

Bethlehem Lutheran Church



Misericordias Domini (Third Sunday of Easter) April 14th, 2024

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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 *)*

Announcements

Opening Hymn: The King of Love My Shepherd Is **LSB 709**

Confession and Absolution* **LSB 151**

Introit (Ps. 33:1, 18-20; antiphon: Ps. 33:5b, 6a)

The earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD. Alleluia.

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made. Alleluia.

Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous!

Praise befits the upright.

Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,

on those who hope in his steadfast love,

that he may deliver their soul from death

and keep them alive in famine.

Our soul waits for the LORD;

he is our help and our shield.

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.

The earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD. Alleluia.

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made. Alleluia.

Kyrie* **LSB 152**

This Is the Feast* **LSB 155**

Collect*: O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world.

Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual

gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16

¹¹ “For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹² As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

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

Gradual: Alleluia. The Lord was known to them in the breaking of the bread. Alleluia. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. Alleluia.

Epistle: 1 Peter 2:21-25

²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

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

Holy Gospel: John 10:11-18

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

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

Nicene Creed*	LSB 158
Hymn of the Day: O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe	LSB 666
Sermon	
Prayer of the Church*	
Offering	
Offertory*: We Give Thee But Thine Own (Stz. 1 & 2)	LSB 781
Service of the Sacrament*	LSB 160
Distribution Hymns: 710, 711, 467 (Hymn of the Month), 864	
Thank the Lord*	LSB 164
Benediction*	LSB 166
Closing Hymn: I Am Jesus' Little Lamb	LSB 740

Announcements

What Does This Mean? Misericordias Domini comes from the Latin translation of the first line of the introit (Misericordia Domini plena est terra), meaning, “The earth is full

of the tender mercy of the Lord.” Additionally, the word “pastor” comes from the Latin noun pastor which means “shepherd” and the verb pascere which means “to lead to pasture, set to grazing, cause to eat.” Pastors are under-shepherds of Christ, they are instructed to feed (administer the Holy Sacraments) and preach the Gospel to their sheep (congregation) according to Christ’s example.

Hymn of the Month: The hymn for this month is *‘Awake, My Heart, with Gladness’* (LSB 467). Written by Paul Gerhardt (1607-76), one of the things you’ll notice of this hymn is that it’s very personal, using the pronouns ‘I’ and “me.” Stanza 1 gives us a personal view: the grave in which Christ was laid is in fact “where our bed must be made. In Stanza 2, the triumphant shout the foe had over Jesus’ death is quickly turned to gloom at the realization that Jesus lives, that He has triumphed over the grave. Stanzas 3-6 testify with joyful confidence to the truths of Romans 8:35-39, that following Christ, we are free from sin, the power of death, and the world, and are so protected from all evil that nothing is able to separate us from God’s love in Christ Jesus, our Lord. The final stanza brings us to that “portal” of “bliss untold,” for we are “buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4). The last line of the stanza paraphrases the words of Christ in Rev. 2:10, “Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.” This hymn is usually the Hymn of the Day on Easter.

Worship Carriage: Have you ever wondered what the triangle shaped object is that hangs above the lectern in the chancel? This object is referred to as a worship carriage. Throughout the seasons of the church year, we will place in it various Christian symbols that highlights the season we are in. For example, in this Season of Easter, the symbol is a butterfly. *So, why a butterfly?* The butterfly is an ancient Christian symbol for the resurrection, which signifying the glorious change that will transform the believer and the world at the time of the Christ's return. Consider what St. Paul writes in his first letter to the Corinthians, "I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory. 'O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?' The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 15:50-57).

Council/Voters’ Meeting Our next Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, April 23th at 7:00 p.m. & our next Voters’ Meeting will be on Sunday, April 28th at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday Morning Bible Study: For centuries, the psalms have been central to the church's worship. While the language is beautiful and rich and comforting, the poetry can make the psalms a little challenging to understand and pray. So, join us on Sunday mornings at 8:30am as we begin a new study on the Book of Psalms in order that we may integrate these prayers into our daily devotions and pray them with all boldness and confidence in any time of need.

Wednesday Religion Class: As mentioned in previous weeks, members of the church are invited to attend pastor's Lutheran catechesis class in the preschool basement on Wednesday night beginning at 6:00pm. This is a great opportunity to review the basic tenants of what we believe, teach, and confess as Lutherans. This week our focus will be on **The Sacrament of the Altar (Part 4)**

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.

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.

This Week in our congregation:

Sunday:	8:30am Bible Class/Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service 6:00pm Agape Youth Group Meeting
Tuesday	Pastor at Circuit Meeting
Wednesday:	6:00pm–7:30pm Religion
Sunday:	8:30am Bible Class/Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service