all different kinds of toppings. (This is a tradition that goes back to the medieval era for the day before Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent.)

Crafternoon—On the fourth Friday from 3-5 pm, let's get together to craft! A project and supplies will be waiting for you in the fellowship hall. We'll make seasonal crafts and cards that can be shared with others and conspire to deliver them with good cheer and a visit.

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. Everyone is welcome to come to this fellowship time.

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

This and That

The Johnson County Resource Center happens every **Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.** in the basement of First Presbyterian Church (206 N. College)—providing breakfast, a hot lunch, and a place to hang out. Housing assistance and case management are provided, as well as Medicaid signup. **Katy Trail's Mobile Medical Unit will not be able to resume its services until April 4.**

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.

2024 Elders

Evan Florida (last name begins A-B) 660-238-4919, evan.keyrealty@gmail.com

Jimmy Smithers (last name begins C-E) 660-864-5370, jimmyds1980@gmail.com

Rich Vanderburgh (last name begins F-H) 660-864-3762, rvburgh@gmail.com

Sean Estanek (last name begins J-L) 440-396-6439, organvoicer@gmail.com

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

Alan Miller (last name begins S-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

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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.