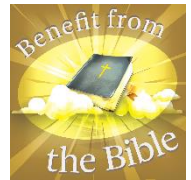




Bethlehem Lutheran Church – 2024

Truth – Forgiveness – Assurance – Peace – Guidance

Saturday, 5/4 at 4 pm; Sunday, 5/5 at 9 am



**God Wants EVERYONE
to be Saved through JESUS!**



Thanks for Putting Jesus First: Whatever we put first is what we are worshiping, so may the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit always hold the first-place position in our lives (Mt. 6:33)!

Church Year: Sixth Sunday of Easter.

Divine Service: Setting Four, LSB 203-212.

Today: Jesus made the way for EVERYONE!

- ☺ **Visitors:** Welcome! Please complete an attendance slip and let us know how we can help!
- ☺ **Prayer Request:** Use a “yellow” card (Narthex).
- ☺ **Young Children:** Activity bags (by worship entrance); Little Lamb Room (off Narthex).
- ☺ **All Children:** Children’s Message (join us).
- ☺ **Phone:** Please put on silent.
- ☺ **Hearing Assistance:** Available in the Narthex.
- ☺ **Service Folder:** Available on your smartphone: www.BLC7500.com/ServiceFolder
- ☺ **Worship From Your Car:** Receive at our main entrance; then listen from your car (FM 89.9).

BELL and CANDLELIGHTING – Please be seated!

PRELUDE

We listen in silence...

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

- L: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*
- C: **Amen.**
- L: Our help is in the name of the LORD,
- C: **who made heaven and earth.** *Psalms 124:8*
- L: **Let us pray:** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord who could stand?
- C: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore, You are feared.** *Psalms 130:3-4*
- L: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness, and confess before God and one another that we *have sinned in thought, word, and deed*, and that we *cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition*. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, *our heavenly Father*, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying:
God, be merciful to me a sinner.
- C: **Almighty God, †have mercy upon us, †forgive us our sins, and †lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

L: Almighty God, *merciful Father*, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Saturday ➡ ⬆ The hymn is sung by all!

Sunday ➡ **Choir: vv. 1-3** (*congregation is seated*)

Choir + Congregation: vv. 4-5 (*arise as noted*)

HYMN: *Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice*

See the words below / TLH 387 / LSB 556

- 1 Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,
With exultation springing,
And with united heart and voice
And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done,
How His right arm the vict'ry won.
What price our ransom cost Him!
- 2 Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay;
Death brooded darkly o'er me.
Sin was my torment night and day;
In sin my mother bore me.
But daily deeper still I fell;
My life became a living hell,
So firmly sin possessed me.
- 3 My own good works all came to naught,
No grace or merit gaining;
Free will against God's judgment fought,
Dead to all good remaining.
My fears increased till sheer despair
Left only death to be my share;
The pangs of hell I suffered.

Sunday ➡ **Arise** ⬆ **For the Procession!**

- 4 But God had seen my wretched state
Before the world's foundation,
And mindful of His mercies great,
He planned for my salvation.
He turned to me a father's heart;
He did not choose the easy part
But gave His dearest treasure.
- 5 God said to His beloved Son:
"It's time to have compassion.
Then go, bright jewel of My crown,
And bring to all salvation.
From sin and sorrow set them free;
Slay bitter death for them that they
May live with You forever."

Sing with the choir on the first Sunday of each month!

Practice on your own. To receive the monthly information, contact Harold: weselohduh@gmail.com

KYRIE ~ *Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47

- L: Lord, C: **have mercy.**
L: Christ, C: **have mercy.**
L: Lord, C: **have mercy.**

SALUTATION and COLLECT:

L: The LORD be with you. 2 Timothy 4:22

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray: O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.** ⬇ Children! *Please come forward!*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: *Salvation Questions!*

1. Where is God now?
2. Is God's location awesome?
3. Does God want us to be with Him?
4. Who made the way to God?
5. Does God want everyone to be with Him?

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-48 NAS-95
Will be read during today's sermon.

PSALM: 98 ESV
See Below / Front of LSB / Own Bible

Make a joyful noise to the LORD!

- L: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!
- C: His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**
- L: The LORD has made known his salvation;
- C: he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**
- L: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.
- C: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**
- L: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
- C: break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**
- L: Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
- C: with the lyre and the sound of melody!**
- L: With trumpets and the sound of the horn
- C: make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!**
- L: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
- C: the world and those who dwell in it!**
- L: Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the LORD,
- C: for he comes to judge the earth.**
- L: He will judge the world with righteousness,
- C: and the peoples with equity.**
- A: 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.**

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-8 NAS-95
Pew Bible Page 1902 / Own Bible

Those who know Jesus as Savior also love God and desire to keep His commandments!

¹Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves

the *child* born of Him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world-- our faith. ⁵ Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶ This is the One who came by water [*Jesus' baptism*] and blood [*Jesus' crucifixion*], Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit [*who came down upon Jesus*] who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷ For there are three that testify: ⁸ the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

↑ ALLELUIA and VERSE **LSB 156**
John 6:68

Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e-ter-nal life.
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 15:9-17 NAS-95
See Below / Pew Bible Page 1676 / Own Bible

Spoken in the upper room: Love one another!

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O LORD.

[*Jesus, to His disciples:*] ⁹ "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full."

¹² "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater

love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.”

¹⁶ “You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. ¹⁷ This I command you, that you love one another.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ. ↓

HYMN: *Christ the Eternal Lord*

In a maroon hymnal, turn to LSB 829

SERMON: God Wants Everyone to be Saved through Jesus! Acts 10:34-48 NAS-95

1. **Fear God and Do Right:** ³⁴ Opening his mouth, Peter said: “I most certainly understand *now* that God is not one to show partiality [*treating one person better than another, like a Jew better than a Gentile*], ³⁵ but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.
2. **Things Cornelius Heard about Jesus:** ³⁶ The word which [God] sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace [*forgiveness and reconciliation*] through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)—³⁷ you yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed. ³⁸ You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and *how* He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”

3. **Peter’s Eyewitness Testimony:** ³⁹ “We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross. ⁴⁰ God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible, ⁴¹ not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, *that is*, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.
4. **Jesus’ Command to His Followers:** ⁴² And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly [*seriously*] to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.” // Key things:
 - a. “Judge of the living and the dead”
 - b. “Of Him all the prophets bear witness”
 - c. “everyone who believes in Him...”
5. **Confirmation of God’s Love for Gentiles:** ⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. ⁴⁵ All the circumcised believers [*Jews*] who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God.
 - a. Why the Past Separation?
 - b. Why the Current Union?
6. **Baptism:** Then Peter answered, ⁴⁷ “Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *did*, can he?” ⁴⁸ And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

Get a Full and Sharable Copy of the Sermon

Narthex / Website / YouTube / Facebook / Email

APOSTLES' CREED: See back of either hymnal

Offering: Plates are available in the center aisle.

Thanks for Honoring the LORD!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Request a Prayer: Complete a PRAYER REQUEST card (available in the Narthex). Want a prayer sent through our prayer chain? Call or text Kathy G: 440-785-3802.

Prayer List Procedure: Names on our list with a (3) need to be renewed by Wednesday at 3:00. Contact your person to see how he/she is doing; then give Kathy an update. For non-members on our list, *share their address with Kathy* (secretary@blc7500.com).

↑ Please Arise; Let Us Pray

After Each Petition: L: LORD, in Your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

- ➔ **World Corruption, Evil, and Conflict:** Since the Lord is near, *let us be anxious for nothing!*
- ➔ **US Armed Forces:** Strength and honor to all who serve, including Chris Sala, Nick Riviotta, Jacob Smith, Hayden Sweeny, Drew Tenney, and Chris Weseloh.

Congregation

- ➔ **Care:** People who normally cannot attend and are struggling with chronic issues: Wally A, Helga B, Doris C, Roger D, Carole G, Lois K, Edmund & Christl K, Bill M, Regina M, Connie P, June R, Jean S, Gertrude S, Mike & Susanna T. (They receive mailings and/or visits.)
- ➔ **Ascension:** Jesus is reigning! Join us on 5/9.
- ➔ **Bible:** Read, think, apply, and share!
- ➔ **Stephen Ministry:** Pray for Norma S (leader), Linda B, Alan C, Klara S, Rhonda S, Bill S (ministers), and their care receivers.
- ➔ **Grief Share:** Wisdom for facilitators; openness to truth and comfort for participants.

- ➔ **Basics Course:** Blessings to all participants!

➔ **Temporary Health Issues:**

- **Benjamin Green** (1) broken wrist.
- **Jim Jenni** (2) stroke, rehab success.
- **Connie Pysz** (2) good care, comfort, healing.
- **Cindy Taress** (1) broken foot, kidney stones.
- **Harold Weseloh** (2) eye issue; cough.
- **Lisa Woodward** (2) broken ankle, continued pain relief and healing.

For Others

➔ **Temporary Health Issues:**

- **Ali** (3) continued recovery, healing, strength.
- **Henry** (1) (relative of Alan & Linda B) 2 yrs. old, aggressive brain tumor, surgery.
- **Michael Beauchesne** (3) cont. healing.
- **Melanie Himmelberger** (2) bone cancer.
- **Gayle Powers** (2) heart attack, successful open-heart surgery 4/23.
- **Ed Stash** (2) cancer, chemo.; fall, stitches.
- **Lorlei Stein-Sapir** (3) liver cancer, peace.
- **Mark Woodward** (2) femur fracture and surgery (4-7), cont. pain relief, healing.

Celebrate and Give Thanks

Physical Birthdays:

5/6 David Rohman
5/6 Susanna Tischler
5/9 Ashley Kovachic

Spiritual Birthdays:

5/6 Trudy Fischler

Wedding Anniversaries:

5/12 Andrew & Sara Green (12th)
5/18 Jim & Eileen Kovach (28th)

Conclusion:

L: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen. ↓

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

SUPPER PREPARATION HYMN

LORD'S SUPPER SELF-EXAMINATION:

"Let a person examine himself" (1Cor. 11:28 ESV).

Should I receive the Lord's Supper today?

Yes – if I can answer "Yes" to the nine questions!

More details, pick up the brochure by our entrance.

Part 1: Am I a Christian?

1. **Do I believe the Bible is true?** Y N *John 17:17*
2. **Am I sorry for my sins?** Y N *2 Cor. 7:10*
3. **Am I trusting in Jesus alone for my entrance into heaven?** Y N *Acts 4:12*
4. **Am I baptized?** Y N *Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38-39; Tit. 3:5*
5. **Do I desire to live for Christ?** Y N *2 Cor. 5:15*

Part 2: Am I right with others?

6. **Am I reconciled with others?** Y N *Rom. 12:18*
7. **Am I forgiving others?** Y N *Mark 11:25*

Part 3: Do I believe what the Bible says about the Lord's Supper?

8. **Are the elements of the Lord's Supper bread, body, wine, and blood?** Y N *1 Cor. 10:16*
9. **Is the main benefit of the Supper the assurance of the forgiveness of sins?** Y N *Matt. 26:26-28*

↑ PREFACE and PROPER PREFACE:

- L: The Lord be with you. *2 Tim. 4:22*
- C: **And also with you.**
- L: Lift up your hearts.
- C: **We lift them to the Lord.** *[Col. 3:1]*
- L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.** *[Ps. 136]*
- L: It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You during this Easter Season for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the Ultimate Passover Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of

the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS ~ Holy

LSB 208

Is. 6:3; Mt. 21:9

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim
shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest,
sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes
in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

- L: Blessed are You, O LORD our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.
- C: **In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life.**
- L: Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.
- C: **We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.**
- L: Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER: *See back of either hymnal:*

A: Our Father who art in heaven... *Matt. 6:9-13*

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD:

Combining: Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1Co 11:23-25

PAX DOMINI ~ Peace of the Lord *John 20:19*

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI ~ Lamb of God *John 1:29*

See the words below / **LSB 633**

- 1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing
Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide
Flowing from His pierced side.
Alleluia!
- 2 Praise we Him, whose love divine
Gives His sacred blood for wine,
Gives His body for the feast—
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.
Alleluia!

DISTRIBUTION INSTRUCTIONS:

- ♦ If you are ready to receive: Come forward now.
- ♦ Receiving at your pew: Please inform an usher.
- ♦ Alcohol-Removed Wine: Center of each tray.
- ♦ After the Agnus Dei: Come forward to the railing.
- ♦ Receive. Go in peace. Return via the side aisle.
- ♦ Main dismissal: After everyone has returned.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION:

LORD'S SUPPER DISMISSAL

HYMN: *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

See the words below / **LSB 643**

Sent forth by God's blessing,
Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
The Supper is ended.
O now be extended

The fruits of this service in all who believe.

The seed of His teaching,

Receptive souls reaching,

Shall blossom in action for God and for all.

His grace did invite us,

His love shall unite us

To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.

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POST-COMMUNION COLLECT: *Let Us Pray*

- L:** Gracious God, *our heavenly Father*, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, *on the day of His coming*, we may, *together with all Your saints*, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION:

- L:** Let us bless the Lord. *[Ps. 103:1]*

C: Thanks be to God.

- L:** The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord look upon you with *favor* and give you peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*

C: Amen.

Ascension Day Meal & Service Reminder

Thursday, May 9 – meal at 6:00, service at 7:00

Ascension is one of the BIG 5 – Join Us!

May Newsletter – Available in the Narthex

CANDLE EXTINGUISHING and POSTLUDE

Opportunities To Serve

Can You Provide A Ride? Sign-up in the Narthex or contact Alan Carlson: 216-218-2564

Schedule: 5/5 – 5/11

Tuesday

6:30 – Grief Share

Wednesday

6:30 – Basics Course

Thursday – Ascension Day!

10:00 – LTLL: Preview of Upcoming Readings

6:00 – Ascension Meal

7:00 – Ascension Service

Saturday

3:00 – Bible Class

4:00 – Divine Service

Sunday

9:00 – Divine Service

10:45 – Bible Classes and Sunday School

Thanks For Serving on 5/4 & 5/5

Altar Guild: Heather H

Saturday: Organist: Jim V Usher: Matt K
Pastor Team – Welcome: Alan C
Distribution – Alan C

Sunday: Organist: Kiersten H
Pastor Team – Welcome: Tim C
Distribution – Matthias M
Ushers: Matthias M, Mel B, Nick B
Refreshments: The Hilliker Family & others
Sunday School: Angie R, Cedrick/Harold

Financial Team: Natalia F, Paul M

Thanks For Serving on 5/11 & 5/12

Altar Guild: Nancy B

Saturday: Organist: Jim V Usher: Matt K
Pastor Team – Welcome: Alan C
Distribution – Alan C

Sunday: Organist: Jim V
Pastor Team – Welcome: Tim C
Distribution – Harold W
Ushers: Matthias M, Mel B, Nick B
Refreshments: The Hilliker Family & others
Sunday School: Stacey J, Cedrick/Harold

Financial Team: Natalia F, Ken H

Numbers From Last Week

Received God's Gifts – Services:

- Saturday at 4:00 – Inside: **39**; car: **5**
- Sunday at 9:00 – Inside: **56**; car: **1**

Studied God's Word – Classes:

- Saturday at 3:00: **17**
- Sunday at 10:30: **41**
- Wednesday at 10: **5**

Supported God's Work:

- Needed Each Week (budget): **5,134**
- Received Last Week (actual): **5,680**
- Gross Surplus YTD – as of last week: **15,864 – Thanks so much!**
- Net Surplus YTD – as 3/31/24: **5,445**



Connect With Us

➡ **Website:** BLC7500.com ➡ **YouTube:** Benefit from the Bible ➡ **Facebook:** Bethlehem Parma

Regular Services: Saturdays at 4:00; Sundays at 9:00

Festivals: Website > Important Links > Festivals

Studies: Wed 1; Thurs 10; Sat 3; Sun 10:30

Address: 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134

Church Office: Wed & Thu: 9:30-3:30; Sat: 2:00-6:00

Kathy Green: Secretary@blc7500.com; 440-845-2230

Pastor Green: RevRLGreen@aol.com; 440-292-5915

Church Body: lcms.org District: oh.lcms.org