

**Ascension of Our Lord
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
May 12, 2024
Sunday 10:00 a.m.**



Welcome to All! We are glad that you are able to worship with us today. **Please fill out a connection card in the pews if you like.** During the service, we will sit or stand in reverence to our Lord. Please do what is physically comfortable and reverent for you. For those who are unable to receive Communion near the altar and wish to have the Pastor administer it at your seat, please obtain a red and white card from one of the ushers and hold it up at Communion time to alert the Pastor. If you or a little one would like to receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion, we invite you to come forward and cross your arms at the time of Communion. Please feel free to introduce yourself to our Pastor and fill out one of the Visitor cards available at our Welcome Table in the Gathering Place.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 3, page 138

Pre-Worship Music/Announcements

Prelude

GATHERING

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

C: Amen.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

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

P: 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.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: 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.

C: Amen.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Gathering Hymn

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

ELW #392

Greeting

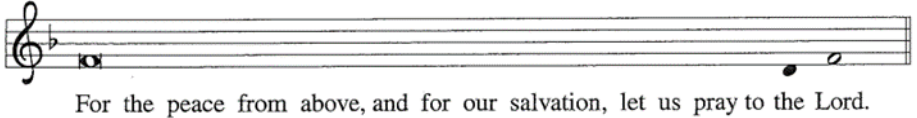
A: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: **And also with you.**

Kyrie (lead by Pastor Paul)

S 138



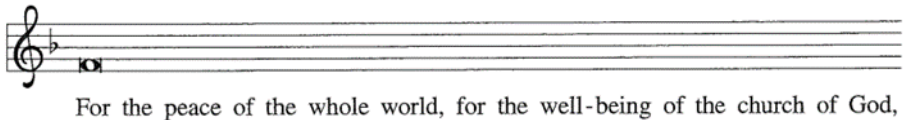
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



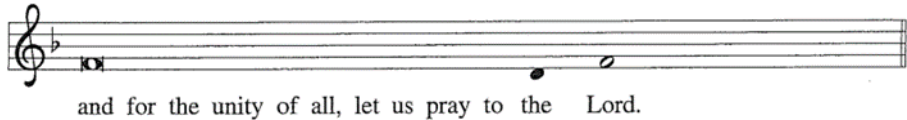
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



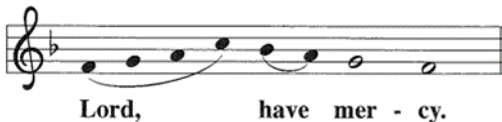
Lord, have mer - cy.



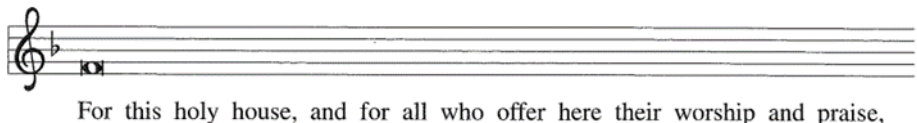
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



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

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God

Assisting minister S 139

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,

we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together...

C: Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Children's Message

Pr Paul

First Lesson

Ephesians 1:15-23

The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. 17 I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. 22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 47

1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a joyful sound.

2 For the Lord Most High is to be feared: a great king over all the earth,

(continued on next page)

3 who subdues the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet;
4 who chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.

5 God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of the ram's horn.
6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises.

7 For God is king of all the earth; sing praises with a song.
8 God reigns over the nations; God is enthroned on high.

9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

Second Lesson

Luke 24:44-53

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

44 Jesus said to the eleven and those with them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46 and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." 50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. 51 While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; 53 and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

L: The Word of the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation *Alleluia*

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.

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world, and that the disciples will be accompanied and empowered by the Holy Spirit. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

C: ...Glory to you, O Lord...

Luke writes: 1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning 2 until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 4 While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11 They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Hymn of the Day *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* **ELW #645**

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession: response after each petition: **“Hear our prayer”**
(*Before prayer*) A: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.
(*Conclusion*) P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. C: **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace (*Let us give one another a sign of peace according to your comfort level.*)

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

MEAL

Offering (*Please be seated.*)

Offering Song:

Zeke Clemons

Offertory (*Please stand, as able.*) **Come to the Table**

ELW #481

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray together.

C: 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

S 144a

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.

Great Thanksgiving

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

Holy, Holy, Holy

S 144b

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.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

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: The gifts of God for the people of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

***Please note: Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.*

Communion

Lamb of God

S 146

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 Hymns

*For the Bread Which You Have Broken
I Received the Living God*

*ELW #494
ELW #477*

Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. C: **Amen.**

Post-Communion Cantic

Thankful Hearts

Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.

Send us with your prom-is - es and lead your peo-ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al-le-lu - ia.

Prayer after Communion

A: We pray. 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.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ☩ bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Song *Crown Him with Many Crowns* **ELW #855**

Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Go in peace.

Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



Bethlehem May 12, 2024
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1050 Peninsula Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 947-9880
www.bethlehemtc.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

5/12—Barbara Wentzloff

5/14—Landen Branch

5/17—Sally Erickson

5/12—Shannon Nemeth

5/16—Linda Gokey

5/18—Jim Achard

5/12—Mary Ann Tanis

5/16—Caleb Andrew Smith

5/19—Jennifer Gaston

5/13—Kathy McPherson

5/17—Barbara Oster

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY

Next Sunday is Pentecost – WEAR RED

Worship Servants for May 12

Assisting Minister—Barbara Oster

Lector—Tim Goebel

Musicians: David Husser, Zeke Clemons, Phil & Denice Bossardet, Pr Paul

Today's altar flowers are donated: by Tom & Julie Cole in Celebration of Family and Friends

Hospitality—Phil Anderson / Susie Burton

A/V—Paul Ton / Acker Family

Cookies/Coffee—VOLUNTEER; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Front Door Monitors—Tina Dohm

Altar Guild—Kate Holtfreter / Barbara Oster

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Bonnie Gamble, Jane Passmore

The next Third Thursday service will be a Behold Our Light service on May 16th at 7:00pm. The service will be livestreamed. The BLC Fellowship Committee will be providing a meal at 5:45 p.m. Please come early and share in fellowship and stay for the service. This will be our last Third Thursday service until September.

DIRECTORY UPDATE: If you had your picture taken or submitted for our new directory, and were not able to pick it up this past Sunday, a copy with your name on it will be waiting for you in your mailbox at church. Our participating home bound members will have their copy delivered by a Christian Caregiving committee member. We are grateful for our congregation's participation and want to send a huge thank you to our committee's volunteers: Nancy Ammann, Maureen Bauer, Gail Goldsmith, Kathi Ivany, Sherri Helman, Cindy Monroe, Kirsten Rivard, Betty Rutila and Barb Wright - Christine Hubert and Kathy Ancinec, co-chairs

New member gathering scheduled: The next gathering for anyone considering membership at Bethlehem will be May 19 immediately after the service. We want to make certain we gather in a large enough location, so please confirm your attendance at the meeting by contacting Pastor Paul, the office at 947-9880 or Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net. Also, please mention if there is anyone you have already met at Bethlehem who you would like to have as your sponsor. We find it is very helpful to have your own personal "go-to" person for questions or concerns.

Bike & Hike Report: We would like to thank everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to participate in our Medalie Park bike ride/hike/walk around Boardman Lake. Special thanks go to Thrivent, Cindy who furnished the delicious lunch, Jim who grilled the brats and hot dogs, and the Good Lord for the great weather.

FOR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS: The book club will discuss *We Are the Light* by Matthew Quick during a dinner meeting at 5:30 on Tues May 28 at The Cottage. Look for extra copies on the counter below the mailboxes. Just sign your name on the sheet by the corresponding number of your book. If you cannot come to church when it is open please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net and we will make other arrangements such as a book in the wooden STAR box attached to the outdoor mailbox post.

Sunday School and Adult Education (Youth Room) Sunday at 9:15am. May 19th will be the final week before taking a summer break. Then plan on joining again in September.

We have just a few April/May/June Christ In Our Home available. The next issue for July/August/September will be available at the end of May.

The church calendar is below. Please be sure to notify the office (admin@bethlehemtc.org or 231.947.9880) to be sure that your group is of the calendar.

Sunday, May 12

Happy Mothers Day

9:15am—Sunday School

9:15am—Adult Education (YR)

10:00am—Traditional Worship Service (S)

Monday, May 13

1:00pm—Finance Committee (CR)

Tuesday, May 14

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)

10:45am—Staff Meeting (CR)

1:00pm—Friendship Bible Study (Offsite)

6:00pm—Y2A/Christian Ed Meeting (YR)

6:30pm—Executive Committee (CR)



Wednesday, May 15

9:30am—Adult Bible Study (YR)

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

1:30pm—Zoom Bible Study

Thursday, May 16

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

5:45pm—Third Thursday Meal (FH)

7:00pm—Third Thursday Service (S)

Friday, May 17

10:00am—Sew Pieceful (FH)

1:00pm—Lehto SG (Library)

Sunday, May 19

Pentecost – Wear Red

9:15am—Sunday School

9:15am—Adult Education (YR)

10:00am—Traditional Worship Service (S)

11:15am—New Member Gathering

1:00pm—Confirmation End-of-Year Gathering (Offsite)