

AS WE GATHER: In the Nicene Creed we confess, “And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life.” This Third Person of the Trinity whom we celebrate today “proceeds from the Father and the Son.” With the Father and the Son He is both worshiped and glorified. This is God who has spoken by His prophets as today through Ezekiel He declares, “You shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O My people. And I will put My Spirit within you, and you shall live” (Ezekiel 37:13–14). This He has done in the hearts of everyone who has heard His saving Word, from Adam and Eve to you. To emphasize the universality of God’s desire, today we recall that post-resurrection Day of Pentecost, when no barriers of language could hinder God’s work. Jesus tells us that this Spirit He sends is from the Father. The Spirit comes to witness about Jesus and His work of salvation for all. That witness consists of both the truth about sin and about the Savior, Law and Gospel, to bring us to repentance and enliven our faith repeatedly, day by day as we live in His presence and the grace of God.

✠ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTIO ✠

Greeting

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

Hymn of Invocation..... “Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid” #500 (OT)

Invocation, Confession of Sins and Absolution.....Page 184-185

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Introit and Gloria Patri^① *Psalm 104:24, 27–28, 30; antiphon: Liturgical Text*



- P** Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the | faithful,*
and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alle- | luia.
- C** O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you | made them all;*
the earth is full of your | creatures.
- P** These all | look to you,*
to give them their food in due | season.
- C** When you give it to them, they gath- | er it up;*
when you open your hand, they are filled with | good things.
- P** When you send forth your Spirit, they are cre- | ated,*
and you renew the face | of the ground.
- C** Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the | faithful,*
and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alle- | luia.

Gloria Patri and Kyrie.....Page 186

Gloria in Excelsis^② ~ *Glory to God in the Highest*..... Pages 187-189

①“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).

②“Gloria in Excelsis” is Latin for “Glory To God In The Highest” is based on the song of the angels announcing the birth of Jesus.

P [♪] O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C [♪] Amen.

[The Valley of Dry Bones]

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.’ Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.”

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

- P** I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,
- C** and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.
- P** With the heart one believes and is justified,
- C** and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

[The coming of the Holy Spirit]

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works

① 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.

② “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.

of God.” And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

“And in the last days it shall be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams;
even on my male servants and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.
And I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;
the sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

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

Triple Alleluia and Verse [*Liturgical Text*]..... Page 190

P [♪] Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the | faithful,*
and kindle in them the fire | of your love.

Gospel Acclamations Pages 190-191

Holy + Gospel **St. John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15**

[The work of the Holy Spirit]

“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** [♪] **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed..... Page 191

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day..... **“Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest” #498 (SR, G)**

Sermon **“The Lord and Giver of Life” Ezekiel 37:1-14**

1. Life without the Spirit is _____.

2. Where the Lord’s Word is, there His Spirit gives _____ in His name.

Offering and Attendance Registration

A Matter of Importance:

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

Your Preparation for the Sacrament

“Father, I believe that You sent Your Son, Jesus, as my Savior from sin. I repent of my sins and ask Your forgiveness. I believe the Risen Christ is really present in this Sacrament and that with the bread and wine I receive His True Body and Blood. In accordance with the pure doctrine taught at this altar, I dedicate myself anew to Your regular worship, study of Your Word, faithful witness and loving service. With the help of Your Holy Spirit, make this my conviction and intention. Amen.”

Other prayers may be found on the inside front cover of the Hymnal, “Lutheran Service Book.”

Offertory^① ~ *Create in Me a Clean Heart* Pages 191-193

Prayer of the Church

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

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

Preface and Sanctus^② ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy*..... Pages 194-195

Lord’s Prayer, the Words of Our Lord^③, and **Pax Domini** Pages 196-197

Agnus Dei^④ ~ *Lamb of God*..... Page 198

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..... “**Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared**” #622
“**Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling**” #650 (OT)

Nunc Dimittis^⑤ ~ *Song of Simeon* Pages 199-200

Thanksgiving and Post-Communion Collect Pages 200-201

Salutation, Benedicamus and Benediction Pages 201-202

Hymn of Departure “**Father Most Holy**” #504 (G)

Silent Prayer, Announcements and Sending:

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

① The “**Offertory**” is a hymn from Psalm 51 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 “**Nunc Dimittis**” is Latin for ‘now depart’. Simeon first sang this hymn of thanksgiving as recorded in *St. Luke 2:29-32*.

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*).

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.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS this Sunday are given to the Glory of God by Steve and Mary Unk and in celebration of their wedding anniversary today!

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL: Our theme this summer is **Delivered: God's Gift of Grace.** These consist of all New Testament lessons. Please prayerfully consider leading a Sunday School class this summer. The sign-up sheet is located in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Melanie Jackson.

TODAY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON is about "Jacob's Family." The children will learn that through Jacob's family God brought forth the Savior, Jesus Christ, who endured lies, deception, and the schemes of sinful humankind to work our salvation on the cross. Families can discuss how we sin when we lie or deceive others and how such actions show that we don't trust God to provide and care for us. Ask your children, "Have you ever suffered because of someone's lies?" Talk about how Jesus suffered and died for us on the cross.

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.

PRAYER CHAIN: There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would like to participate in the prayer chain.

FROM DOROTHY JACKSON: Thanks to Yanneth, Kristen and Christopher for the visit and beautiful flowers you gave me for Mother's Day.

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 TODAY. 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!

"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.

FROM THE YOUTH: We are collecting books to send to the prison so that the school there can have reading materials. Also, we are still collecting old, used phones. Next month we will donate them to victims of abuse. 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.

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: Not many of us are able to speak in foreign languages or have the ability to heal with a touch. But we as God's people are still filled with the Holy Spirit. All who believe in Jesus as the Savior are filled with the Holy Spirit and are therefore witnesses of Jesus and His vast love for all mankind. God uses us and His means to spread His kingdom into all the world.

| OUR STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEK | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|----|
| OFFERINGS | | ATTENDANCE | |
| General Offering | \$3888.00 | Sunday School | 24 |
| [<u>Needed per week:</u> | \$2,668.00] | Divine Service | 60 |
| Building Fund | \$35.00 | | |
| [<u>Needed per week:</u> | \$350.00] | Mid-Week (5/16) | 22 |

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Isaiah 6:1-8; Acts 2:14a, 22-36; St. John 3:1-17.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY THIS WEEK

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Sunday (05/20)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9:00 AM</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10:15 AM</p> <p>Acolyte/Crucifer:</p> <p>Organist:</p> <p>Altar Guild:</p> <p>Duty Elder:</p> <p>After Church:</p> | <p>The Day of Pentecost</p> <p>Sunday School & Bible Classes</p> <p>Divine Service (Setting 3) / Holy Communion</p> <p>Matthew Jackson</p> <p>Mary Bowden</p> <p>Lori Fortner & Lana Bowden</p> <p>Albert Harris</p> <p>Evangelism Board / LWML Meeting / Newsletter Items Due</p> |
| <p>Wednesday (05/23)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5:15 PM</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6:00 PM</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7:00 PM</p> | <p>Choir Practice</p> <p>Potluck Supper</p> <p>Bible Classes</p> |
| <p>Sunday (05/27)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9:00 AM</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10:15 AM</p> <p>Acolyte:</p> <p>Pianist:</p> <p>Altar Guild:</p> <p>Duty Elder:</p> | <p>The Holy Trinity – First Sunday After Pentecost</p> <p>Sunday School & Bible Classes</p> <p>Divine Worship (Setting 1)</p> <p>Jessica Bowden</p> <p>Sylvia Frenzel</p> <p>Lori Fortner & Lana Bowden</p> <p>Albert Harris</p> |

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], **Hadleigh Pinkerton** (5/20) [Alicia Hutton’s great niece], Phoenix (5/13) [friend of the West’s], **Teresa White** (5/20) [Alicia Hutton’s grandmother]

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

Celebrating this week: Birthdays: Sara Kimbrough ... **Baptismal Birthdays:** Jessica Bowden, Mary Bowden, Marcy Hogan, Kayla Rayner... **Wedding Anniversaries:** Steve & Mary Unk

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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www.belctx.org
info@belctx.org

Rev. David L. Adler,
Pastor

BETHLEHEM EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
1515 South Loop 256 † Palestine, TX 75801
Office: (903) 729-6362 † Fax: (903) 723-7725

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”

