

AS WE GATHER: There is a quality of tenderness about God that hymnwriters help us comprehend. In “My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker,” author Johann Gramann writes: “For as a tender father Has pity on his children here, God in His arms will gather All who are His in childlike fear” (LSB 820:3). Although the words were written almost five hundred years ago, we can sense what the author wanted to convey—that God’s love is kind and complete and comforting. We are children of the heavenly Father who hopefully wait for His restoration of the world, which will be completed by our loving Savior Jesus Christ.

✠ CONFESSON AND ABSOLUTION ✠

Greeting

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

Hymn of Invocation “Oh, That I Had A Thousand Voices” #811 (OT)

Invocation, Confession of Sins and AbsolutionPage 203

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Introit and Gloria Patri^① *Psalm 92:12-15; antiphon: Psalm 92:1*



P It is good to give thanks | to the LORD,*
to sing praises to your name, | O Most High.

C The righteous flourish like the | palm tree*
and grow like a cedar in | Lebanon.

P They are planted in the house | of the LORD,*
they flourish in the courts | of our God.

C They still bear fruit in | old age,*
they are ever full of | sap and green,

P to declare that the LORD is | upright;*
he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness | in him.

C 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.

P It is good to give thanks | to the LORD,*
to sing praises to your name, | O Most High.

① “Introit” is pronounced “in-troh-it” & 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).

Kyrie^①Page 204

Gloria in Excelsis^②Page 204

Salutation and Collect of the Day^③Page 205

P Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading**Ezekiel 17:22–24**

[The Lord promises a new planting in Israel.]

Thus says the Lord GOD: “I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it.”

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

Gradual^④ **and Verse** *Psalm 145:3, 5b, 6b; 2 Peter 3:18a*

P Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,

C **and his greatness is unsearchable.**

P On your wondrous works, I will meditate,

C **and I will declare your greatness.**

P Grow in the grace and knowledge

C **of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

Epistle**2 Corinthians 5:1–10**

[God promises a house eternal in the heavens.]

For we know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all

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 “**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.

③ The “**Salutation**” (greeting) is reminiscent of an Old Testament greeting recorded in *Ruth 2:4*. 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.

④ “**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.

appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

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

Alluia and VersePage 205

Gospel AcclamationsPage 206

Holy + Gospel^①**St. Mark 4:26–34**

[Jesus teaches the parable of the mustard seed.]

And he said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

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

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day **“Almighty God, Your Word is Cast” #577 (OT, G)**

Sermon **“A New Life In a New World” Ezekiel 17:22-24**

1. The _____ then
2. The _____ now
3. The _____ of our faith

Nicene CreedPage 206

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 **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 You 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.”

^① In the “Gospel” we hear a reading from the New Testament accounts of Jesus’ life and message. In Lutheran Worship we believe that in the Reading of the Gospel Christ is in our midst, and so we stand to honor His presence. We also sing short verses before (to greet Christ) and after (to offer our joyful praise) the reading.

“Lord, it is true that I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. Yet I am in need and desire Your help and grace. So I come with no other plea except that I have heard the gracious invitation to come to Your altar. I am unworthy, but You have assured me I shall have forgiveness of all sins through Your body and blood which I eat and drink in this sacrament. Amen, dear Lord; Your word is true. I do not doubt it. Let Your will be done. Amen.”^①

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

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

Preface and Sanctus^②Page 208

Prayer of Thanksgiving, Lord’s Prayer, The Words of Our Lord^③,
and Pax Domini^④Page 209

Agnus Dei^⑤Page 210

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 “I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table” #618
 “Take My Life and Let it Be Consecrated” #783 (E)
 “Renew Me, O Eternal Light” #704 (E)

Nunc Dimittis^⑥ ~ *Song of Simeon*.....Page 211

Post-Communion Collect, Benedicamus^⑦ **and Benediction**Page 212

Hymn of Departure..... “On What Has Now Been Sown” #921 (G)

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Sending:

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

①“Luther’s Prayers,” ed. Herbert F. Brokering, Augsburg Publishing House, © 1994 Augsburg Books. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

③These 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“*The Peace of the Lord*” – The purpose of the Pax is a confessional declaration that the peace that passes all understanding is here present in the body and blood of Christ. For this reason the Celebrant now lifts the Chalice and Host.

⑤“**Agnus Dei**” (pronounced ‘ahn-yoos day-ee’) is Latin for “Lamb of God”

⑥“**Nunc Dimittis**” is Latin for ‘now depart’. Simeon first sang this hymn of thanksgiving as recorded in *St. Luke 2:29-32*.

⑦“**Benedicamus**” is Latin for ‘bless we.’

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.

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 "Peter Preaches on Pentecost". Students will learn how God washes away their sins in Baptism and gives them eternal life. Your conversation could include, "How did Peter's message affect the people who heard it? How does God's Word change us?"

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY: "Job: Confident in Calamity" -- Why do the just suffer? Where is God in the midst of loss, illness, ridicule and defeat? In this informative study we will also consider the purpose of adversity in the lives of the faithful and the role of Satan regarding our relationship with God.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY to all Dads today! We observe Father's Day remembering God's institution of the family and the crucial responsibilities parents have toward the children whom the Lord has entrusted to their care. Most important is the responsibility for parents to provide spiritual values by word and example and thus "bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." [Ephesians 6:4]

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

NEWSLETTER –The **JUNE/JULY** edition of *The Bethlehem Star* newsletter is in your mailbox in the narthex. Make sure you have picked up your copy.

NEW PORTALS OF PRAYER devotion booklets for July through September 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.

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 to donate to victims of abuse. Questions? Please see Yanneth Harris.

LWML CONVENTION will be held in Waco July 5-8. We are collecting items to take with us to help organizations in the Waco area. For information on how you can assist we have provided bright colored sheets in the Narthex with items being collected. Thanks for your assistance with this project!

TRAVELING THIS SUMMER? If you are traveling and you would rather not attend an LC-MS church where there is no historic liturgy and hymnody ... visit lutheranliturgy.org to find an orthodox and liturgical congregation to visit.

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.

LIFE QUOTES: "Children, vulnerable and dependent, desperately need security, and it has ever been a duty and a joy of fatherhood to offer it. Being a father requires strength ... and more than a little courage ... to persevere, to fight discouragement, and to keep working for the family ... With God's grace, fathers find the patience to teach, the fortitude to provide, the compassion to comfort, and the mercy to forgive. All of this is to say that they find the strength to love their wives and children selflessly ... Let us ... express our thanks and affection to our fathers, whether we can do so in person or in prayer." *President Ronald Reagan, Father's Day 1988* • www.lutheransforlife.org

ABOUT THE COVER: Our heavenly Father, the Creator, has a purpose for all that He does. He created the universe to love and to have love returned to Him. He planted and placed all things for our good to care for us. He sent His Son into the world to live and to die as our Savior. Jesus paid the ransom for all the souls the Father loves so dearly. Praise be to our Creator!

OUR STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEK			
OFFERINGS		ATTENDANCE	
General Offering	\$3,702.00	Sunday School	39
[Needed per week:	\$2,668.00]	Divine Service	65
Building Fund	\$.00		
[Needed per week:	\$350.00]		

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Isaiah 40:1-5; Acts 13:13-26; St. Luke 1:57-80.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY THIS WEEK

Sunday (06/17)	<p>Pentecost 4 [Proper 6] Father's Day Sunday School & Bible Classes Divine Service (Setting 4) / Holy Communion</p> <p>Acolyte/Crucifer: Sara Kimbrough Pianist: Sylvia Frenzel Altar Guild: Donna Hughes & Lea Rosier Duty Elder: James Taylor</p>
Sunday (06/24)	<p>The Nativity of St. John the Baptist Sunday School & Bible Classes Divine Worship (Setting 1)</p> <p>Acolyte: Matthew Jackson Organist: Aaron Jackson Altar Guild: Donna Hughes & Lea Rosier Duty Elder: Devin Jackson</p>

www.belctx.org
info@belctx.org

Rev. David L. Adler,
Pastor

N 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

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

Celebrating this week: Birthdays: Allyson Byrd, Devin Jackson, Travis Lestig ... **Baptismal Birthdays:** Melanie Jackson...

Comfort: Family and Friends of Rudy Kaudelka & Steve Lund

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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BETHLEHEM EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
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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”

