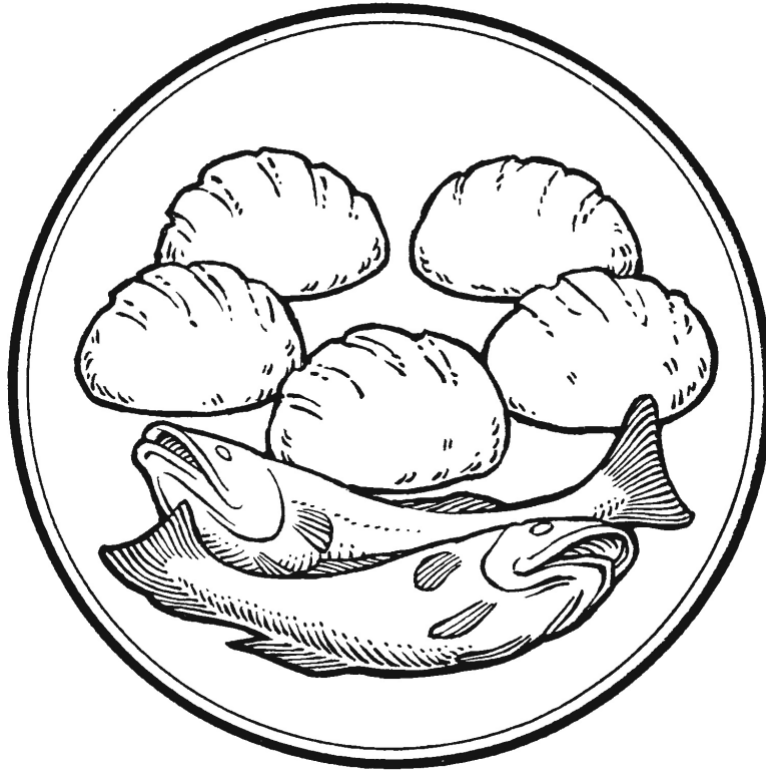


# Bethlehem Lutheran Church



***Laetare***  
***(Fourth Sunday in Lent)***  
***March 19, 2023***

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**The Order of Worship**  
**Divine Service Setting One (LSB 151)**

*(Please stand if you are able for portions of the liturgy marked with an \*)*

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**Announcements**

**Opening Hymn: Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice** (*Stz. 1-5*) **LSB 556**

**Confession and Absolution\*** **LSB 151**

**Introit**

(Ps. 122:1-2, 6, 8; antiphon: Is. 66:1-a, 11a)

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her;

**that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast.**

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

**Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May they be secure who love you!

**For my brothers and companions’ sake I will say, “Peace be within you!”**

**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.**

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast.

**Kyrie\***

**LSB 152**

**Gloria in Excelsis is omitted**

**Collect\*:** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading: Exodus 16:2-21**

<sup>2</sup>And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, <sup>3</sup>and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” <sup>4</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to

rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not.<sup>5</sup> On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.”<sup>6</sup> So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, “At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt,<sup>7</sup> and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us?”<sup>8</sup> And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD.”<sup>9</sup> Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, ‘Come near before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.’”<sup>10</sup> And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.<sup>11</sup> And the LORD said to Moses,<sup>12</sup> “I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”<sup>13</sup> In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp.<sup>14</sup> And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground.<sup>15</sup> When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.<sup>16</sup> This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.’”<sup>17</sup> And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less.<sup>18</sup> But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat.<sup>19</sup> And Moses said to them, “Let no one leave any of it over till the morning.”<sup>20</sup> But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them.<sup>21</sup> Morning by morning they gathered it, each as much as he could eat; but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

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

**Gradual:** I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!” Peace be within your walls and security within your towers!

**Epistle: Acts 2:41-47**

<sup>41</sup> So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. <sup>42</sup> And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

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

**Alleluia is omitted**

**Tract:** Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem so the LORD surrounds his people, from this time forth and forevermore. Peace be upon Israel!

**Holy Gospel\*: John 6:1-15**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. <sup>2</sup> And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. <sup>3</sup> Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. <sup>4</sup> Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. <sup>5</sup> Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?” <sup>6</sup> He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. <sup>7</sup> Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little.” <sup>8</sup> One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup> “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so

many?" <sup>10</sup> Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. <sup>11</sup> Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup> And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. <sup>14</sup> When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" <sup>15</sup> Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

<b>Apostles' Creed*</b>	<b>LSB 159</b>
<b>Hymn of the Day: Jesus, Priceless Treasure</b>	<b>LSB 743</b>
<b>Sermon</b>	
<b>Prayer of the Church*</b>	
<b>Offering</b>	
<b>Offertory*</b>	<b>LSB 159</b>
<b>Lord's Prayer &amp; Benediction*</b>	
<b>Closing Hymn: Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice</b> ( <i>Stz. 6-10</i> )	<b>LSB 556</b>

### **Announcements**

**What does this mean:** The Fourth Sunday in Lent is called Laetare, which means "Rejoice" in Latin. This is the opening phrase of this Sunday's introit, "Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her..." (Isaiah 66:10).

**Church Choir:** Choir will meet following the Divine Service today.

**Midweek Lenten Vespers:** Throughout the Season of Lent, you're encouraged to join us Wednesdays at 7:00pm for our Midweek Lenten Vespers. The theme for these services is 'The Passion of Christ and the Catechism.' The ongoing truths that we find in the Catechism are drawn from the death of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Throughout our Midweek Lenten Services, we will reflect upon this connection and its ongoing application for us through the events and teachings of Christ during His blessed passion.

**Private Confession and Absolution:** The Lutheran Confessions state that private absolution should be retained and not abolished in the churches (Augsburg Confession XI). With this in mind, if at any time you desire private confession and absolution, please give Pastor Jennings a call to set-up a time to meet privately.

**Lenten Devotional:** Whether it's through Confirmation Class or family devotions, many of us are familiar with the words of the Small Catechism. Yet, how many of us have picked up the Large Catechism and read through it? Luther writes that once you've been taught the Small Catechism, we're to take up the Large Catechism, which gives us a richer and fuller knowledge of God's truths. So, for our Lenten Devotional this year, we will be reading through the Large Catechism. If you don't have a copy, please let Jackie Yardley know, and she will be able to get you a copy. Additionally, you should have a daily reading plan in your mailbox. This Lent, let us be students of the catechism, and joyfully read and take to heart this blessed gift that our church boldly confesses!

**It's back by popular demand:** Agape youth group will hold a casserole sale after church **today** - come find something yummy to make a meal easier this week!

**Glow Bingo and Vendor Fair:** This is a fundraiser for education and ministry for all the youth of Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Ferrin. **Save the Date: March 26, 2023** starting at 4:00pm. Entry is \$15.00. Walk-ins will be available. You are allowed to bring your own snacks and drinks. Concessions will also be sold.

**Flowers for Easter:** It is time to get your orders in for Easter. This year you have a choice of lilies or hydrangeas. The lilies will be \$15 each and the hydrangeas will be \$30 each. There are order forms in the ushers' room for you to complete and return to Sylvia Kleiboeker by **April 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

**Trinity Hoffman Pork Chop Dinner:** The annual Trinity Hoffman Men's Club and Women's Fellowship Pork Chop Dinner will be held **today March 19th, 2023 from 10:30-1:00**. This will be a drive thru only. Smoked Pork Chops, Baked Potato, Green beans, Applesauce and Dessert. Cost is \$12.00. Hope you can join us.

**Immanuel Lutheran School Okawville:** Immanuel Lutheran School will be having a “drive-thru” breakfast **today March 19, 2023 from 8:00am-Noon.** Tickets are \$9.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the event. Advance tickets are available from ILS students or at the school office. Breakfast includes 3 pancakes, 2 sausages, scrambled eggs and 2 biscuits & gravy.

**Christ Our Rock:** Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School Foundation will be hosting the Christian Comedian, Jeremy Nunes on **Friday, March 24, at 7:00pm.** Tickets for the Comedy Show are \$10.00 in advance and \$15.00 at the door. To reserve tickets contact the school at (618) 226-3315. The new student BBQ club, "Sizzlin Stallions" will also be selling mouth-watering BBQ prior to the Comedy Show from 5:30pm - 7:00pm. You can come for the food only, or stay for the food and laughter! Join us for a fun evening of entertainment!

**Find Bethlehem on Podbean or Facebook:** Listen to Pastor Jennings sermons on Podbean or our Facebook page. Download the app ‘Podbean’ to your smartphone. Search for Bethlehem Lutheran church and begin listening.