

# **April 28, 2024 and Fifth 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:** Now the Green Blade Rises    **ELW# 379**

## 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.

1 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.

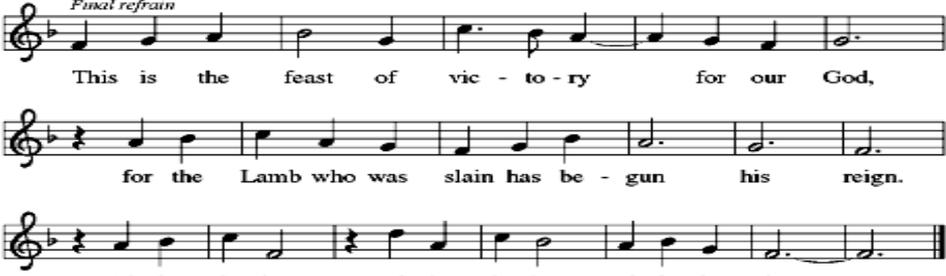
*Refrain*



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 give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 8:26-40

*Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.*

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

# Psalm 22

Hal H. Hopson

(25-31)

Hal H. Hopson

**Refrain**

Lord, in you I trust. You are my God.

**Refrain text:** Hal H. Hopson, and copyright © 2008 Birnamwood/MorningStar Music Publishers.

**Music:** Hal H. Hopson, and copyright © 2008 Birnamwood/MorningStar Music Publishers.

## PSALM: 22:25-31

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the Lord,**

**who rules over the nations. R**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the Lord,**

**whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,

saying to them, "The Lord has acted!" R

## SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

*We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.*

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness

on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. The Word of the Lord; **thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### Alleluia No. 2

Joseph Stribrny

Al - le - lu - ia! A - le - lu - ia! Lord, to whom shall we go?

5

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al le - lu - - ia!

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

### GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples." Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON- Pastor Tim Philabaum**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: Baptized and Set Free ELW # 453**

## 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 suffered 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

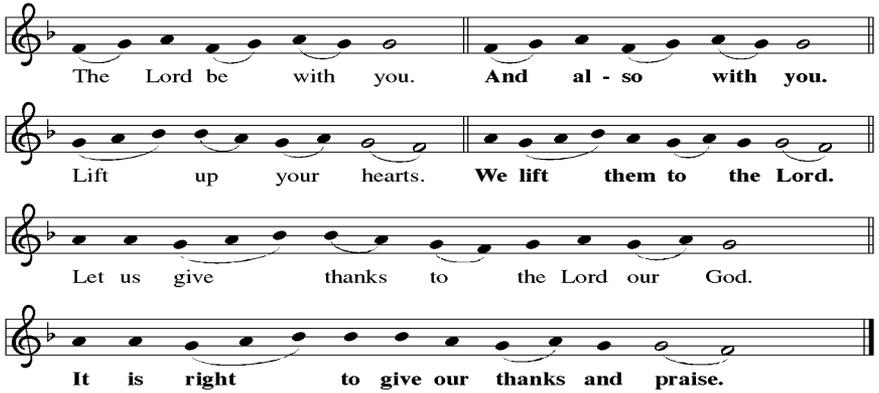
"Now we join in celebration at our Savior's invitation,  
dressed no more in spirit somber, clothed instead in joy and wonder;  
for the Lord of all existence, putting off divine transcendence,  
stoops again in love to meet us, with his very life to feed us."

## 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.**

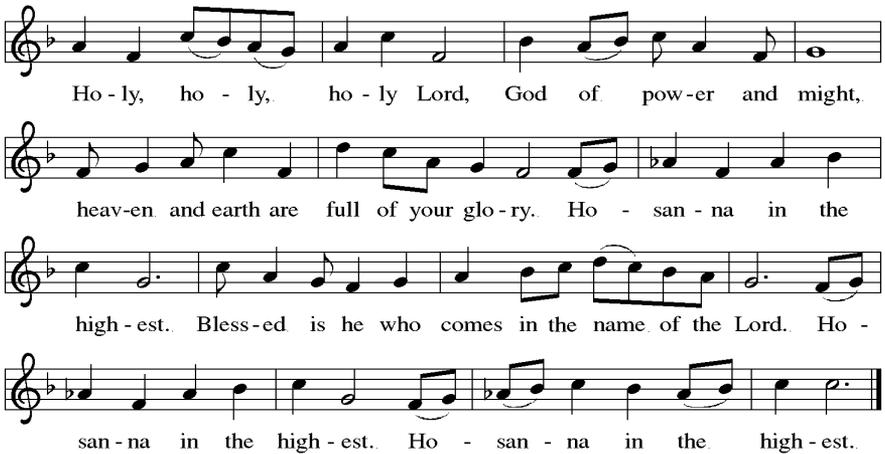
# GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

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

**COMMUNION HYMN: Where Charity and Love Prevail** ELW#359  
**Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God** ELW#458

**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: Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds** ELW #367

**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– 130 Online– 64**

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

**For healing:** Henry Sundermeier, Evelyn Hagemeyer, Justin Werner, David Moenter

**Altar Flowers and 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**

4/28, Sun	10:20 a.m.	Adult Bible Study/ Sunday School
4/29, Mon	7 p.m.	Yoga
4/30, Tues	9a.m.-12p.m.	Knotting
	11a.m.-2p.m.	Food Pantry Open
	6p.m.	Bible Study
5/1, Wed	6:15 p.m.	Bells
	7:30 p.m.	Choir
5/5, Sun	9 a.m.	Worship
	10:20 a.m.	Adult Bible Study/ Sunday School

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**This morning following worship,** we rejoice in the baptisms of Jen Dodd and her children Gabriel, Hensley, and Dalton. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue to grow in their life in Christ.

**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

**There is a workday scheduled to do spring clean-up** in the outside spaces around the church on Tuesday, April 30th at 6 pm. Anyone wishing to help please bring tools such as rakes, trimmers, hoes. The Boy Scout Troop 344 has agreed to help with the clean-up.

**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. If you would like to stay for the free Old Zim's dinner, please contact the Bethlehem office before May 2.

**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!

**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.

### **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

**I would like to thank the following women for their help cleaning the kitchen on April 6th.** Diane Burtchin, Sue Gerke, Karen Godfrey, Deb Helm, Sharon Nigh, Denise Pickerel, Nancy Rife.

**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.