



*Bethlehem Lutheran Church—William Penn
Founded 1860—Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 19, 2026

10:15 AM



Pastor

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Connor Gresham
Ryan Gresham
Stanley Haferkamp

Acolyte

Norman Krieg

Greeter

Judy Baichtal

Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026 – 10:15 AM

Divine Service: Setting I with Holy Communion

Order of Service: *Lutheran Service Book, pp 151-166*

Pre-Service Music



April Bible Verse

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

John 17:17

Our Mission Statement

Representing God's Love to Our Congregation, Community, and the World!



In Light of 1 Cor. 11:23-26, Bethlehem Lutheran Church maintains the historical practice of “closed” communion in the belief that the Sacrament requires faith in Christ’s words that His body and blood are truly present. Furthermore, participation in the Sacrament is a sign of our unity in the faith with all those who join us at the altar. *For that reason, we ask that those visitors desiring to commune be members in good*

standing of a congregation of the LCMS and speak to the pastor or an elder before the beginning of the service. Our denial of admission to those who are members of another confession is not a judgment upon their faith but a recognition that we hold to different confessions concerning God, salvation, and the Sacrament itself. Such individuals are invited to speak with the pastor following the service.

Ringing of the Church Bell

OPENING HYMN

Who Are You Who Walk in Sorrow

LSB 476



1 Who are you who walk in sor - row Down Em - ma - us'
2 Who is this who joins our jour - ney, Walk - ing with us
3 Who are You? Our hearts are o - pened In the break - ing
4 Who are we who trav - el with You On our way through
5 “Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!” Is the Eas - ter



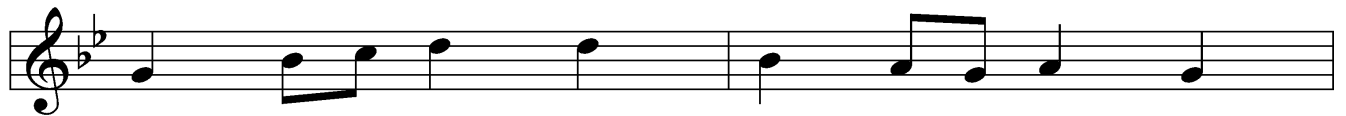
bar - ren road, Hearts dis - traught and hope de - feat - ed,
stride by stride? Un - known Strang - er, can You fath - om
of the bread— Christ the vic - tim, now the vic - tor
life to death? Wom - en, men, the young, the ag - ing,
hymn we sing! Take our life, our joy, our wor - ship



Bent be - neath grief's crush - ing load? Name - less mourn - ers,
 Depths of grief for one who died? Then the won - der!
 Liv - ing, ris - en from the dead! Great com - pan - ion
 Wak - ened by the Spir - it's breath! At the font You
 As the gift of love we bring. You have formed us



we will join you, We who al - so mourn our dead;
 When we told You How our dreams to dust have turned,
 on our jour - ney, Still sur - prise us with Your grace!
 claim and name us, Born of wa - ter and the Word;
 all one peo - ple Called from ev - 'ry land and race.



We have stood by graves un - yield - ing,
 Then You o - pened wide the Scrip - tures
 Make each day a new Em - ma - us;
 At the ta - ble still You feed us,
 Make the Church Your ser - vant bod - y,



Eat - en death's bare, bit - ter bread.
 Till our hearts with - in us burned.
 On our hearts Your im - age trace!
 Host us as our ris - en Lord!
 Sent to share Your heal - ing grace!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007. Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven. Text: © 2000 National Association of Pastoral Musicians. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013. Tune: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the ✠ Cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

INVOCATION

LSB 151

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 151

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.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

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 in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 133; antiphon: v. 1

Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in unity!

It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron,

running down on the collar of his robes!

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion!

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

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.

Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in unity!

KYRIE

LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P 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.



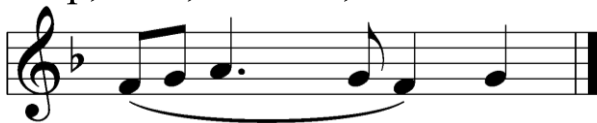
C Lord, have mer - cy.

P 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.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

This Is the Feast

LSB 155



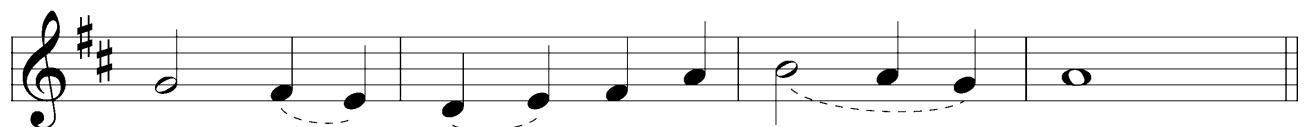
C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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



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



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*

gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain

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

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

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

C O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

¹⁴Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, . . .

³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

P This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

adapt. From Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

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.

EPISTLE

1 Peter 1:17-25

¹⁷If you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, ²¹who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

²²Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴for

“All flesh is like grass
and all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers,
and the flower falls,
²⁵but the word of the Lord remains forever.”

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

COMMON ALLELUIA

LSB 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

Luke 24:13-35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the twenty-fourth chapter.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹³That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” ¹⁹And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²²Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” ²⁵And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” ³³And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

**☩ 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.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

With High Delight Let Us Unite

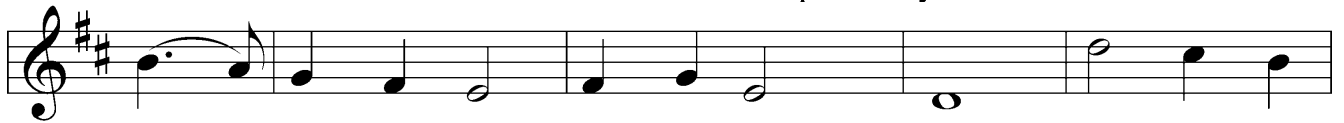
LSB 483



1 With high de-light Let us u - nite In songs of great
 2 True God, He first From death has burst Forth in - to life,
 3 Let prais-es ring; Give thanks, and bring To Christ our Lord



ju - bi - la - tion. Ye pure in heart, All bear your part,
 all sub-du - ing. His en - e - my Doth van-quished lie;
 ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed By word and deed



Sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion. To set us
 His death has been death's un - do - ing. "And yours shall
 To ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So shall His



free For - ev - er, He Is ris'n and sends To all earth's
 be Like vic - to - ry O'er death and grave," Saith He, who
 love Give us a - bove, From mis - er - y And death set



ends Good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.
 gave His life for us, life re - new - ing.
 free, All joy and full con - so - la - tion.

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SERMON

Seven Miles from Seeing

Luke 24:13-35

Stand

OFFERTORY

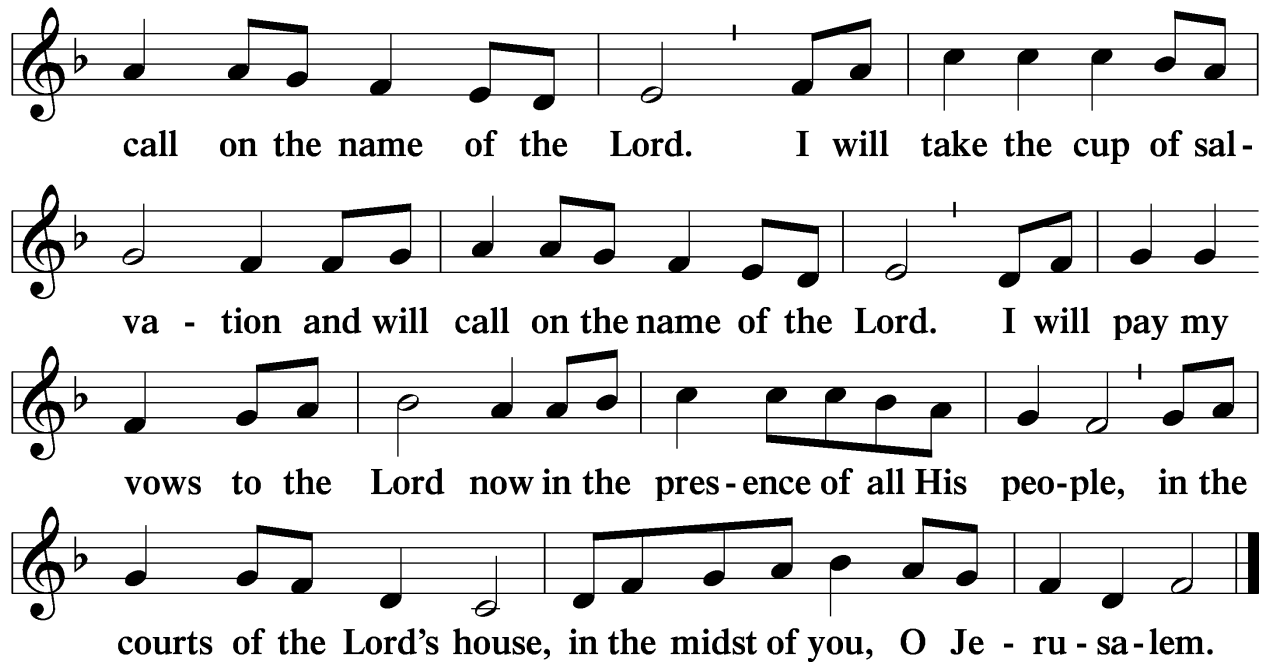
LSB 159



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.

OFFERING PRAYER

Sit

OFFERING

Stand

Marriage Banns

P On April 25th, Henry Kettler and Allison Hand desire to enter the holy estate of matrimony according to the Lord's Word. They desire our prayers so that they may begin their marriage in God's name and with His blessing. If you can show just cause why these two persons should not be joined together in holy matrimony, you are to declare it before the wedding. May God grant them His blessing.

P Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You established matrimony and desire that we keep it holy. Behold with Your favor Henry Kettler and Allison Hand, who intend to have their union blessed by Your Word. Grant them Your grace so that they may begin their wedded life in You, live according to Your Word, and rejoice in Your strong love and enduring blessing; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

LSB 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.

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

☐ 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.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Stay with Us

LSB 879

1 Stay with us, till night has come: Our praise to
 2 Walk with us, our spir - its sigh: Hear when our
 3 Walk with us, the road will bend: Make all our
 4 Talk with us, till we be - hold A joy - ful
 5 Stay with us, till day is done: No tears nor

You this day be sung. Bless our bread, O - pen our
 wea - ry spir - its cry, Feel a - gain Our loss, our
 weep - ing, wail - ing end. Wipe our tears, For - give our
 life You will un - fold: Heal our eyes To see the
 dark shall dim the sun. Cheer the heart, Your grace im -

eyes: Je - sus, be our great sur - prise.
 pain: Je - sus, take us to Your side.
 fears: Je - sus, lift the heav - y cross.
 prize: Je - sus, take us to the light.
 part: Je - sus, bring e - ter - nal life.



1 Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
2 Here would I feed up - on the bread of God,
3 This is the hour of ban - quet and of song;
4 I have no help but Thine; nor do I need



Here would I touch and han - dle things un - seen;
Here drink with Thee the roy - al wine of heav'n;
This is the heav'n - ly ta - ble spread for me;
An - oth - er arm but Thine to lean up - on.



Here grasp with firm - er hand the e - ter - nal grace,
Here would I lay a - side each earth - ly load,
Here let me feast and, feast - ing, still pro - long
It is e - nough, my Lord, e - nough in - deed;



And all my wea - ri - ness up - on Thee lean.
Here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - giv'n.
The brief bright hour of fel - low - ship with Thee.
My strength is in Thy might, Thy might a - lone.

5 Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness;
Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing blood;
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace:
Thy blood, Thy righteousness, O Lord my God.

6 Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;
The bread and wine remove, but Thou art here;
Nearer than ever; still my shield and sun.

7 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.



1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior, Turned a - way God's
 2 As His pledge of love un - dy - ing, He, this pre - cious
 3 Je - sus here Him - self is shar - ing; Heed then how you
 4 Praise the Fa - ther, who from heav - en To His own this



wrath for - ev - er; By His bit - ter grief and woe
 food sup - ply - ing, Gives His bod - y with the bread,
 are pre - par - ing, For if you do not be - lieve,
 food has giv - en, Who, to mend what we have done,



He saved us from the e - vil foe.
 And with the wine the blood He shed.
 His judg - ment then you shall re - ceive.
 Gave in - to death His on - ly Son.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>5 Firmly hold with faith unshaken
 That this food is to be taken
 By the sick who are distressed,
 By hearts that long for peace and rest.</p> <p>6 Agony and bitter labor
 Were the cost of God's high favor;
 Do not come if you suppose
 You need not Him who died and rose.</p> <p>7 Christ says: "Come, all you that
 labor,
 And receive My grace and favor:
 Those who feel no pain or ill
 Need no physician's help or skill.</p> | <p>8 "For what purpose was My dying
 If not for your justifying?
 And what use this precious food
 If you yourself were pure and good?"</p> <p>9 If your heart this truth professes
 And your mouth your sin confesses,
 You will be your Savior's guest,
 Be at His banquet truly blest.</p> <p>10 Let this food your faith so nourish
 That its fruit of love may flourish
 And your neighbor learn from you
 How much God's wondrous love can
 do.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: John Hus, c. 1369–1415; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2, 4–5, 7, 9): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (sts. 3, 8): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 6, 10): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001, alt. Tune: Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert, 1533, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug, alt. Text (sts. 3, 6, 8, 10): © 1980 and 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013 Text (sts. 1–2, 4–5, 7, 9) and tune: Public domain

O Gracious Lord, I Firmly Am Believing

LSB 635



1 O gra - cious Lord, I firm - ly am be - liev - ing
2 Lord, I have sinned, a thou - sand times of - fend - ing;
3 You see my sin yet seat me at Your ta - ble;
4 O Lamb of God, my faith - ful, lov - ing Sav - ior,
5 Heav - en - ly Bread, my life and ben - e - dic - tion,



Your bound - less love will bless each faith - ful soul,
My thank - less thoughts and words and deeds e - raise,
Lord, as a guest, I sure - ly am the least:
You I em - brace in faith and ho - ly love;
This cup You give can take a - way each ill.



As from this al - tar we are here re - ceiv - ing
To me Your hand of mer - cy now ex - tend - ing,
Un - clean, un - fit, of wor - thy deeds un - a - ble—
Grant me the strength to show by my be - hav - ior
Come and re - lieve my soul from all af - flic - tion;



Your bod - y and Your blood to make us whole,
O God, my Sav - ior, I im - plore Your grace,
My heart pre - pare for this most ho - ly feast,
A life now hid - den in Your reign a - bove,
Calm ev - 'ry sigh un - til my heart is still,



Your bod - y and Your blood to make us whole.
O God, my Sav - ior, I im - plore Your grace.
My heart pre - pare for this most ho - ly feast.
A life now hid - den in Your reign a - bove.
Calm ev - 'ry sigh un - til my heart is still.

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POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Thank the Lord

LSB 164



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



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice 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

LSB 166

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary 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

LSB 166

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - men.

Sit

CLOSING HYMN

We Know That Christ Is Raised

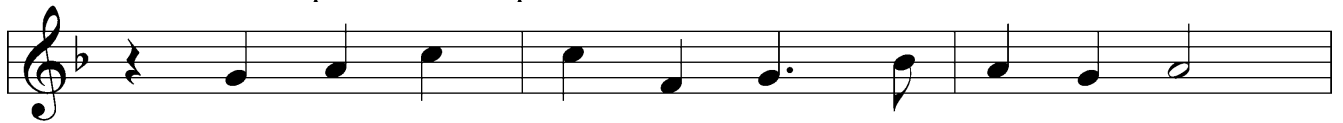
LSB 603



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in His sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.



Em - braced by death, He broke its fear - ful hold;
Re - born, we share with Him an Eas - ter life
The Spir - it's pow - er shakes the Church of God.



And our de - spair He turned to blaz - ing joy.
As liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ.
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.



Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: John B. Geyer, 1932–2020, alt. Tune: Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924. Text: © John B. Geyer. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013. Tune: Public domain



POSTLUDE

Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, where we worship in the name of the crucified and risen Lamb of God, Jesus Christ our Lord. Blessings to you as you worship with us today.



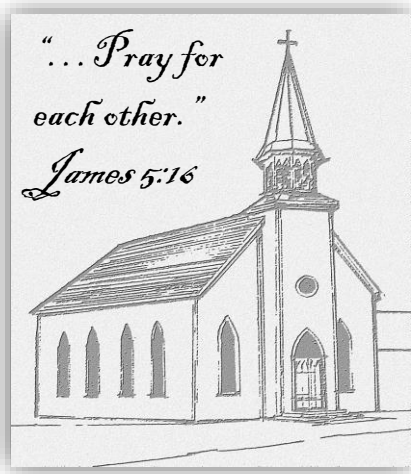
Congregation: health and healing for David Boenker, health and healing for Jerry Kohring; health and healing for Tim Garner (brother-in-law of Dorcas Schroeder); healing for Terry and Becky Lueckemeyer;

healing for Lillian Hayden from knee surgery; for Tom Hayden's recovery after surgery and continued healing; for Adeline Platt's health; and Deloris Griffin; for our shut-in members: Renee Brinkmann, Mildred Holle, Elvera Schroeder, and others who are unable to come to church.

Community: blessings on William and Skylar Killinger as he prepares for his Holy Ministry; for Grace Lutheran School, that they may continue to be a place for the children of our community and congregation to learn and grow in their faith and knowledge of God's world; may our Lord continue to deliver to us favorable weather; for Brenham Pregnancy Center and those whose lives they touched; Faith Mission; families and individuals cared for by Child Protective Services.

World: for all those suffering through war, may God watch over and protect His children, and by His Holy Spirit, may they all come to know Christ as their Savior and thus enjoy eternity with Him, for those who have been led astray into false belief; for those facing crisis pregnancies, that they would find the strength to choose life for their unborn child; for the leaders of the nations, that they would make godly decisions for their people and countries.

Bethlehem at Prayer



Prayer is a vital part of our life together in Christ. To that end, *Bethlehem at Prayer* is a means to encourage more intentional prayer for one another. This is an opportunity for us to support one another in faith, lifting up each household by name before our gracious God. While members can always request prayers at any time, this effort ensures that every family at Bethlehem is prayed for regularly. We invite you to join us in encouragement and intercession, praying for our brothers and sisters in Christ each week.

Please remember these families in your prayers this week:

- Flisowski – Kevin, Kelly, Kaden
- Flisowski – Albin, Brenda
- Kimmel – Brian, Lindsay, Raife, Lachlan
- Klussmann – Shirley
- Schroeder – Doug, Dorcas
- Schroeder – Lorena

May the Lord bless and strengthen them in faith and life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
This Week's Schedule

April 19 – April 26



Today: *Third Sunday of Easter*
9:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
10:15 AM Divine Worship: Setting I with Holy Communion
Acolyte: Norman Krieg
Greeter: Judy Baichtal
Ushers: Kevin Goessler Connor Gresham
Ryan Gresham Stanley Haferkamp



Monday:
6:00 PM New Members Class



Wednesday:
7:30 PM Voters Meeting



Thursday:
6:30 PM Ladies Bible Study



Saturday:
8:30 AM Sisters in Christ



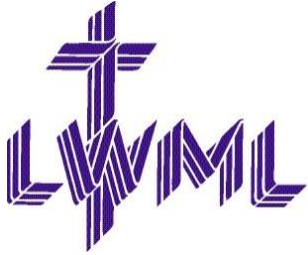
Next Sunday: *Fourth Sunday of Easter*
8:00 AM Outdoor Amphitheater Service
9:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
10:15 AM Divine Worship: Setting I with Holy Communion
Acolyte: Wyatt Schramme
Greeter: Stephanie Dahman
Ushers: David Hodge Keith Huber
Craig Kankel Wayne Klussmann

Serving in April: Elder – Clinton Kettler / Trustee – Doyle Dahmann

If you have a question or thought concerning spiritual care or the church property, please contact the appropriate elder or trustee.



The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God by Ryan and Terie Gresham in celebration of their 18th anniversary.



LWML Bluebonnet Zone Gathering

Is being held at Grace Lutheran Church in Brenham on **Saturday, May 2**. Attendance cost is \$18.00 which includes lunch. Check-in and continental breakfast begin at **8:30 AM**. **Please RSVP no later than April 24th by calling or texting Sally Blum at 979-203-4834**. The offering collected will benefit Camp Lone Star – Tomball Campus. All are invited.



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**
Connecting faith & finances for good.

Thank you to all Thrivent members who directed their 2025 “Choice Dollars” to Bethlehem Lutheran Church. A total of \$9,097.00 was received in 2025 from Thrivent. Thus far, from January 2026 to April 2026, Bethlehem Lutheran Church has received \$7,948.00. Special thanks also go to members who participated in the \$250 Thrivent Action Team Program.



There is a quarterly **Voters' Meeting this Wednesday, April 22, at 7:30pm**. Please refer to the information printed at the end of the bulletin.



Through our congregation's participation in the Adopt-a-Seminarian program, we have been blessed to be paired with seminarian William Killinger and his wife, Skylar. They recently sent a heartfelt letter of thanks along with photos, which have been posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall for you to enjoy.

As the school year draws to a close in May, we would like to send them a gift as an expression of our encouragement and support for William's studies and their life together. If you would like to contribute, you may simply place your gift in the offering plate and designate it for “Seminarian William Killinger.” We plan on sending his gift at the beginning of May, before the end of his academic year. Thank you for keeping William and Skylar in your prayers as they prepare for a life of service in Christ's Church.



Mark your Calendars for...

Tropical Trek VBS - June 16-19

We need adult volunteers to help lead music, crafts, games, and the kitchen. If you are interested, please reach out to Ann Smitherman or sign up in the parish hall. Also, if you are interested in your child or grandchild taking part in VBS this summer, please sign them up in the parish hall.



The LWML is collecting stuffed animals for First Responders until **next Sunday, April 26th**. Please put them in a zip-lock, gallon-sized bag and place in the basket in the Narthex.

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR



The 2026 Flower Chart is posted in the Parish Hall foyer. There are several openings available in the month of **May**.

Please sign up for that special occasion. The church secretary will remind you of your upcoming commitment via email or phone call. The Bethlehem LWML appreciates your support.



The LWML is collecting items for Disaster Relief Healthcare Kits. Please bring any of the items listed below to the Parish Hall and place in the marked basket by **May 24th**.

Health Care Kit

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 bath towel | 1 pack of floss |
| 1 washcloth | 1 toothpaste (2 if travel size) |
| 1 shampoo (2 if travel size) | 1 comb |
| 1 bar of soap (2 if travel size) | 1 deodorant |
| 1 toothbrush (individually sealed) | 1 nail clippers |



Life with God—New Members Class

continues tomorrow night, April 20th

Our adult information class covers the most important teachings of the Bible as they are believed, taught, and confessed here at Bethlehem. It is designed for anyone considering membership, new members, and any member of the congregation who would like a thorough review of basic Biblical doctrine. Mark your calendar and plan to join us **every Monday night from 6:00 to 7:30 PM**. Classes run weekly for 10-12 sessions.



April 19 (Easter 3) – The practice of abortion rests on the argument that the unborn should not be considered real persons, worthy of dignity and protection under the law. How different that is from the way God views these little ones! St. Peter reminds us that the death and resurrection of Jesus are “for you and your children and for all who are far off” (Acts 2:39). If all children have

been purchased by the “precious blood of Christ” (1 Peter 1:19), surely they are worthy of our love and care, both inside and outside of the womb.

Sunday School Corner



In our Spring unit, we conclude our study of the New Testament, beginning with the appearance of the resurrected Christ and continuing through the growth of the Early Church. This morning, the kids studied the lesson “A Centurion Converts – Peter and Cornelius.” Following his conversion, Saul (also called Paul) is introduced by Barnabas to the apostles in Jerusalem. The Church had spread to Antioch, so the leaders in Jerusalem send Barnabas there. He exhorts the people to remain faithful, and he brings Saul from Tarsus to help him minister among the people in Antioch for a whole year. The name Christian is first used for

the believers in Antioch. The Church in Antioch sends relief to the believers in Judea. To reinforce this lesson with your kids, as a family, discuss: What does it mean to be part of a church? How do we help one another? How do we help other churches far away from us? Saul and Barnabas were good friends, such good friends that Barnabas stood up for Saul when others wanted to hurt him. How do you stand up for your friends? How did the Holy Spirit help Barnabas? Why did God give Barnabas to Saul? Why does God give us good friends? Barnabas’s name means “son of encouragement.” How can you be an encouragement to others? Also, parents, you can join Pastor Krieg in the adult Sunday School class. See you next week!

High School Lesson

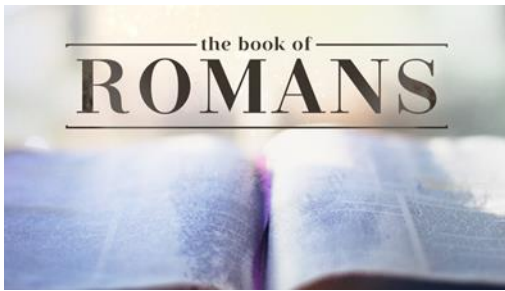
Our High School Sunday School class is beginning a new study series using Not-So-Nice Bible Stories: Master Criminals. In this engaging and thought-provoking study, students will explore the stories of some of Scripture’s most notorious wrongdoers, and discover how God’s mercy and grace still shine through even the darkest human deeds. Each lesson points us to Christ, who took

the punishment for all sin upon Himself and gives us forgiveness, life, and salvation. Join us as we dig into God’s Word, wrestle with tough questions, and see how even “master criminals” reveal our need for the one true Savior, Jesus Christ.

Lesson 15 – A Stone’s Throw Away (John 8:1–11)

In this week’s lesson, our High School Sunday School class studied the account of the woman caught in adultery. Students considered how the crowd was quick to condemn while ignoring their own sin, and how the Law rightly exposes guilt in every heart. Yet in this moment, Jesus speaks both truth and mercy. He does not excuse sin, but He also does not condemn the sinner. We discussed how Christ alone stands without sin, yet chooses not to cast the stone; instead, He goes to the cross to bear the judgment we deserve. In Him, we see the fullness of God’s justice and mercy, as forgiveness is given and new life begins.

Adult Sunday School Lesson



St. Paul’s letter to the Romans is often called the “chief part of the New Testament.” Romans clearly lays out the heart of the Christian faith: we are justified by grace alone through faith alone on account of Christ alone. In this rich epistle, Paul teaches on sin and righteousness, law and Gospel, baptism, the struggle against the old Adam, and life lived in the freedom of the Gospel. Whether you’ve been attending or

have yet to join us, this is a wonderful time to dig into God’s Word together and grow in our understanding of His mercy in Christ. Come and be strengthened in the faith that saves and learn how the Gospel shapes our daily lives. We look forward to studying this treasure of Scripture with you! If you could not attend today, please join us next Sunday during the Adult Bible Study hour before church, starting at 9 a.m. Now is the time to commit yourself to a deeper and more meaningful understanding of God’s Word and your relationship with Him. I hope to see you all next Sunday as we continue our studies.



Online Giving

You may give tithes and offerings online by clicking the “Give” tab on our website (<https://www.bethlehemwmpenn.org/>), or just scan the QR code to the left.

Last Week at Bethlehem

DATE	SERVICE	ATTENDANCE	GIFTS IN RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL
April 12	Sunday School	9	\$98.82
	Youth Bible Class	0	
	Adult Bible Class	28	
April 12	Worship Service	96	\$3,598.44 Youth League \$100.00

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT - OPERATING FUNDS**

January - March 2026

CASH RECEIPTS

	Building	General	Total
Contributions	\$ 5,869.49	\$ 52,849.22	\$ 58,718.71
Thrivent - Building Fund	\$ 3,431.00	\$ -	\$ 3,431.00
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL INFLOW	\$ 9,300.49	\$ 52,849.22	\$ 62,149.71

CASH DISBURSMENTS

Pastor's Expenses			
Salary		\$ 12,446.25	\$ 12,446.25
Federal Withholding		\$ 3,172.50	\$ 3,172.50
403b		\$ 1,050.00	\$ 1,050.00
Cell Phone		\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Travel Expenses		\$ 464.73	\$ 464.73
Retirement		\$ 2,229.45	\$ 2,229.45
Health Savings Acct		\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Health		\$ 8,699.46	\$ 8,699.46
Disability		\$ 364.62	\$ 364.62
Accident		\$ 23.40	\$ 23.40
Life		\$ 63.00	\$ 63.00
Continuing Education		\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Subtotal		\$ 30,613.41	\$ 30,613.41
Property:			
Property Insurance	\$ 4,264.00		\$ 4,264.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 2,495.30		\$ 2,495.30
Cleaning		\$ 1,435.00	\$ 1,435.00
Mowing - Church		\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
Utilities - Sanctuary		\$ 2,680.88	\$ 2,680.88
Utilities - Parsonage		\$ 896.90	\$ 896.90
Office:			
Accounting		\$ 2,460.00	\$ 2,460.00
A/V staff payroll		\$ 678.77	\$ 678.77
Secretary Salary		\$ 2,655.30	\$ 2,655.30
Payroll taxes		\$ 552.37	\$ 552.37
Copier		\$ 1,815.00	\$ 1,815.00
Office Supplies		\$ 1,225.58	\$ 1,225.58
Board of Missions		\$ 465.00	\$ 465.00
District Convention/Assessment		\$ 843.28	\$ 843.28
Lutheran Witness		\$ 222.75	\$ 222.75
Missions - Tx District		\$ 2,625.00	\$ 2,625.00
Missions - Local		\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Organist		\$ 2,565.00	\$ 2,565.00
Sunday School & VBS		\$ 724.07	\$ 724.07
Worship Supplies		\$ 1,284.75	\$ 1,284.75
TOTAL OUTFLOW	\$ 6,759.30	\$ 54,643.06	\$ 61,402.36
NET CASH FLOW	\$ 2,541.19	\$ (1,793.84)	\$ 747.35
1/1/2026 Balance	\$ 28,870.07	\$ 153,416.04	\$ 182,286.11
3/31/2026 Balance	\$ 31,411.26	\$ 151,622.20	\$ 183,033.46

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report - Special Fund
January - March 2026**

	Balance 1/1/2026	Gifts Received	Transfers Out	Balance 3/31/2026
Cemetery Fund	\$ 17,675.21	\$ 245.00	\$ (600.00)	\$ 17,320.21
Cemetery Road repair donation	\$ 1,160.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,160.00
Easter Lilies	\$ -	\$ 221.00	\$ -	\$ 221.00
Flags & Stands	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300.00
Interest	\$ 413.10	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 413.10
LYL	\$ -	\$ 1,390.00	\$ (1,390.00)	\$ -
Memorials	\$ 23,967.66	\$ 980.00	\$ (1,012.01)	\$ 23,935.65
Miscellaneous -PH/Member Caller	\$ -	\$ 940.00	\$ (940.00)	\$ -
Missions	\$ 320.00	\$ -	\$ (320.00)	\$ -
New Pew Project	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,250.00
Pancake Supper	\$ 12,823.81	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,823.81
Paraments	\$ 2,572.81	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,572.81
Security	\$ 825.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 825.00
Shepherd's Helping Hands	\$ 4,504.77	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,504.77
Veteran's Plaque	\$ 572.70	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 572.70
Special Fund Bank Balance	\$ 66,385.06	\$ 3,776.00	\$ (4,262.01)	\$ 65,899.05

3/31/2026

General Checking Acct:			
Operating Fund	\$ 151,522.20		
Building Fund	\$ 31,511.26	\$	183,033.46
Special Checking Acct:			
Specific Funds	\$ 41,963.40		
Unspecified Memorials	\$ 23,935.65	\$	65,899.05
3/31/2026		\$	248,932.51

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Voter's Agenda
Second Quarterly Meeting
April 8, 2026**

Call to Order

Devotion

Roll Call

Reception of New Members

**Justin, Rylee, and Jaxon Elliott from Grace Lutheran, Brenham
Kerry Kriudo and Tracy O'Neil - New Member Class**

Release of Members

**Mike and Susan Dietrich to Trinity Lutheran, Reisel, Texas
Naomi Hayden Brocksmith and Castiel Marshall to Holy Cross
Lutheran, College Station**

Minutes

Pastor's Message and Report

Treasurer's Report

Board of Elders

Board of Trustees

Board of Education

Old Business

New Business

- 1. The repair of one stained glass window, estimated cost to be \$8,000.00 by Freebirds of Cypress, Texas**
- 2. Approval for a laptop for streaming the worship services, estimated cost \$1,500.00**

Announcements

Potato Pancake Supper on June 5th.

Adjournment with the Lord's Prayer