

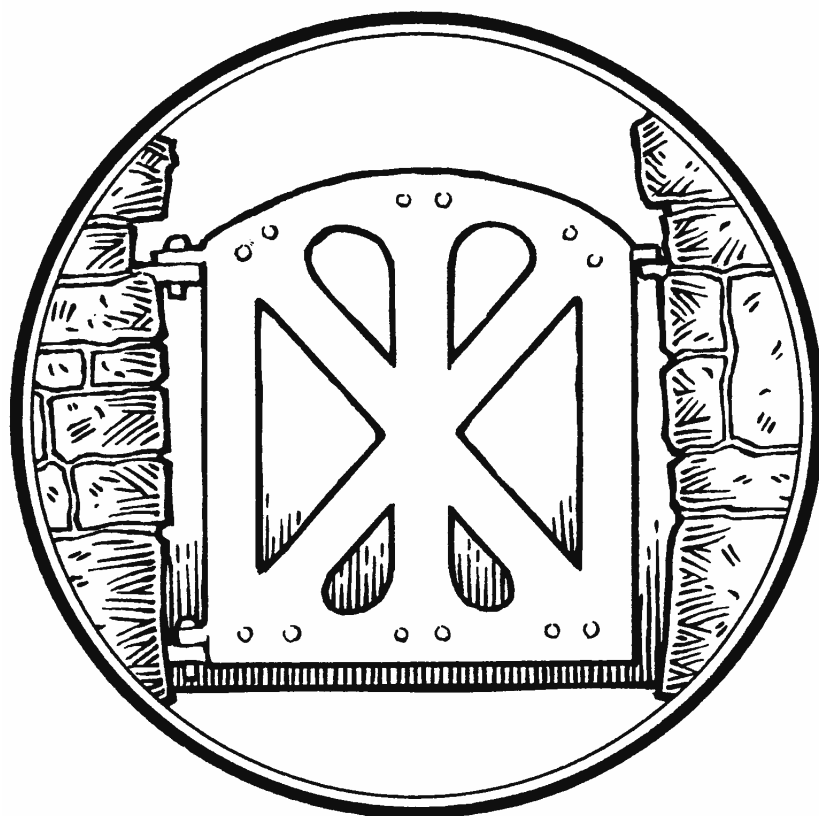


Bethlehem Lutheran Church—William Penn
Founded 1860—Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 26, 2026

10:15 AM



Pastor

Rev. Kelly Dean Krieg

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Organist

Ann Sommer

Ushers

David Hodge

Keith Huber

Craig Kankel

Wayne Klussmann

Acolyte

Wyatt Schramme

Greeter

Stephanie Dahman

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 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

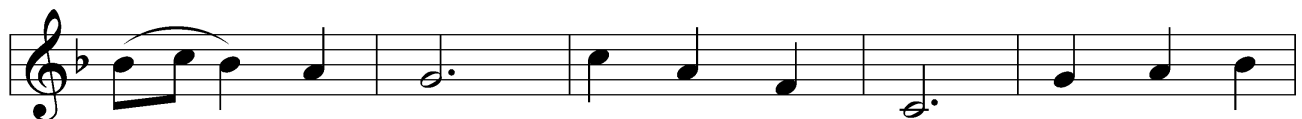
OPENING HYMN

Shepherd of Tender Youth

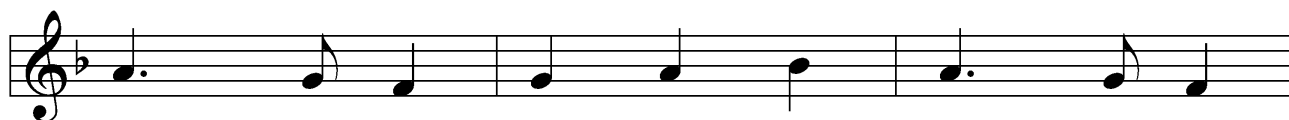
LSB 864



1 Shep - herd of ten - der youth, Guid - ing in
2 You are the ho - ly Lord, O all - sub -
3 You are the great High Priest; You have pre -
4 O ev - er be our guide, Our shep - herd,
5 So now, and till we die, Sound we Your



love and truth Through de - vious ways; Christ, our tri -
du - ing Word, Heal - er of strife. Your - self You
pared the feast Of ho - ly love; And in our
and our pride, Our staff and song. Je - sus, O
prais - es high And joy - ful sing: In - fants and



um - phant king, We come Your name to sing
did a - base That from sin's deep dis - grace
mor - tal pain None calls on You in vain;
Christ of God, By Your en - dur - ing Word
all the throng, Who to the Church be - long,



And here our chil - dren bring To join Your praise.
You so might save our race And give us life.
Our plea do not dis - dain; Help from a - bove.
Lead us where You have trod; Make our faith strong.
U - nite to swell the song To Christ, our king!

Text: attr. Clement of Alexandria, c. 170–c. 220; tr. Henry M. Dexter, 1821–90, alt. Tune: Felice de Giardini, 1716–96Text and 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 95:1-3,6-7a; antiphon: John 10:14,15b

I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the LORD is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

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.

I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.

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.



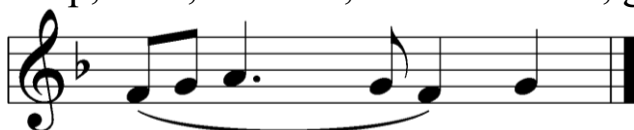
C Lord, have mer - cy.

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



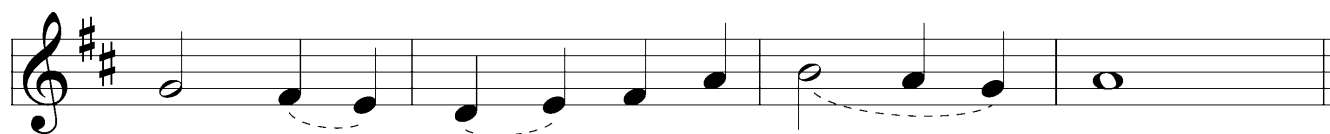
C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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*



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 Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

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 2:19-25

¹⁹This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When he was reviled, he

did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

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

John 10:1–10

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

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C 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

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

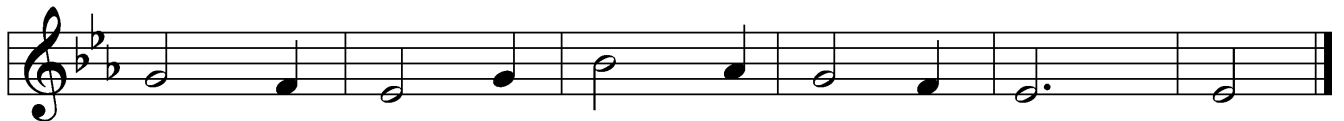
LSB 709



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul He lead - eth And, where the ver - dant
 love He sought me And on His shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, Thy rod and staff my



I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid And home re - joic - ing brought me.
 com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
 Thine unction grace bestoweth;
 And, oh, what transport of delight
 From Thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days
 Thy goodness faileth never;
 Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
 Within Thy house forever!

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-77. Tune: Irish, c. 18th cent. Text and tune:
 Public domain

SERMON

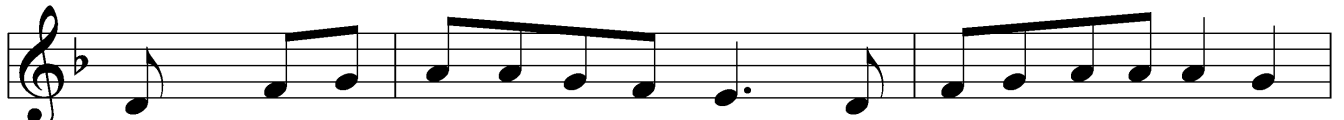
Life Beyond the Wolves

John 10:1-10

Stand

OFFERTORY

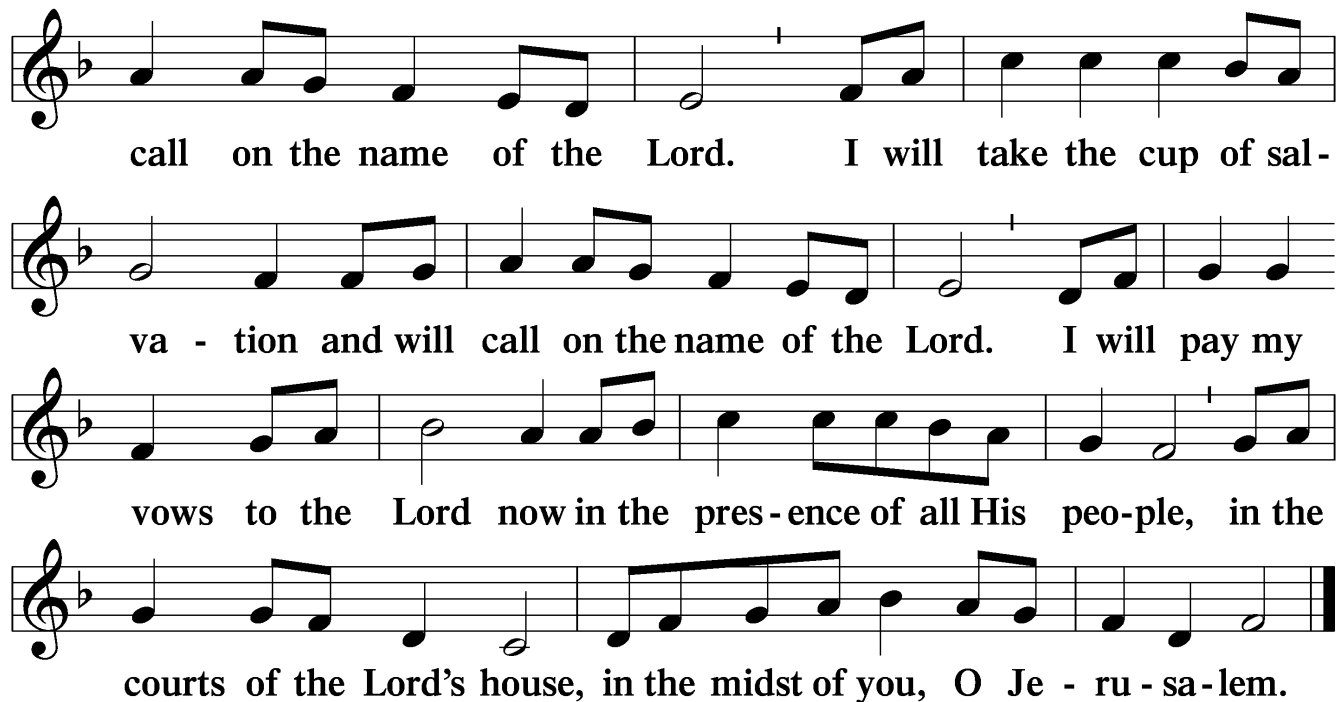
LSB 159



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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.



G And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.



G We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



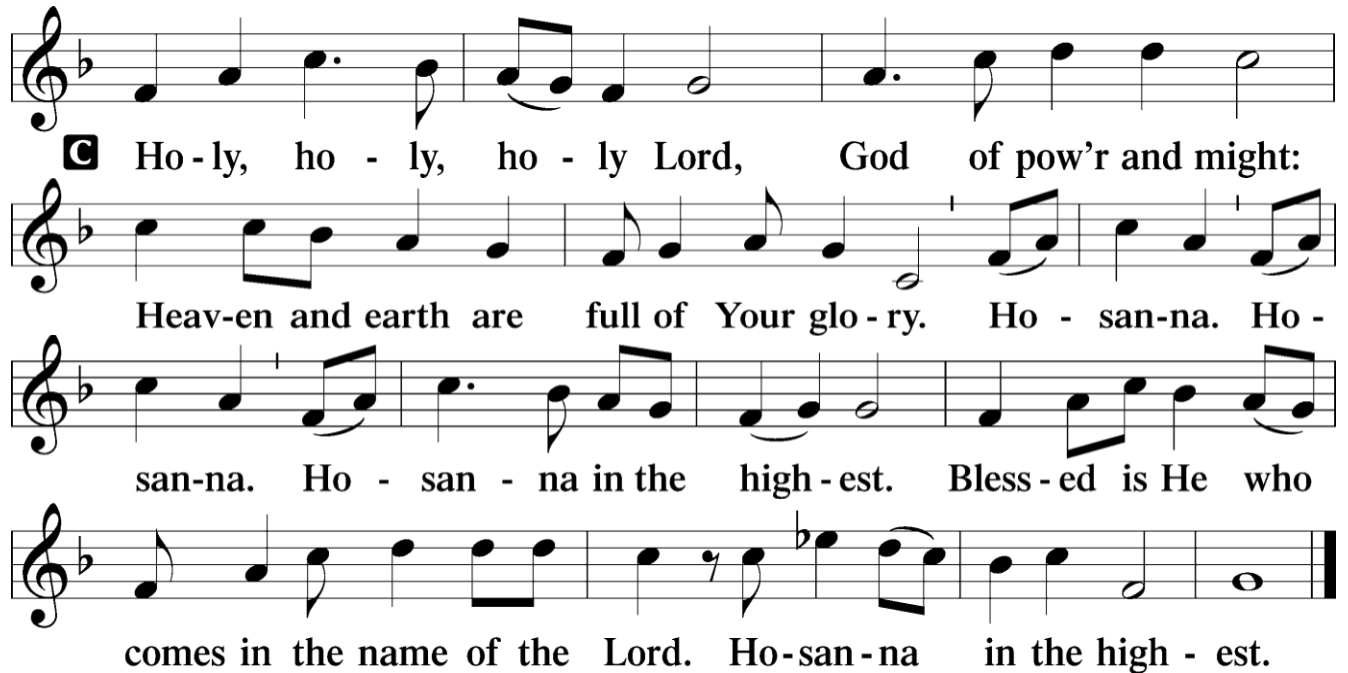
G It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

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



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

LSB 161

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 162

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

<p>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</p>	<p>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>
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THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB 162

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."

PAX DOMINI

LSB 163

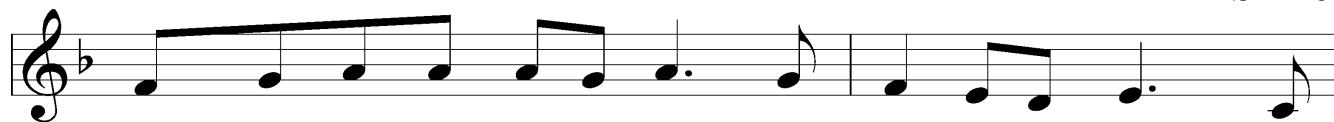
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



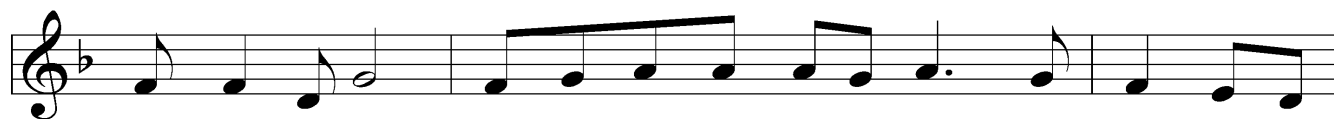
C A - men.

AGNUS DEI

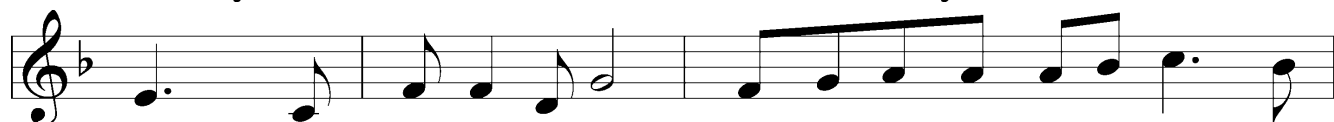
LSB 163



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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

LSB 710



1 The Lord's my shep - herd, I'll not want; He makes me
 2 My soul He doth re - store a - gain And me to
 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I
 4 My ta - ble Thou hast fur - nish - ed In pres - ence
 5 Good-ness and mer - cy all my life Shall sure - ly



down to lie In pas - tures green; He
 walk doth make With - in the paths of
 fear no ill; For Thou art with me,
 of my foes; My head Thou dost with
 fol - low me; And in God's house for -



lead - eth me The qui - et wa - ters by.
 righ - teous - ness, E'en for His own name's sake.
 and Thy rod And staff me com - fort still.
 oil a - noint, And my cup o - ver - flows.
 ev - er - more My dwell - ing place shall be.

Text: The Psalms of David in Meeter, 1650, Edinburgh. Tune: William Gardiner, 1770–1853. Text and tune: Public domain



Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

LSB 621



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and
2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard
4 At His feet the six - winged ser - aph, Cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
on the way As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing
sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence



For with bless - ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de -
In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the
From the realms of end - less day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to
As with cease - less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



scend - ing Comes our hom - age to de - mand.
faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
van - quish As the dark - ness clears a - way.
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5th cent.; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–85, alt.. Tune: French, 17th cent.. Text and tune: Public domain

Alleluia!

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

LSB 711



1 Sav - ior, like a shep - herd lead us; Much we
 2 We are Yours; in love be - friend us, Be the
 3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, Poor and
 4 Ear - ly let us seek Your fa - vor, Ear - ly



need Your ten - der care. In Your pleas - ant pas - tures
 guard - ian of our way; Keep Your flock, from sin de -
 sin - ful though we be; You have mer - cy to re -
 let us do Your will; Bless - ed Lord and on - ly



feed us, For our use Your fold pre - pare.
 fend us, Seek us when we go a - stray.
 lieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
 Sav - ior, With Your love our spir - its fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have



bought us; we are Yours. Bless - ed Je - sus,
 chil - dren when we pray. Bless - ed Je - sus,
 let us turn to You. Bless - ed Je - sus,
 loved us, love us still. Bless - ed Je - sus,



bless - ed Je - sus, You have bought us; we are Yours.
 bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to You.
 bless - ed Je - sus, You have loved us, love us still.



1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, Knock - ing at my
 2 Christ Him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, Yet in bread and
 3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the
 4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er, Gives Him - self to



door, ap - peal - ing, Of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.
 wine a - bid - ing In this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,
 Sav - ior ho - ly, Blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,
 me this hour— In this or - di - nar - y sign.



He Him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, And I hear His
 Gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, And the cup, the
 Ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, Who to bit - ter
 On my tongue His pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept His



in - vi - ta - tion: "Come and taste the bless - ed feast."
 pre - cious to - ken Of His sa - cred cov - e - nant.
 death was giv - en, Hung up - on the curs - ed tree.
 grace, be - liev - ing That I taste His love di - vine.

5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,
 Whose own feast of love I savor,
 Bidden by His gracious call.
 Wedding garments He provides me,
 With a robe of white He hides me,
 Fits me for the royal hall.

6 Now have I found consolation,
 Comfort in my tribulation,
 Balm to heal the troubled soul.
 God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
 Cleanses me from sin and error,
 Makes my wounded spirit whole.

Text: Heinrich Puchta, 1808–58; tr. David W. Rogner, 1960. Tune: Johann Löhner, 1645–1705; adapt. Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758 Text: © David

W. Rogner. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013. Tune: Public domain

Stand

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 - 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

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

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

LSB 740



1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb, Ev - er glad at
2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my
3 Who so hap - py as I am, E - ven now the



heart I am; For my Shep - herd gent - ly guides me,
staff and stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me,
Shep - herd's lamb? And when my short life is end - ed,



Knows my need and well pro - vides me, Loves me ev - 'ry
In - to pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; When I thirst, He
By His an - gel host at - tend - ed, He shall fold me



day the same, E - ven calls me by my name.
bids me go Where the qui - et wa - ters flow.
to His breast, There with - in His arms to rest.

Text and 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.



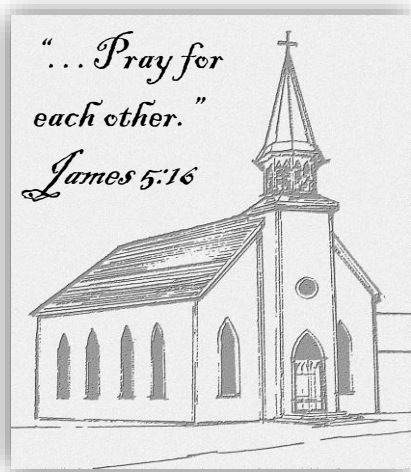
Congregation: health and healing for David Boenker, health and healing for Jerry Kohring; health and healing for Tim Garner (brother-in-law of Dorcas Schroeder); healing for Terry and Becky Lueckemeyer; healing for Lillian Hayden from

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:

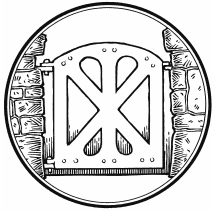
- Foster – Moriah, Adline (Platt)
- Foster – Glenn, Connie
- Klussmann – Wayne
- Klussmann – Corey, Amy, Caleb
- Schroeder – Mike, Sheryl
- Schroeder – Dale, Cheryl

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week's Schedule

April 26 – May 3



Today: *Fourth Sunday of Easter*
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



Monday: New Members Class
6:00 PM



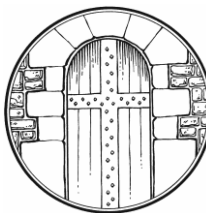
Thursday:
6:30 PM Ladies Bible Study



Saturday:
7:30 AM Men's Club Breakfast, Bible Study & Meeting



8:30 AM LWML Bluebonnet Zone Gathering
(at Grace Lutheran Church)



Next Sunday: *Fifth Sunday of Easter*
9:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
9:00 AM Youth League Meeting
10:15 AM Divine Worship: Setting I with Holy Communion
Acolyte: Amelia Kettler
Greeter: Laura Fisher
Ushers: Caleb Kettler Matt Kettler
 J R Kettler Don Koester

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

Serving in May: Elder – Brad Molitor / **Trustee** – Robert Kettler

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 Clinton and Diane Kettler in honor of the marriage of Henry Kettler and Allison Hand on April 25th.

Adopt a Seminarian

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.



Today is the last day to give stuffed animals for First Responders. 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 |



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.

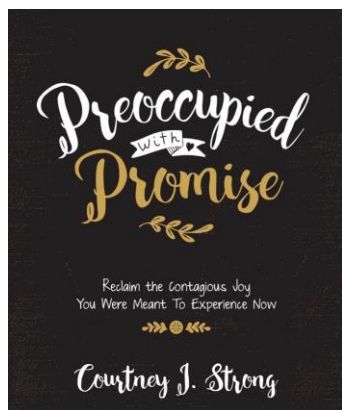


Life with God—New Members Class

concludes tomorrow night, April 27th

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 **Monday night from 6:00 to 7:30 PM.**



Women of Bethlehem:

Please join Sisters in Christ as we start a new monthly Bible study: *Preoccupied with Promise*.

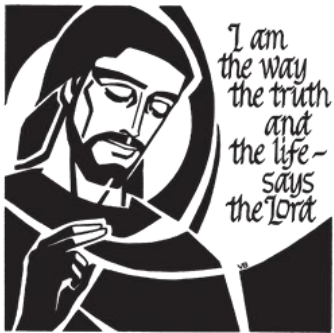
The study begins **Saturday, May 23rd, at 8:30 AM**, in the Parish Hall. **Contact Amy Schroeder if you have any questions: (979) 255-4206.** Come to grow in your love for and knowledge of Our Lord with us!



April 26 (Easter 4) – The first generation of Christians were “selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need” (Acts 2:45). They did this because they recognized that the Gospel of Jesus grants worth and dignity to every person. This doesn’t mean that each Christian needs to sell all they have. But it does mean that we would “die to sin and

live to righteousness” (1 Peter 2:24), loving the poor and needy as well as the unborn, the sick, and the dying.

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 Jail Bail – Peter Escapes Prison.” King Herod launches attacks on the Church, killing James, the brother of John. When Herod sees how much this pleases the Jews, he has Peter imprisoned. Peter is guarded by four squads of soldiers as the Church prays for him. That night, an angel appears and leads Peter past the guards and out of the prison. Peter knocks at the gate of the house where the others are

gathered in prayer. A servant girl, Rhoda, answers. She is so excited that she runs to tell the others, leaving Peter to continue knocking. An angel of the Lord strikes Herod down for his pride. To reinforce this lesson with your kids, as a family, discuss: Peter was put in prison for teaching about Jesus. Did that stop people from hearing the message of the Gospel and believing in Jesus? Peter’s situation in prison seemed hopeless, yet the Church continued to pray. Are there times when you feel things are hopeless? What can you do? How will you proclaim the Gospel of Jesus to the people around you? Remember, Jesus is always with you! Also, parents, you can join Pastor Krieg in the adult Sunday School class. See you next week!

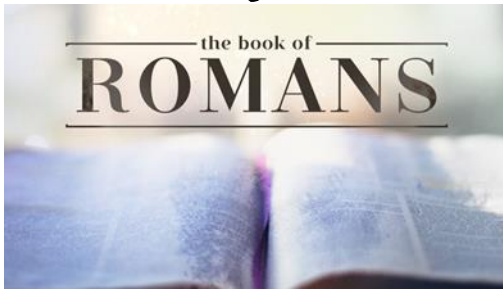
High School Lesson

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 16 – Guilty Though Proven Innocent (Luke 22:63–65; 23:3–36)

In this week’s lesson, our High School Sunday School class studied the suffering and trial of Jesus before His crucifixion. Students examined how the only truly innocent man was mocked, beaten, falsely accused, and condemned to die. Though Pilate found no guilt in Him, the crowd demanded His death, and Christ willingly went to the cross in our place. We discussed how this account reveals both the depth of human sin and the greater depth of God’s mercy. Jesus was treated as guilty so that sinners like us might be declared innocent before God. In His suffering and death, we see the full cost of our salvation and the perfect love of our Savior.

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 19	Sunday School	17	\$58.50
	Youth Bible Class	3	
	Adult Bible Class	33	
April 19	Worship Service	129	\$2,473.03 Lathel Norris Memorial \$10.00 Edith Erwin Memorial \$10.00 Seminarian \$1100.00

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Voters Summary

April 22, 2026

At the second quarterly meeting of the Voters Assembly, the reception of Justin, Rylee and Jaxson Elliott from Grace Lutheran and new class members Kerry Kriudo and Tracy O'Neil were accepted.

A peaceful release was given to Michael and Susan Dieterich to Trinity Lutheran, Reisel, Texas and to Naomi Brocksmith and Castiel Marshall to Holy Cross Lutheran, College Station.

Erik and Kristen Berglund and David and Cathy Hodge were welcome into the Voters Assembly.

The Voters approved the repair of the stained-glass window by Freebirds of Cypress,

Texas with an estimated cost of \$8,000.00. Congregational members may contribute to the cost by giving a donation with a designation to the repair.

Approval was given for a new laptop for live streaming the church worship service.