

✠ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTION ✠

Greeting

P The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.

Hymn of Invocation “Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus” #531 (FR)

Invocation, Confession of Sins and Absolution^②Page 151

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Introit and Gloria Patri^③ *Psalm 30:1–5; antiphon: Ps. 16:11b*



P In your presence there is full- | ness of joy;*
at your right hand are pleasures for- | evermore.

C I will extol you, O LORD, for you have | drawn me up*
and have not let my foes rejoice | over me.

P O LORD my God, I cried to | you for help,*
and you have | healed me.

C O LORD, you have brought up my soul | from Sheol;*
you restored me to life from among those who go down | to the pit.

P Sing praises to the LORD, O | you his saints,*
and give thanks to his | holy name.

C For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a | lifetime.*
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the | morning.

All Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen. ➡

① “*Misericordias Domini*” is the traditional name for the Third Sunday of Easter. It is from the original Latin Introit: *Misericordia Domini plena est terra* (“The land is filled with the mercy of the Lord.”)

② The Scripture Teaches (*St. John 20:23*): We should receive the Pastor’s absolution as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven. “It is not the voice or word of the man who speaks it, but it is the Word of God, who forgives sin, for it is spoken in God’s stead and by God’s command” (Augsburg Confession XXV 3).

③ “Introit” is pronounced “in-troh-it” – it is Latin for “he enters.” Here the Pastor enters the Chancel with the reading/chanting of these Psalm/Scripture verses. “Gloria Patri” is Latin for “*Glory be to the Father*” which is acclamation of praise before the final antiphon (a refrain that begins and concludes the Introit).

P In your presence there is full-ness of joy;*
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Kyrie^① ~ *Lord, have mercy* Pages 152-153

Hymn of Praise ~ *This is the Feast*..... Page 155

Salutation and Collect of the Day^② Page 156

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

C [♪] Amen.

First Reading **Acts 3:11–21**

[After healing a lame beggar, Peter proclaims repentance and forgiveness to the crowd.]

While he clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon’s, astounded. And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?”

“The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him.

But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

“And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

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

Gradual^③ and Verse *adapt. from St. Matthew 28:7; Heb. 2:7; Ps. 8:6; Rom. 6:9; St. Luke 24:32*

P Christ has risen from the dead.

C [God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor,

P He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

C he has put all things under his feet.

P We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

C death no longer has dominion over him. ➔

① “**Kyrie**” is pronounced ‘keer-ee-ay’ – shortened from the Greek phrase *Kyrie Eleison* (“*Lord, have mercy*”) and reminds us of pleas for mercy like the one recorded in *Matthew 15:22*

② The “**Collect**” is a short prayer which ‘collects’ or summarizes the thoughts of the day. The Collects for every Sunday come to us from the rich treasury of the church’s heritage.

③ “**Gradual**” comes from the Latin “*gradus*” meaning ‘step’. In the ancient church these Psalm & Scripture verses were chanted from the steps of the Altar. It is a response to the First Lesson and a bridge to the Second Lesson.

- P** Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road,
- C** while he opened to us the Scriptures?

Epistle..... **1 John 3:1-7**

[God has loved us and called us His children.]

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

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

Alleluia and Verse ~ Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?Page 156

Gospel Acclamations.....Page 157

Holy ✝ Gospel..... **St. Luke 24:36-49**

[Jesus appears to His disciples and sends them out with a message to proclaim repentance and forgiveness to all nations.]

As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.

Then he said to 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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** **(♪) Praise to You, O Christ.**

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day **“With High Delight” #483**

Sermon **“What Will I Look Like? 1 John 3:1-7**

1. experiencing a _____ view
2. promised a _____ view
3. waiting for the _____ view

Nicene Creed.....Page 158

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mercy. or **P** Lord, in Your mercy, **C** Hear our prayer.

Offering and Attendance Registration

A Matter of Importance

Please Note: If you are visiting and have not already done so, please read OUR Communion statement in the bulletin.

Offertory^① ~ *What Shall I Render to the Lord* Pages 159-160

✝ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✝

Preface Page 160

Sanctus^② ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy* and **Prayer of Thanksgiving** Page 161

Lord's Prayer and The Words of our Lord^③ Page 162

Pax Domini ~ *The Peace of the Lord* and **Agnus Dei**^④ ~ *Lamb of God* Page 163

The Distribution

*Communicants are ushered forward by rows. **Please receive the host upon an open palm.** The Chalice (or common cup) is available at every table. The Duty Elder will offer the individual cups and is followed by the Pastor who will offer the Chalice. **Please tip the base of the chalice yourself** to avoid spillage. The individual cups in the center ring contain de-alcoholized wine for those who have so requested.*

Distribution Hymns “Your Table I Approach” #628
“Children of The Heavenly Father” #725 (E)
“Spread The Reign of God the Lord #830 (G)

Post-Communion Canticle^⑤ ~ *Thank the Lord* Pages 164-165

Post Communion Collect and Benediction Page 166

Hymn of Departure “We Walk By Faith and Not by Sight” #720 (G)

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Sending:

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God!

① The “**Offertory**” is a Scripture based hymn which is sung as we prepare to bring our tithes and offerings to God. In doing so we are reminded that the offering of monetary offerings is a public testimony that we have first “*given [ourselves] to the Lord*” (2 *Corinthians* 8:5)

② “**Sanctus**” is Latin for “*Holy.*” This Hymn is based on *Isaiah* 6:3 & *St. Matthew* 21:9

③ These are the very Words of Christ which make the elements of bread and wine a sacrament. Our Confessions state “When the Word is joined to the external element, it becomes a sacrament” (Large Catechism, v.10).

④ “**Agnus Dei**” (pronounced ‘ahn-yoos day-ee’) is Latin for “Lamb of God”

⑤ This hymn of Thanksgiving is based on *1 Chronicles* 16:8-10 and expresses our thanks to God who sends us forth into the world with rejoicing.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: *Steadfast in the Word, Bethlehem Lutheran Church shares Christ and serves people with friendship in His love in all of God's world.*

WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH! We extend a most joyous welcome to all who are worshipping today. We are confident the Lord will reveal Himself to you through this Divine Service so that you may know the joy of His presence in your life. To our guests: If you have any questions about the Christian faith or about Lutheran worship and practice, please ask the Pastor, one of our Elders, or any of our members. God bless you in Christ Jesus!



COMMUNION INFORMATION: Bethlehem is an orthodox, confessional Lutheran congregation. Following the teaching of God's Word, we believe that the Lord's Supper is more than a mere symbol, but that in the Lord's Supper we receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ with the bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us Christians to eat and to drink. Through this eating and drinking, we receive the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. The Apostle Paul notes the importance of those who come to the Lord's Supper coming in a worthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:25-19), that is, coming in an attitude of repentance, recognizing the bread and wine as the true body and blood of the Lord Jesus, and firmly believing Christ and his words that this is given for the forgiveness of sins. We also recognize that the Lord's Supper is also an outward sign of doctrinal unity. The Apostle Paul notes the importance of unity within the body of believers who receive this sacrament (1 Corinthians 10:16-17). For these reasons and since Christian Churches vary widely in their teachings about the Lord's Supper, we ask that **all guests please speak to the Pastor prior to approaching the Altar**. All communicants are asked to sign the Registration sheet in the Narthex.

WORSHIP NOTES: The Chasuble is a Eucharistic Vestment which the Pastor puts on before preparing the Sacramental vessels. It is a visual mark indicating that in the transition from the Service of the Word to the Service of the Sacrament something extraordinary is about to take place. The use of such a vestment is in keeping with both Lutheran tradition and practice; as our Lutheran Confessions state (*Ap XXIV*).

THE PASCHAL CANDLE in the Chancel symbolizes the presence of the risen Christ among us. Throughout the Easter season, it will remain in the chancel and lighted for worship as a reminder that Christ is our Resurrection Light that shatters the darkness of sin and death. The paschal candle is placed at the right side of the altar (denoting Christ's presence at the right hand of the throne of God) as the pastor faces the people. At Ascension (or the Sunday after), the candle will be extinguished and moved to the baptismal font for use at baptisms and at funerals. The Paschal candle is decorated with the following symbols: Alpha and Omega (Christ is unchangeable, the beginning and end of all things); and Five nails (the wounds of Christ bring us healing).

AS WE COME INTO THE SANCTUARY - let us be sensitive to the needs of those who use the quiet and reverence of the Prelude as a time to prepare their hearts and minds for the Divine Service. **ALSO:** Out of respect for God's House and courtesy for other worshippers, please turn off all cell phones. Please also encourage one another to show respect to *God, His Word, our fellow-worshippers,* and *our Pastor* by limiting movement during Scripture Readings, Sermon & prayers. Thank you.

AS WE GATHER: We may have a tendency to think of repentance as a painful thing, as something to dread and avoid at all costs. After all, repentance means admitting we were wrong. It may be embarrassment, guilt, shame, or pride that makes repentance difficult. Yet you have probably experienced the joy of repentance as well, the relief of confessing your sins, the wonder of grace that flows to us in forgiveness. You may be holding on to a dark secret or a stubborn grudge. Bring your heavy burdens to the Lord today. He has forgiven you and has called you His beloved child.

IN TODAY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON students will study, "Abraham's Visitors from Heaven." While Abraham received his visitors graciously, they brought more grace to him than he and Sarah could imagine. As a family, discuss, "How does God bring us more grace than we can imagine or expect?"

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY: "Leviticus: Life in the Blood" -- Holiness. What is it? Leviticus shows how God goes to great lengths not only in defining true holiness, but also in sharing His holiness with his redeemed and ransomed people.

MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES include a pot luck supper at 6:00 PM, and Bible classes at 7:00 PM. The Adult class continues the series, "See Through the Scriptures" (Workbook #34).

THE QUARTERLY VOTER'S MEETING will take place after the Divine Service next Sunday, April 22th.

BIBLE JAMBOREE will be held at Northside Apartments this Saturday, April 21st starting at 10 a.m. If you would like to help, see Jerry Hartenberger.

NEWSLETTER –The **APRIL** edition of *The Bethlehem Star* newsletter is in your mailbox in the narthex. Make sure you have picked up your copy. Items for the **MAY** edition are due in the church office next Sunday. Thank you!

NEW CATECHISM: If you ordered the new Small Catechism and have not yet paid for it, PLEASE do so. If you are not sure, contact the office. The cost of each book is \$15. Thank you!

LUTHERAN WITNESS: If you have not yet paid for your Lutheran Witness subscription, please do so. The cost is \$13.65. The office needs to balance the accounting books with the bill received. Thank you!

PORTALS OF PRAYER devotion booklets for April through June are on the shelf in the narthex. Make sure you have one and pick up an extra copy for a friend!

"RENT A YOUTH": The youth are once again offering their services. This project provides an opportunity for middle and high school students, (grades 6 through 12), to assist older adults in completing routine light-duty household chores AND to foster fellowship between older adults and the youth in our church. If you have any questions, please see Yanneth Harris.

LWML SPRING EVENT: In Kilgore Saturday, May 5th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring a coffee mug with your name and address on the bottom to exchange. Meet at the church at 8 a.m. to travel together. Cost is \$12. ALL LADIES WELCOME!

GREETING CARDS: Check out the Mother's Day, Father's Day and Graduation cards on the card rack, along with birthday, get well, sympathy and others for a 50 cent donation to mites.

A SCHOLARSHIP FUND has been established for Aaron Jackson's college expenses. Aaron is attending Concordia University/Seward, NE to prepare for full-time Church Work as a Minister of Music. If you would like to contribute, please indicate on your check and place it in the offering plate. You can also send Aaron an encouraging note at: Concordia University, Aaron Jackson, 800 North Columbia Ave., Seward, NE 68434-1500.

ABOUT THE COVER: We are sometimes blinded by our own joy. When Jesus' disciples saw Him for the first time, they were overjoyed-so much so that they may have even doubted who it was that they saw. Often we are distracted or blinded from seeing Jesus. But our eyes of faith are what always see Jesus and His love for us.

OUR STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEK			
OFFERINGS		ATTENDANCE	
General Offering	\$4414.90	Sunday School	39
[Needed per week:	\$2,668.00]	Divine Service	69
Building Fund	\$.00		
[Needed per week:	\$350.00]	Mid-Week (4/11)	14
Scholarship Fund	\$100.00		

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Acts 4:1-12; 1 John 3:16-24; St. John 10:11-18.

<h2 style="text-align: center;">OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY THIS WEEK</h2>		
Sunday (04/15)	9:00 AM 10:15 AM Acolyte/Crucifer: Pianist: Altar Guild: Duty Elder: After Church:	Easter 3 (Misericordias Domini) Sunday School & Bible Classes Divine Service (Setting 1) / Holy Communion Matthew Jackson Sylvia Frenzel Sandy Smith & Natalie Byrd Jim Broad Evangelism Board
Wednesday (04/18)	6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Potluck Supper Bible Classes
Thursday (04/19)	9:00 AM	Circuit 14 Winkel – Trinity/Fairfield
Saturday (04/21)	10:00 AM	Bible Jamboree at Northside Apartments
Sunday (04/22)	9:00 AM 10:15 AM Acolyte: Pianist: Altar Guild: Duty Elder: After Church:	Easter 4 (Jubilate) Sunday School & Bible Classes Divine Service (Setting 1) Jessica Bowden Sylvia Frenzel Sandy Smith & Natalie Byrd Jim Broad Quarterly Voter’s Meeting / Newsletter Items Due

IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

National Leadership and Military: including members Kyle Lawson and Kyle Shepherd, as well as Robert Garcia [Juanita’s son], and Jeremy Stafford [Marcy Hogan’s nephew]

Health needs - Members: Albert Harris (3/4), **Dorothy Jackson** (4/15), George Nelson; **Friends:** Luke Grumbles (4/8), Joan Smith (3/25) [Dorothy Jackson’s niece]

Homebound - Members: Martha Kaudelka, Ardelle Samford, Johnnie Weaver

Celebrating this week: Birthdays: Nolan Green

All who commune

NOTE: New prayers requests are in **BOLD**. Prayers submitted will stay on the prayer list for two weeks unless updated. Please inform the Pastor and the Church Office regarding the status of submitted prayers so we may be timely and up-to-date in petitions to our gracious God.

TO ADD PETITIONS TO OUR PRAYER CHAIN CALL LEA ROSIER AT (903) 729-1879 or (903) 391-5678

Note: The Letters in parentheses after the Hymn number indicate hymns selected because of direct connection to the Propers (i.e., Scripture Readings) for the day ... OT=Old Testament, FR=First Reading, SR= Second Reading , Ps=Psalm; V=Verse; E=Epistle, G=Gospel. Hymns with no such indication are hymns that, while having no direct connection to the Propers, still support the theme of the day.

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Sunday School: 9:00 AM
 Adult Bible Class: 9:00 AM
 Divine Service: 10:15 AM

“To Give Light to Those who Sit in Darkness”

