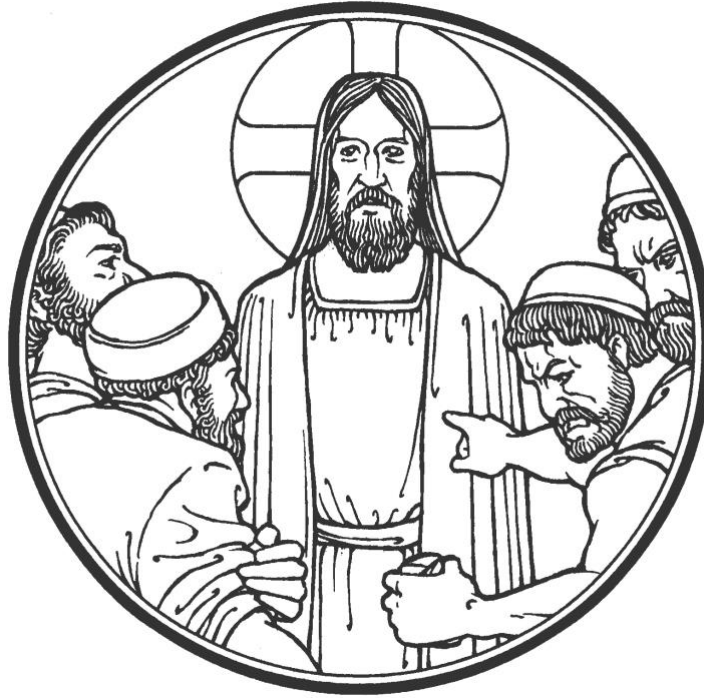


# Bethlehem Lutheran Church



***Judica***  
***(Fifth Sunday in Lent)***  
***March 26, 2023***

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12903 Clara St.  
Carlyle (Ferrin), IL 62231  
618-545-9543  
[www.bethlehelutheranferrin.org](http://www.bethlehelutheranferrin.org)

**Pastor Jonathan Jennings**  
[pastor@bethlehelutheranferrin.org](mailto:pastor@bethlehelutheranferrin.org)  
Cell: 219-309-6941

**Secretary: Jackie Yardley**  
[bethlehemferrinchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehemferrinchurch@gmail.com)  
Cell: 618-322-8087

**Preschool Director: Dena Brammeier**  
School: 618-545-9542  
Cell: 618-304-4564

**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: In the Very Midst of Life** **LSB 755**

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

**Introit** (Ps. 43:3-5; antiphon: Ps. 43:1-2a)

Vindicate me, O God,

and defend my cause against an ungodly people,

**From the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!**

**For you are the God in whom I take refuge.**

Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me;

let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!

**Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy,**

**and I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God.**

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

**Vindicate me, O God,**

**and defend my cause against an ungodly people,**

from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!

For you are the God in whom I take refuge.

**Kyrie\*** **LSB 152**

**Gloria in Excelsis is omitted**

**Collect\*:** Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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: Genesis 22:1-14**

<sup>1</sup> After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>2</sup> He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains

of which I shall tell you.”<sup>3</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.<sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar.<sup>5</sup> Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.”<sup>6</sup> And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together.<sup>7</sup> And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?”<sup>8</sup> Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.<sup>9</sup> When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.<sup>10</sup> Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.<sup>11</sup> But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”<sup>12</sup> He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”<sup>13</sup> And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.<sup>14</sup> So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

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

**Gradual:** Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD! Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! You delivered me from my enemies; you rescued me from the man of violence.

**Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-15**

<sup>11</sup> But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation)<sup>12</sup> he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.<sup>13</sup> For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh,<sup>14</sup> how much more

will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. <sup>15</sup> Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

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

### **Alleluia is omitted**

**Tract:** “Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth”—let Israel now say—“Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth, yet they have not prevailed against me. The plowers plowed upon my back; they made long their furrows.” The LORD is righteous; he has cut the cords of the wicked.

### **Holy Gospel\*: John 8:42-59**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. <sup>43</sup> Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. <sup>44</sup> You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. <sup>45</sup> But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. <sup>46</sup> Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? <sup>47</sup> Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.” <sup>48</sup> The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” <sup>49</sup> Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. <sup>50</sup> Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. <sup>51</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” <sup>52</sup> The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ <sup>53</sup> Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?” <sup>54</sup> Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you

say, 'He is our God.' <sup>55</sup> But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. <sup>56</sup> Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." <sup>57</sup> So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" <sup>58</sup> Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." <sup>59</sup> So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

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

<b>Nicene Creed*</b>	<b>LSB 158</b>
<b>Hymn of the Day: My Song Is Love Unknown</b>	<b>LSB 430</b>
<b>Sermon</b>	
<b>Prayer of the Church*</b>	
<b>Offering</b>	
<b>Offertory*</b>	<b>LSB 159</b>
<b>Service of the Sacrament*</b>	<b>LSB 160</b>
<b>Distribution Hymns: 420, 429, 433, 437, 425, 431</b>	
<b>Nunc Dimittis*</b>	<b>LSB 165</b>
<b>Benediction*</b>	
<b>Closing Hymn: Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle</b>	<b>LSB 454</b>

### **Announcements**

**What does this mean:** The Fifth Sunday in Lent is called Judica, which means "Judge (me)" in Latin. The ESV translates this as "Vindicate me." This is the opening phrase of this Sunday's introit, "Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people, from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!" (Psalm 43:1).

**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.

**Holy Week Begins April 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Please note that Holy Week begins next Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please consult your church calendar for a list of services and their times. As this is the holiest of weeks in the church year, members should make attending these services the highest priority. They not only give you opportunity to reflect upon the passion of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, but gathered around His Word and Sacrament, we may receive the very benefits of His cross.

**Adult Bible Study:** There will not be an Adult Bible study on Palm Sunday (April 2<sup>nd</sup>) and Easter Sunday (April 9<sup>th</sup>). Classes will resume on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Sunday School:** There will not be Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Ladies Aid/LWML:** The Spring Retreat & prayer service will be April 22<sup>nd</sup> here at Bethlehem beginning at 8:30am in church and closing between 1:00-1:30pm.

**Glow Bingo and Vendor Fair:** This is a fundraiser for education and ministry for all the youth of Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Ferrin. This is **today, 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>**.

**Christ Our Rock SLT Flower Fundraiser:** SLT is sponsoring a flower fundraiser again this year. However, there are a few changes made by our supplier. Annuals are now being sold by 6 pack instead of by tray (one tray equaled 36 plants last year). There

are a few new items: a 4.5" pot for this year and vegetable 6 packs. Other items to note are the 14" combo pot, which is \$30 each and the 10" Hanging baskets that are \$19 each. Additionally, due to the changes some of the varieties offered in the past are no longer part of the fundraiser. The money earned from the fundraiser will go towards prom and to purchase Chrome books. If you have any questions please feel free to contact: Katy Crocker, Samantha Zimmermann, Audrey Lueking, Tim Meyer or Julie Cole at 618-339-2297 or call the school office at 618-226-3315. All order forms and payment are due to the school office by Wednesday, March 29th at 4:00 pm. A delivery date has not been set yet by the supplier, more information will be sent when it becomes available.

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