

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church



## Exaudi (Sunday after the Ascension) May 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 \*)*

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**Announcements**

**Opening Hymn: On Christ's Ascension I Now Build** **LSB 492**

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

**Introit**

*(Ps. 27:1, 11a, 12; antiphon: Ps. 27:7a, 8b, 9a)*

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud. Alleluia.

Your face, LORD, do I seek; hide not your face from me. Alleluia.

**The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?**

**The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

Teach me your way, O LORD;

give me not up to the will of my adversaries;

**for false witnesses have risen against me,**

**and they breathe out violence.**

**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.**

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud. Alleluia.

Your face, LORD, do I seek; hide not your face from me. Alleluia.

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

**This is the Feast\*** **LSB 155**

**Collect\*:** O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for you live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 36:22-28**

<sup>22</sup>“Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. <sup>23</sup> And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. <sup>24</sup> I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. <sup>25</sup> I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. <sup>26</sup> And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. <sup>28</sup> You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

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

**Gradual:** Alleluia. God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne. Alleluia. I will not leave you as orphans; I am going away, and I will come to you, and your hearts will rejoice. Alleluia.

### **Epistle: 1 Peter 4:7-14**

<sup>7</sup> The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. <sup>8</sup> Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup> Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup> As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: <sup>11</sup> whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

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

**Alleluia\***

**LSB 156**

**Holy Gospel\*: John 15:26–16:4**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>“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. <sup>27</sup>And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning. **16** “I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. <sup>2</sup>They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. <sup>3</sup>And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. <sup>4</sup>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.

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

**Nicene Creed\***

**LSB 158**

**Hymn of the Day: Christ Is the World’s Redeemer (Tune 443)**

**LSB 539**

**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: 594, 618, 619, 490 (Hymn of the Month)**

**Thank the Lord\***

**LSB 164**

**Benediction\***

**Closing Hymn: The Son of God Goes Forth to War**

**LSB 661**

### **Announcements**

**What Does This Mean?** The Sunday after the Ascension is also referred to as Exaudi. Exaudi comes from the Latin translation of the first line of the introit (Exaudi Domine), meaning, "Lord, hear my voice." (Psalm 27:7).

**Vacation Bible School:** Bethlehem's VBS is set for June 15 from 9am-1pm. Drawn from Ephesians 6, this year's theme is, 'The Whole Armor of God.' Registration sheets are in the Ushers room. Please let Deb Albers know by June 9th if your child(ren), or grandchild(ren) will be attending, so that materials and food can be purchased. If anyone would like to donate funds toward this event please talk with Deb or Pastor. Please help to share this with anyone who has children ages 3 - 8th grade.

**Bibles & Hymnals:** The church recently purchased a set of Bibles and hymnals to be used in meetings, classes, and other events at the preschool. If you would like to make a donation to help offset this cost, please speak with Pastor Jennings or simply write on your offering envelope or check: "Preschool Bibles & Hymnal."

**Thank You:** Carolyn Freund wishes to thank pastor for his visits and prayers. Also, thank you to the members for their prayers and for the cards received. God's blessings to you.

**Hymn of the Month:** The hymn for this month is 'Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won' (LSB 490). Written by Christian Furchtegott Gellert (1715-69), this hymn begins with the truth that because Jesus lives, death no longer distresses the Christian. Through Jesus' resurrection, death's reign is done. The end of each stanza recalls the confidence that Christian has in all things because of Jesus' resurrection. The 2nd stanza focuses on Jesus ascension, where he rules over all things for the benefit of his church. The 3rd and 4th stanzas grounds our obedience in the death and resurrection of Christ. This is what St. Paul does when discussing Baptism in Romans 6:3-4, where one is baptized into Christ and dies to sin at the font, but rises again to new life, just as Jesus has risen. The final stanza closes on the same note as the opening stanza: the resurrection of Christ provides confidence to us Christians in the face of death. We sing this hymn usually on Easter Sunday.

**Memorial Day Program:** Our annual Memorial Day Program will take place on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. This will be held out at the Bethlehem Lutheran Cemetery. Join us as we give thanks to God for those served to protect our country.

**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.

**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.

**Issues Etc.:** Truth, Goodness & Beauty... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can tune in live weekdays from 3-5 p.m. on KFUO, 850 AM in St. Louis. You can also listen at your convenience at [issuesetc.org](http://issuesetc.org), the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

**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

Monday 6:00pm Ladies Aid Mother/Daughter Night at Applebee's (Breese)

Sunday: 8:30am Bible Class/Sunday School

9:30am Divine Service