

**As We Gather:** On this final Sunday of the Easter season, the apostles are gathered to select as successor to Judas one who had been with them from the beginning to become a witness of Jesus’ resurrection. In the Epistle, John teaches us the Good News that God testifies concerning Jesus, the Son: “Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life” (1 John 5:12). In the Gospel, Jesus, in His High Priestly Prayer, prays that all who have received His Word may be one and that His joy may be fulfilled in us. He sanctifies us together in the truth of His Word as we live as resident aliens in this world.

**Greeting**

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

**Hymn**.....“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” #493 (FR)

**Opening Versicles** .....Page 260

**P** This is the day which the Lord has made;  
**C** **let us rejoice and be glad in it.** *Psalm 118:24*

**P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.** *Psalm 113:3*

**P** Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;  
**C** **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

**P** Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.  
**C** **Teach me Your paths.**

**P** Sanctify us in Your truth.  
**C** **Your Word is truth.** *Psalm 84:10; 25:4; St. John 17:17*

**P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.** *Psalm 113:3*

**All** **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.**

**Hymn of Praise**.....“Splendor And Honor” #950

**First Reading**..... **Acts 1:12-26**

*[Peter leads the apostles in choosing a successor to Judas.]*

Then [the apostles] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away.

And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot

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<sup>①</sup>“*Exaudi*” is the traditional name for the Seventh Sunday of Easter. It is from the first line of the original Latin Introit: *Exaudi, Domine vocem meum*, “Lord, hear my voice”

and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and allotted his share in this ministry.” (Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) “For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

“‘May his camp become desolate,  
and let there be no one to dwell in it’;

and

“‘Let another take his office.’”

So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

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

**Musical Offering – Adult Choir**..... “Christ Be My Leader”

**Psalm**..... **Psalm 1**



**P** Blessèd is the man who walks not in the counsel of the | wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of | scoffers;

**C** but his delight is in the law | of the LORD,\*  
and on his law he meditates | day and night.

**P** He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not | wither.\*

In all that he does, he | prospers.

**C** The wicked | are not so,\*  
but are like chaff that the wind | drives away.

**P** Therefore the wicked will not stand in the | judgment,\*  
nor sinners in the congregation of the | righteous;

**C** for the LORD knows the way of the | righteous,\*  
but the way of the wicked will | perish.

**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.

**Epistle**..... **1 John 5:9-15**

*[Jesus the Son is the testimony of God that He has given eternal life to His people.]*

If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

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

**Holy + Gospel**..... **St John 17:11b-19**

*[Jesus' High Priestly Prayer for His disciples]*

And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

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

**Responsory** *Psalm 119:89; 26:8; St. Luke 11:28*..... **Page 263**

- P** Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
- C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**
- P** Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
- C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**
- P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

**Catechism ~ Ten Commandments, Creed, Lord's Prayer**..... **Page 264**

**Children's Message**

**Hymn**..... **"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" #821 (FR)**

**Sermon**..... **"The Ministry of Life" Acts 1:12-26**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ of death
2. \_\_\_\_\_ of life

## Offering and Attendance Registration

Prayer.....Page 265

### Collect of The Day

**P** O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

Collect for The Word.....Page 265

Morning Prayer.....Page 266

New Testament Canticle..... Page 266-7

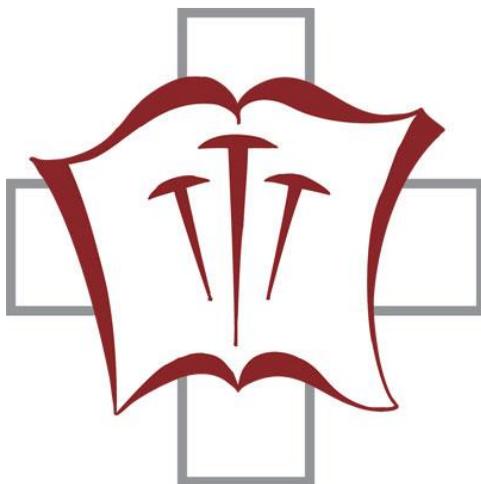
Blessing .....Page 267

Hymn of Departure.....“I Love Your Kingdom, Lord” #651 (G)

### Silent Prayer

### Announcements and Sending:

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



**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!

**THE PASCHAL CANDLE** symbolizes the presence of the risen Christ among us. On Easter and the Sundays following it was placed by the Altar and was lighted each week as a reminder that Christ is our Resurrection Light that shatters the darkness of sin and death. Now, the Sunday after the Ascension, the candle has been extinguished and is moved back 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).

**THE EASTER CROSS** in the chancel is made from Christmas tree trunks. It is now draped in white, the color for Christ, and adorned with butterflies, a symbol of the resurrection. It is a reminder that the Savior whose birth we celebrated at Christmas was born to suffer and die on the cross and then rise to life to accomplish our redemption from sin and death.

**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.

**A BLESSED AND HAPPY DAY** to all mothers! On this special day set aside to honor mothers, we recognize the importance of the family in God's plan for society. Godly parents are truly a blessing from the Lord! *"Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 'Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.' Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised."* [Proverbs 31:28-30]

**THANK YOU** to all who helped with last Sunday's church picnic. It was well attended and enjoyed by all!

**IN TODAY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON** our children will study "Jacob's Dream", a story that shows God renewing His promise to bless all people through Jacob's family. God kept His promise by giving Jesus to be our Savior. Your family could discuss, "What reminders does God give us of His promises to us?"

**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 choir practice at 5:15 PM, a pot luck supper at 6:00 PM, and Bible classes at 7:00 PM. The Adults continue a new study entitled: **"The Good the Bad, & The Ugly"** ... a study of the Joseph in the Old Testament Book of Genesis. Join us for this informative study. All members and friends of **Bethlehem Ev. Lutheran Church** are invited to attend.

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

**THANK YOU FROM LARRY AND JULIE SCHOPPE** for all the prayers, visits and cards! If you would like to send an encouraging note: Megan Schoppe Perez 104 Howard Lane, Liberty Hill, TX 78642.

**DID YOU FORGET?** If you have not yet paid for your Lutheran Witness subscription, New Small Lutheran Catechism book or Easter lilies, please contact the church office. Thank you!

**FROM LIVING ALTERNATIVES:** We now have an ultrasound machine! The Knights of Columbus very generously granted us the funds to purchase one and we are very close to having our program going. All we are waiting on is the exam bed and for our nurse to be trained on the machine and we will be ready to go. God has been so faithful to provide everything we have needed! Thank you so much for your prayers and support! We appreciate and need them so much! God bless you all!!

**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.

**ARDELLE SAMFORD:** If you would like to send a sympathy card to the family: Christine Walker, 1058 Stallion Road, Gilmer, TX 75645.

**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.

**STEWARDSHIP VIEWPOINT:** 1 John 5:12 – "Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life." Jesus is the foundation, the bedrock, the beginning and the end. To have Him is to have it all. In Him we have life. And we are called to live in Him, to live this new life He has given us, to grow up into His image. This is a struggle in this sinful world. But His grace is sufficient as He refreshes us through Word and Sacrament.

**LIFE QUOTES:** "If you knew that Jesus would be in your church on Sunday to bless your children, to put His hand on your shoulder, to personally assure you of His forgiveness and love, would you be there? He is there, and He does that through the Gospel." *Rev. James Albrecht, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Okabena, Minnesota* • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

**ABOUT THE COVER:** God's Word is indeed the truth! Many books have been written and published that contain untruths and lies. Some books seek to persuade us of a concept or an agenda. But God's Word not only contains truth, but it is the truth of God Himself. By God's Word, we are made holy, because God tells us only that which is the truth. Thanks be to God for His Word of truth!

<b>OUR STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEK</b>			
<b>OFFERINGS</b>		<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	
General Offering	\$4410.00	Sunday School	33
[Needed per week:	\$2,668.00]	Divine Service	64
Building Fund	\$50.00	Communion	60
[Needed per week:	\$350.00]	Mid-Week (5/9)	24

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:** Ezekiel 37:1-14; Acts 2:1-21; St. John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15.

<b>OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY THIS WEEK</b>	
<b>Sunday (05/13)</b>	<b>Easter 7 (Exaudi)</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> <b>Sunday School &amp; Bible Classes</b> <b>Divine Service (Prayer and Preaching)</b> Acolyte: Sara Kimbrough Pianist: Sylvia Frenzel Altar Guild: Lori Fortner & Lana Bowden Duty Elder: Albert Harris
<b>Wednesday (05/16)</b>	<b>5:15 PM Choir Practice</b> <b>6:00 PM Potluck Supper</b> <b>7:00 PM Bible Classes</b>
<b>Thursday (05/17)</b>	<b>9:00 AM Circuit 14 Winkel – Pilgrim/Kilgore</b>
<b>Sunday (05/20)</b>	<b>The Day of Pentecost</b> <b>Sunday School &amp; Bible Classes</b> <b>Divine Worship (Setting 3) / Holy Communion</b> Acolyte/Crucifer: Matthew Jackson Organist: Mary Bowden Altar Guild: Lori Fortner & Lana Bowden Duty Elder: Albert Harris After Church: Evangelism Board / LWML 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, George Nelson; Julie Schoppe (4/22) **Friends: Holly Franklin** (5/13) [Hughes' daughter], **Phoenix** (5/13) [friend of the West's]

**Homebound - Members:** Dorothy Jackson, Martha Kaudelka, Johnnie Weaver

**Celebrating this week: Birthdays:** Albert Harris, Nic Worsham ... **Wedding Anniversaries:** David & Natalie Byrd

**Comfort: family and friends of Ardelle Samford**

**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”*

