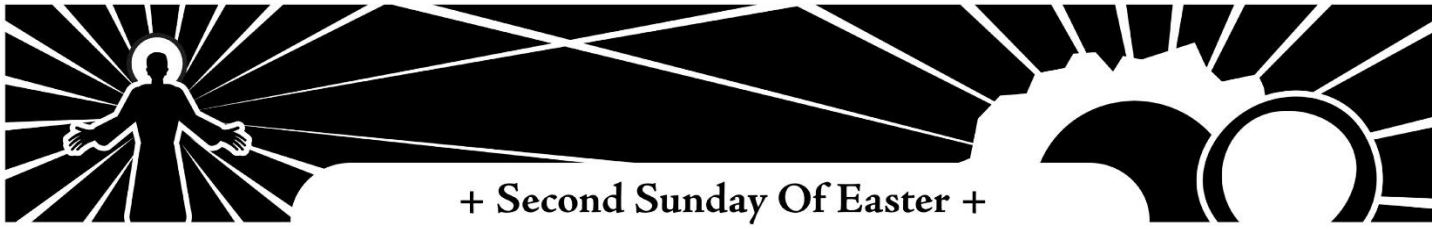


Peace be with you

JOHN 20:19



+ Second Sunday Of Easter +

April 6-7, 2024

AS WE GATHER

Easter made a difference in the lives of so many people! In the core community of believers, it wasn't a matter of something to believe but how to make a difference in the way a person lived. The other disciples had let Thomas stay with them until Jesus reappeared. It must have been a tense time, but uniquely bearable because they had met their Lord, alive. That change, the difference that Easter made, wasn't limited to the apostles; the entire group shared all they had, living testimony of Jesus' presence with them. How will you be different after hearing this great Good News?

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

Pastoral Welcome

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

Invocation Hymn..... "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" #469 (1-4)



1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day!" Saints on earth and an - gels say;
2 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Fought the fight, the bat - tle won;
3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ hath burst the gates of hell.
4 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King! Where, O death, is now thy sting?



Raise your joys and tri - umphs high; Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, re - ply.
Lo! Our Sun's e - clipse is o'er; Lo! He sets in blood no more.
Death in vain for - bids His rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
Once He died our souls to save; Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave?

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Please rise, if able.

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 . . . and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

We take a few moments to greet those around us with a handshake or wave as a sign of the forgiveness and coming together in peace we are called to as followers of Jesus (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3; 2 Cor. 5:14-21). Words to accompany those gestures can be Peace to you, Christ's peace to you, Peace (or something similar).

Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" #803



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.
 Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.
 Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap - py rest!

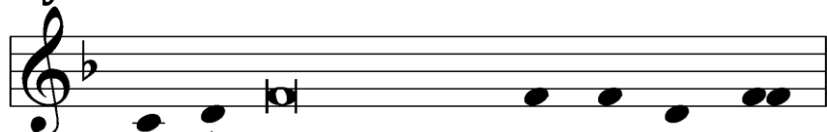


Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di - vine:

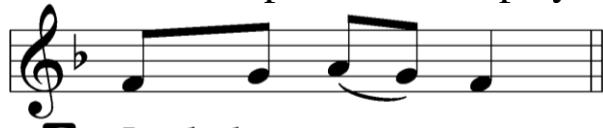


Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.
 Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.
 Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy-ful, we by grace are Thine!

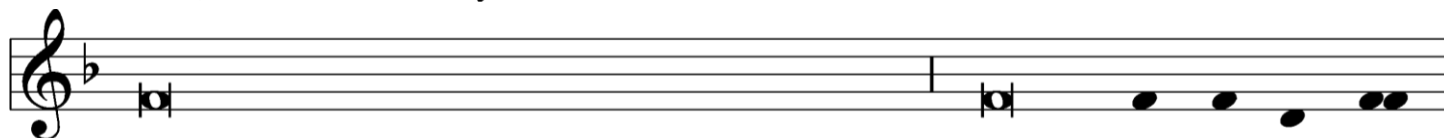
Kyrie.....pages 152-153



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.



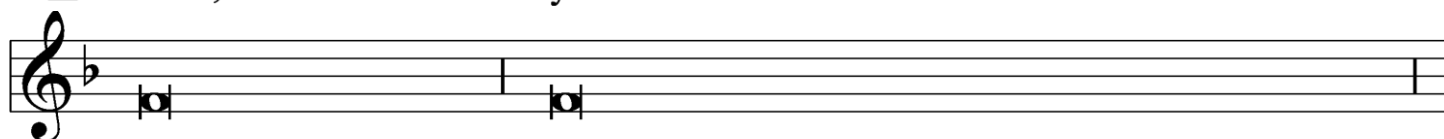
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



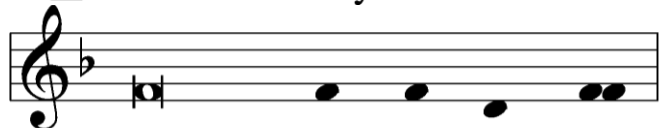
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



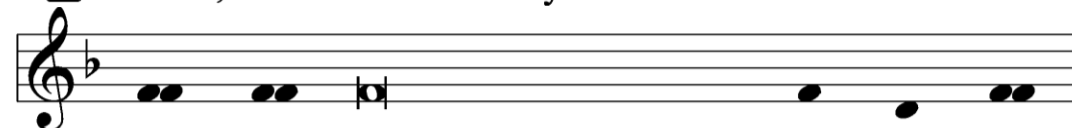
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



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 Feastpage 155

Refrain

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

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

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

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

Final Refrain

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

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

Salutationpage 156

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Collect of the Day (*spoken in unison*)

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord’s resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Easter Faith-Sharing

Please be seated.

First Reading **Acts 4:32-35**

The full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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. (*Hebrews 2:7*)

Epistle Reading **1 John 1:1-2:2**

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is

with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please rise, if able.

Alleluia and Versepage 156



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

Holy Gospel**John 20:19-31**

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day "O Sons and Daughters of the King", #470 (1-8)



1 O sons and daughters of the King, Whom heav'n - ly
 2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day, The faith - ful
 3 An an - gel clad in white they see, Who sits and
 4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear; A - mong them



hosts in glo - ry sing, To - day the grave has lost its sting!
 wom - en went their way To seek the tomb where Je - sus lay.
 speaks un - to the three, "Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee."
 came their mas - ter dear And said, "My peace be with you here."



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

5 When Thomas first the tidings heard
That they had seen the risen Lord,
He doubted the disciples' word.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

7 No longer Thomas then denied;
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
"You are my Lord and God!" he cried.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6 "My piercèd side, O Thomas, see,
And look upon My hands, My feet;
Not faithless but believing be."
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

8 How blest are they who have not seen
And yet whose faith has constant been,
For they eternal life shall win.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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Sermon....."Living the Risen Life Together"

Please rise.

Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,**

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated.

Offering

Please rise.

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.

Offertorypages 159-160

C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

Communion Liturgypages 160-163



P The Lord be with you.



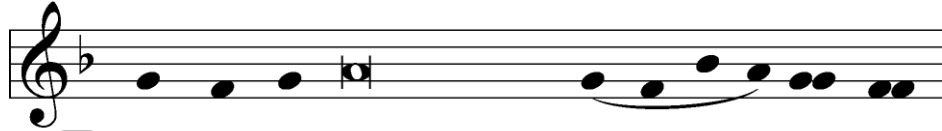
C And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and 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.

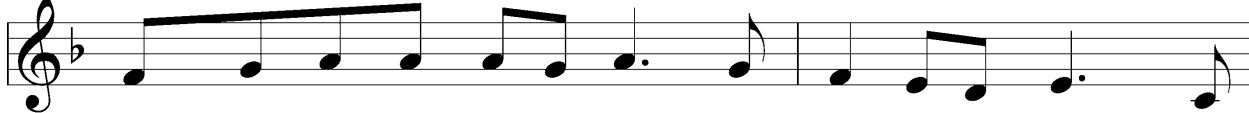
The Words of Our Lord.....page 162

Proclamation of Christ

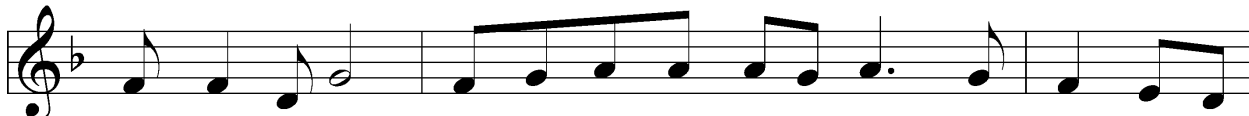
Lord's Prayer

Pax Domini.....page 163

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.

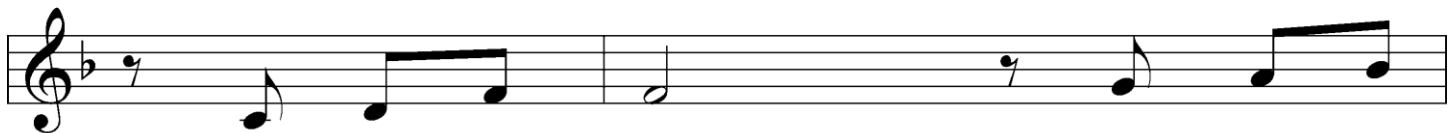
Communion Distribution

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

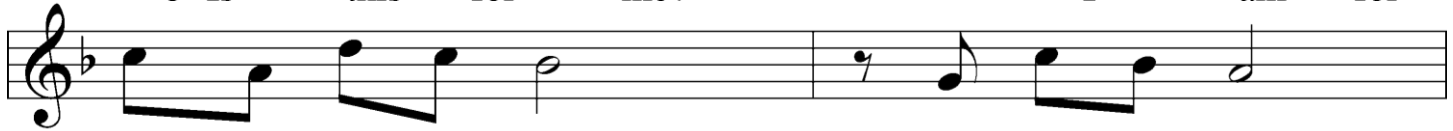
Silent Reflection/Instrumental Selection

(Sunday Only)

Communion Hymns.....“What Is This Bread” #629



1 What is this bread? Christ's bod - y
 2 What is this wine? The blood of
 3 So who am I, That I should
 4 Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By
 5 Is this for me? I am for -



ris - en from the dead: This bread we break,
 Je - sus shed for mine; The cup of grace
 live and He should die Un - der the rod?
 Word and prom - ise clear, In mouth and soul
 giv - en and set free! I do be - lieve



This life we take, Was crushed to pay for our re -
 Brings His em - brace Of life and love un - til I
 My God, my God, Why have You not for - sak - en
 He makes us whole— Christ, tru - ly pres - ent in this
 That I re - ceive His ver - y bod - y and His



lease. O taste and see— the Lord is peace.
 sing! O taste and see— the Lord is King.
 me? O taste and see— the Lord is free.
 meal. O taste and see— the Lord is real.
 blood. O taste and see— the Lord is good.

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Communion Hymn *"This Joyful Eastertide" #482*



1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide A - way with sin and
 2 Death's flood has lost its chill Since Je - sus crossed the
 3 My flesh in hope shall rest And for a sea - son



sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied,
 riv - er; Lov - er of souls, from ill
 slum - ber Till trump from east to west

Has sprung to life this mor - row:
 My pass - ing soul de - liv - er:
 Shall wake the dead in num - ber:

Refrain

Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day pris - on,
 Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -
 ris - en, a - ris - en; But now has Christ a - ris - en!

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Communion Hymn *“Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure” #533*

1 Je - sus has come and brings plea - sure e - ter - nal,
 2 Je - sus has come! Now see bonds rent a - sun - der!
 3 Je - sus has come as the might - y Re - deem - er.
 4 Je - sus has come as the King of all glo - ry!

Al - pha, O - me - ga, Be - gin - ning and End;
 Fet - ters of death now dis - solve, dis - ap - pear.
 See now the threat - en - ing strong one dis - armed!
 Heav - en and earth, O de - clare His great pow'r,

God - head, hu - man - i - ty, u - nion su - per - nal,
 See Him burst through with a voice as of thun - der!
 Je - sus breaks down all the walls of death's for - tress,
 Cap - tur - ing hearts with the heav - en - ly sto - ry;

O great Re - deem - er, You come as our friend!
 He sets us free from our guilt and our fear,
 Brings forth the pris - 'ners tri - um - phant, un - harmed.
 Wel - come Him now in this fast - fleet - ing hour!



Heav-en and earth, now pro - claim this great won - der:
 Lifts us from shame to the place of His hon - or.
 Sa - tan, you wick - ed one, own now your mas - ter!
 Pon - der His love! Take the crown He has for you!



Je - sus has come and brings plea - sure e - ter - nal!
 Je - sus has come! Hear the roll of God's thun - der!
 Je - sus has come! He, the might - y Re - deem - er!
 Je - sus has come! He, the King of all glo - ry!

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Please rise.

Post Communion Canticle..... *“Thank the Lord” page 164*



C 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.

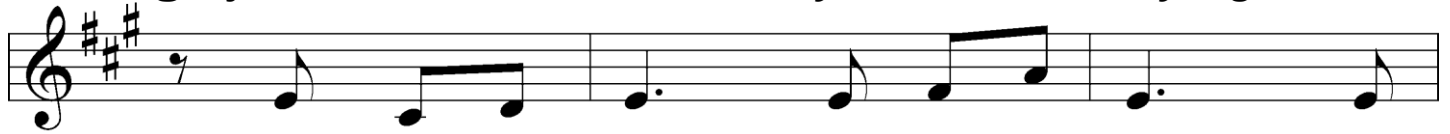
Post Communion Collect..... *page 166*

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.

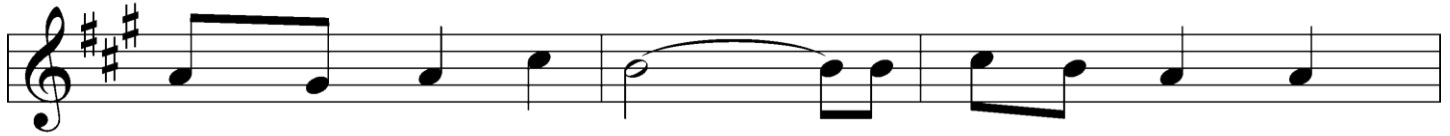
C Amen.

Benediction..... *page 166*

Sending Hymn..... "We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight" #720



1 We walk by faith and not by sight, No
 2 We may not touch His hands and side, Nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; And
 4 For You, O res - ur - rect - ed Lord, Are
 5 Lord, when our life of faith is done, In



gra - cious words we hear From Him who spoke as
 fol - low where He trod; But in His prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound To call on You when
 found in means di - vine: Be - neath the wa - ter
 realms of clear - er light We may be - hold You



none e'er spoke, But we be - lieve Him near.
 we re - joice And cry "My Lord and God!"
 You are near And seek where You are found.
 and the Word, Be - neath the bread and wine.
 as You are, With full and end - less sight.

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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: Acts 3:11-21; Epistle: 1 John 3:1-7; Gospel: Luke 24:36-49

Attendance Maundy Thursday: 57

Attendance Saturday: 28

Total Offering: \$8,358.41

Home Use: \$2,267.41

Attendance Good Friday: 67

Attendance Sunday: 46/131

Missions: \$10.00

Benevolences: \$6,081.00

Serving us today:

Elders..... Jimmy Smithers (Sat), Willie Crespo, Alan Miller (Sun)
MusiciansJerrode Marsh
Altar Committee.....Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Peggy Hoyer,
Lynn Lowe, Cindy Smith
Flower CommitteePenny Humphrey (Chair), Lana Vanderburgh

This Week's Schedule

Sunday	1:00 p.m.	Youth Catechesis
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	7:00 p.m.	Mary Martha Guild Meeting
Tuesday	9:30 a.m.	Quilting
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	1:00 p.m.	Paula Brewer's Memorial Service
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Group
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	SHINE! Event
	5:30 p.m.	Worship
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	The Lutheran Hour broadcast on 96.9
	9:00 a.m.	Radio Broadcast 98.5 (can also be heard at www.blchurch.com , under the Sermons tab)
	9:15 a.m.	Christian Education
	10:30 a.m.	Worship

Prayers

For the District Youth Event this weekend and for those in attendance from Bethlehem—Penny & Abby (chaperones), Aedan, Phil, & Trevor. May it be a good faith-shaping time for all!

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: Dorothy Anderson, Charlie Becker, Mel Bockelman, Mark Brown, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Lynda Creech, 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), Kenny (Judy Smith's brother), Duane Limback, Mary Johnson, Lloyd McCarter, Ronnie Moody (Sheree's mother), Jay Rudy, Maryanna Savery, Carolyn Sheets (Lynda Creech's sister), Rose Steitz, & Joe Zeman.

For a Safe Pregnancy for Paige Hart as she, Colin, and Henry anticipate the birth of the little one she's carrying.

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 Weekend 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

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 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.

Sunday 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, then we split up at 9:20 or so. 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. We're currently finishing our look at the 4th Commandment!

Wednesday Bible Study—Join us at **10:30 a.m. in the conference room.** We're starting the book of Jeremiah this week, so come and share in this time of biblical knowledge and growth in faith together!

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

Music

Music Camps at Concordia Music Conservatory—Choir Camp will be held **June 3-7**, for children ages kindergarten to 8th grade, and Orchestra Camp will be **June 10-14**, for children ages 4th-12th grade. Enroll online at cmc-music.org. Register before **March 31** for the early bird discount! Early enrollment is \$135 per child. Regular enrollment, April 1-May 15 is \$160 per child and late enrollment, after May 15, is \$225 per child. Camps are 9am to 4pm daily on the campus of Saint Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, MO. Lunch and snacks are provided. The Friday of each camp there will be a closing concert at 2pm. If you have any questions, please contact CMC at 660-624-7950 or info@cmc-music.org.

Opportunities to Serve

Shine! Event 2024—Plan to attend (and help with!) this year's **Shine!** event on **Saturday, April 13 at 10:00 a.m.** We will be launching our community garden's new growing season with a lively event filled with giveaways, planting, music and children's activities. *Can you contribute to planning work, setup/cleanup, music or planting guidance that day?* Please let Rebecca or Pr. Joel know and you'll be plugged in at the perfect spot. Shine! is an annual community outreach event that began four years ago in April, which every congregation of the Missouri District is encouraged to participate in; this makes number 4 for us!

Spring is here and gardening season has begun! Potatoes were planted in bags on St. Patrick's Day and vegetable garden workdays have been happening. Pr. Joel is working on getting the Star of Bethlehem herb garden out front tended to for new growth, and if anyone would like to get some herbs for growing at home (that started growing in the wrong spot here), let him know. Talk to Rebecca, our CLF, or Pr. Joel and they'll find the perfect way for you to help with the enjoyable task of growing and tending to the wonderful gardens and greenspace we have here at Bethlehem!

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!

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!

Mary-Martha Guild will be meeting this Monday at 7:00 p.m. We will have a presentation by the volunteers for the Lutheran Braille Workers. They will have samples of the material they produce as well as some items which can be ordered from Lutheran Braille Workers, including large print products. We go to Concordia once a month to prepare these materials, and if you think you might be interested in volunteering, plan on attending to learn more about it. **Everyone in the congregation is invited!**

2024 Missouri District Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention, Independence, MO. The early registration rate for the Missouri District LWML convention **ends April 30**. Early/late registration fees include a Saturday boxed lunch and Saturday evening banquet. The last day to book a hotel room at the convention site, Stoney Creek Hotel in Independence, is May 6. Be sure to use CODE LWML24 when you call the hotel at 816-908-9600. The room reservations are open to the general public after that date. Don't delay! —register today! Online registration can be found at missourilwml.org.

Fellowship

Everyone is invited to attend the **Concordia Zone Lutheran Laymen's League Rally** on **Sunday April 14th**, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Emma. There will be a short meeting at **5 pm** in the church followed by a banquet meal in the Multi-purpose Building beginning at **6 pm**. The guest speaker during the evening meal event will be **Mr. Mark W. Eischer**. Mr. Eischer serves as the Announcer and Senior Producer of the world's longest-running Christian radio broadcast, **The Lutheran Hour**. Eischer, born in Frankenmuth, Michigan, graduated from Concordia University-Chicago, joined the Lutheran Hour Ministries staff in January 1982 and has to date produced more than 1,800 weekly editions of the widely-syndicated program which debuted in 1930 and is now heard on about 1,700 radio stations throughout North America and online at lutheranhour.org. He helped to bring **Women to Women with Phyllis Wallace** into national syndication and recorded special Christmas and Easter broadcasts of **The Lutheran Hour** on location in Israel, Germany, Russia, and Greece.

He and his wife Deb live in Oakville, MO. They have three children and two grandchildren. For tickets for the meal contact **Dennis Oetting (660) 233-6445** or Holy Cross Lutheran Church office at **(660) 463-7869** Noon-3 pm M-F.

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

Are you in need of Large Print Materials? Lutheran Braille Workers offers free large-print materials such as Bibles, The Lutheran Witness, devotionals, Lutheran Service Book and Portals of Prayer among others. Visit lbwloveworks.org if you would like to order any of the large-print materials.

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 be resuming its services in April!**

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

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

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

**Growing
Community**



**Planting
Together**

BETHLEHEM COMMUNITY GARDEN KICKOFF
Start Spring with us and join us for our 16th year!
Saturday, April 13, 2024-10AM—12PM
607 N. MAGUIRE, WARRENSBURG

FAMILIES

Come play, dream and
plant in our new
children's garden.



FREE

Gardening Supplies
Music, Seeds,
Houseplant Starts



Gather to Grow: The Dirt
Educational Series Kickoff at 11:00



Learn from an accomplished gardener how to build up your soil. Start now with recommendations for acquiring soil and amendments. Learn strategies to build fertile soil for the future with techniques like composting and crop rotation.

Questions? Call Rebecca at 660-441-1271

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.