

# **May 5, 2024 and Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

**220 Cedar Street**

**PO Box 344**

**Pemberville, Ohio 43450**

**9 am: In Person Worship**

**9 am: Facebook Live Worship**

**11:30 am: Radio Worship on 99.1 FM**



## **OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday – Thursday, 9 am – 2 pm**

**Friday, 9 am – 12 noon**

**419-287-4182**

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### +GATHER+

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
the wellspring of grace,  
our Easter and our joy.  
**Amen.**

Look, here is water!  
**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism,  
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning  
your voice thundered over the deep  
and water became the essence of life.

**Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.**

**The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.**

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea  
into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official  
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!  
**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John  
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

**By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection  
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,  
freeing us to live as Easter people.**

We rejoice with glad hearts,  
giving all honor and praise to you,  
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!  
**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

**GATHERING HYMN: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! ELW# 634**

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

## HYMN OF PRAISE: This Is The Feast

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



I Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us  
free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and  
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and  
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,  
for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## CHILDREN MESSAGE

### +WORD+

#### MEMORY VERSE: (Hebrews 4:9)

“So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God.”

#### FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

*While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The Word of the Lord; **thanks be to God.**



## PSALM: 98



<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

<sup>2</sup>**O Lord, you have made known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

<sup>4</sup>**Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing. R**

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the Lord with the harp,  
with the harp and the voice of song.

<sup>6</sup>**With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
shout with joy before the king, the Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,  
the world and those who dwell therein.

<sup>8</sup>**Let the rivers clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who comes to judge  
the earth.**

<sup>9</sup>The Lord will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with equity. **R**

## SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6

*God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.*

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The Word of the Lord; **thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### Alleluia No. 2

Joseph Stribrny



The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### SERMON- Pastor Tim Philabaum

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** Alleluia! Sing to Jesus **ELW #392**

### NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suf-**

ferred death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYERS**

*Each petition ends:* Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**+MEAL+**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*We gather our tithes and offerings. Following the collection, we pray.*

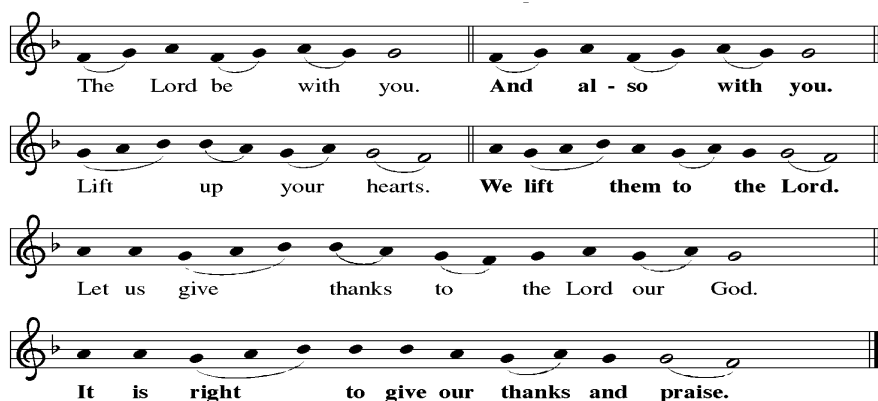
## **OFFERING HYMN: Now We Join in Celebration ELW#462 Verse 1 Only**

"Now we join in celebration at our Savior's invitation,  
dressed no more in spirit somber, clothed instead in joy and wonder;  
for the Lord of all existence, putting off divine transcendence,  
stoops again in love to meet us, with his very life to feed us."

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

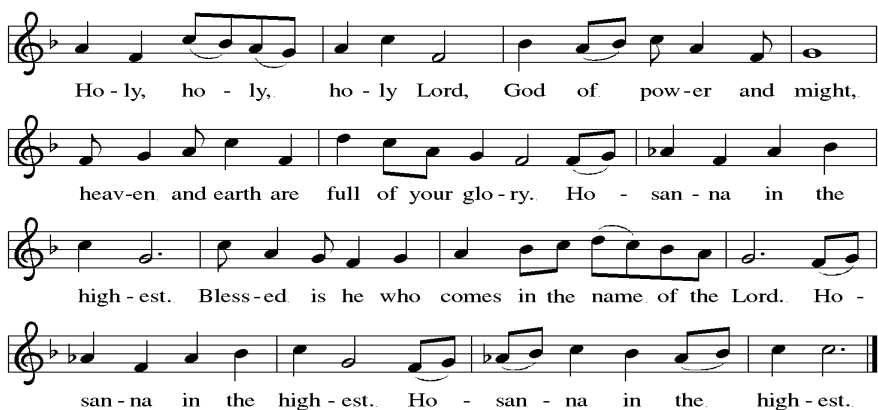
Risen One,  
you call us to believe and bear fruit.  
May the gifts that we offer here  
be signs of your abiding love.  
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.  
**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:  
beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.  
**We praise you, O God.**



Generations bless your faithfulness:  
through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness;  
out of exile; into the future.

**We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son:  
at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;  
beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

**We thank you, O God.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,  
and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples,  
saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup  
is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way,  
at the table, and to the end,  
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering;  
within this meal; among your people;  
throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God,  
through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit,  
in your church, without end.

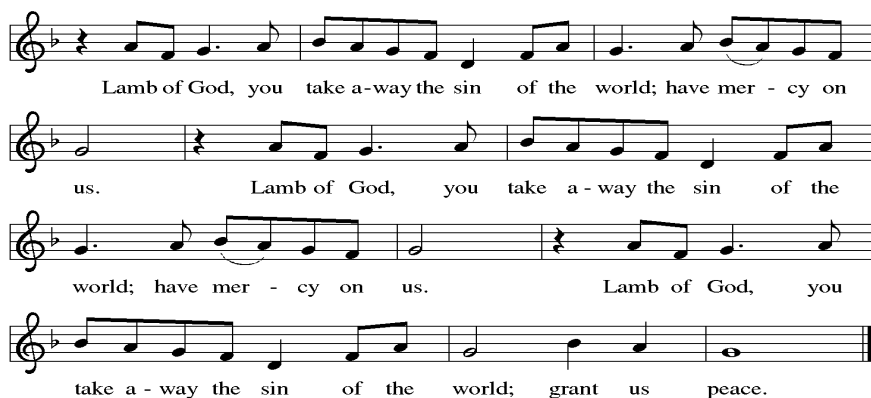
**Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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 tres-  
pass 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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNE**

The risen Christ is made known to us  
in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's table.



**COMMUNION HYMN:** Taste and See  
O Christ, Our Hope

**ELW#493**  
**ELW#604**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Shepherding God,  
you have prepared a table before us  
and nourished us with your love.  
Send us forth from this banquet  
to proclaim your goodness  
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,  
our redeemer and friend.  
**Amen.**

### +SENDING+

#### BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope  
+ bless you now and always.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN:** You Servants of God

**ELW #825**

#### DISMISSAL

What is our mission?  
**Transformed by the crucified and risen Jesus we are a loving community of disciples making disciples.**  
Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**LAST WEEKS**  
**Attendance: In Person– 129 Online-64**

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

**For healing:** Bob Bosse

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God and in honor of Alice and Ken anniversary of marriage from Ken Sieving and family.

**Radio Broadcast** is given to the glory of God.

**Online Streaming** is given to the glory of God and from Kathy & Roger Burtchin.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

5/5, Sun	10:20 a.m.	Adult Bible Study/ Sunday School
5/6, Mon	7 p.m.	Yoga
5/7, Tues	11 a.m.-2p.m.	Food Pantry Open
	5-7p.m.	Mom's Night (preschool)
	6p.m.	Bible Study
5/8 Wed	6:15 p.m.	Bells
	7:30 p.m.	Choir
5/11, Sat	All Day	Wedding
5/12, Sun	9 a.m.	Worship
	10:20 a.m.	Adult Bible Study/ Sunday School

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Mission Action project for May** the Luther Home of Mercy is a 129 bed intermediate care facility for the developmentally handicapped. Items needed  
Construction paper (all colors), Crayons, Coloring books (large pictures, Washable markers, Stickers, Seasonal window clings.

**Food Pantry items for May** Spaghetti Sauce, Ketchup, Noodles, Dish Soap & Toilet Paper

**Noisy Offering for May** is to go towards Food Pantry.

**ASCENSION DAY:** The Northwestern Conference (our group of ELCA Churches) will meet for worship on Ascension Day, May 9, at 6pm, at Solomon Lutheran, Woodville. You are welcome to join us for this festive Worship in the Easter Season.

**ROGATION DAYS:** There has been an ancient tradition of blessings farms on "Rogation Days," the days leading up to Ascension. Pastor Tim will be blessing farms and fields from Tuesday, May 7 – Thursday May 9. If you would like to schedule a time for him to visit, please let him know. May our abundant God bless our fields and all who work in them, and all who provide food for God's people!

## **Synod Volunteers Needed**

The ELCA NWOS is searching for volunteers for the Candidacy Team, which is lead by Cheryl Sondergeld. The team consists of lay people, pastors, and deacons to walk candidates who are entering the ministry from discernment through ordination. If interested, contact Cheryl Sondergeld via email:

cheryl.sondergeld@nwos-elca.org

### **Duties include:**

- Reading all pertinent essays, reports, and other paperwork to prepare for panels with candidates at the points of entrance, endorsement and approval.
- Function as an active part of the interview panel process, aid in writing statements and recommendations, and vote on recommendations.
- Serve as a relator working with candidates assigned to you to keep them connected with candidacy team, meeting occasionally in-person, via zoom or by phone.
- Be willing to learn about ELCA Candidacy, ELCA Seminary programs, and NWOS processes.

### **Availability:**

- Zoom meetings 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 10:00am
- Panels scheduled as needed, usually in-person, but zoom is an option.
- Yearly retreat/training

### **Qualifications:**

- A love of God and willingness to serve Christ's Church
- Ability to love others different from you
- Member of ELCA congregation for a least one year
- Ability to keep all information confidential
- Referral from Pastor

**There will be a congregational meeting after the church service on May 12, 2024.** There will be two things on the agenda for that day.

1. Approval of funding for Strategic Planning by an outside consulting firm, Aly Sterling Philanthropy.
2. Vote to approve delegates to the Synod Assembly. Sharon Moenter and Susie Rahe.

**If you or your organization sees a need in the community or the world,** please complete a request for funding from the Endowment Fund, identifying how you or your group would use the money. The Long-range Planning Committee will review submissions and disburse money as deemed appropriate. Money will be distributed into categories such as poverty, global missions, congregational support, leadership, and disaster relief. Forms are available in the office and the deadline for submission to the office is May 31, 2024.

Thank You to Pack 344 and everyone else who came out and help clean up Bethlehem landscape. Looks Great!

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