

Thanks for Attending Bethlehem Lutheran Church!

About Us:

- + **Beliefs:** We believe the Bible is true and trust in Jesus as our only Savior!
- + **Assurance:** We want everyone to be certain of God's forgiveness through Jesus!
- + **Growth:** We want everyone to understand the Bible and live according to it!
- + **Children:** Bibles (center pew racks); Bags (worship entrance); Nursery (sometimes staffed).
- + **Special Needs:** Large print and hearing assistance are available in the narthex.
- + **Lord's Supper:** Learn our practice by seeing our explanation later in this folder.
- + **Congregation:** Find out more by taking a Visitor Information packet.
- + **Podcast:** Listen to our sermons, search for: "Benefit from the Bible"
- + **Join Us:** Keep attending and express your interest to join to the pastor.

About This Folder:

- + **Today:** Use it to guide you through this Divine Service!
- + **This Week:** Use it to benefit again from the Scripture readings!

About Today's Service:

- + **Date:** **Thursday, May 14 at 7 PM**
- + **Church Year:** The Ascension of our Lord – 2015
- + **Sermon:** **Jesus' Past, Present, and Future!**
- + **Summary:** Knowing of our needs; then of Jesus' work in the past, present, and future, let us praise Him!
- + **Participation:** L = Leader ♦ C = Congregation ♦ A = All (Let us "worship in spirit and in truth." John 4:24 NIV)
- + **Hymns:** TLH = The Lutheran Hymnal (red); LSB = Lutheran Service Book (maroon)
- + **Service:** Divine Service, Setting One (Adapted from Lutheran Service Book, 151-166)



About Our Service Beginning:

- + **Bell:** Five minutes before our starting time; candles are lit; please receive a folder and be seated.
- + **Doors:** The worship area doors are closed to assist those inside who are preparing / praying.
- + **Prelude:** Prepare to receive God's eternal blessings; see the inside front cover of LSB.
- + **Late Arrivals:** Please worship from the narthex; then enter *during the Hymn* or *after the Collect*. Thanks!

arise CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION / FORGIVENESS (TLH 48) (1 Jn. 1:8; Jn. 3:16; Mt. 5:16; Jn. 20:19-23):

L: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

L: And now I ask you before God, who searches the heart: **(1) Do you sincerely confess that you have sinned against God and deserve His wrath and punishment?**

C: **I do confess.**

L: →Certainly, you should confess; for Holy Scripture declares: "If we say that we have

no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

(2) Do you heartily repent of all your sins committed in thought, word, and deed?

C: **I do repent.**

L: →Certainly, you should repent, as did the penitent sinners: King David, who prayed for a contrite heart; Peter, who wept bitterly; the prodigal son; and others.

(3) Do you sincerely believe that God, by grace, for Jesus' sake, will forgive you all your sins?

C: **I do believe.**

L: →Certainly, you should so believe, for Holy Scripture declares: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

(4) Do you intend that with the aid of the Holy Spirit you will, from this time forward, amend your sinful life?

C: **I do intend.**

L: →Certainly, you should so intend, for Christ, the Lord, says: "Let you light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in

heaven."

Finally, **(5) do you believe that through me, a called servant of God, you will receive the forgiveness of all your sins?**

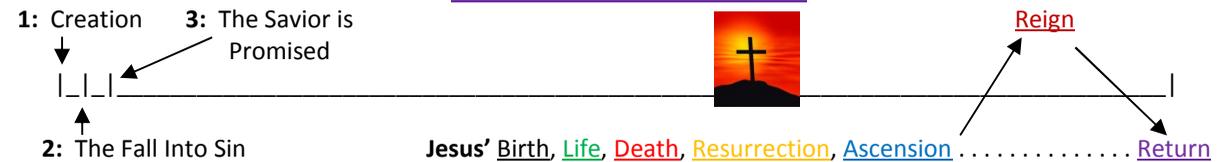
C: **I do believe.**

L: →As you believe, even so may it be unto you. Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

As the pastor goes to the entrance: ♦face the entrance, ♦prepare to sing the hymn, and ♦focus on Jesus!

Service of the Word



ENTRANCE HYMN – **Jesus Died for Us: "O Perfect Life of Love"** LSB 452, sts. 1-2, 4-5

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 O perfect life of love!
All, all, is finished now,
All that He left His throne above
To do for us below.</p> <p>2 No work is left undone
Of all the Father willed;
His toil, His sorrows, one by one,
The Scriptures have fulfilled.</p> | <p>4 And on His thorn-crowned head
And on His sinless soul
Our sins in all their guilt were laid
That He might make us whole.</p> <p>5 In perfect love He dies;
For me He dies, for me.
O all-atoning Sacrifice,
I cling by faith to Thee.</p> |
|---|---|

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY:

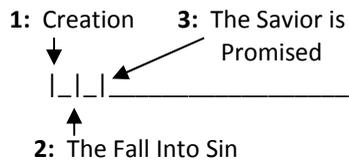
L: The Lord be with you. (2 Timothy 4:22)

C: **And also with you.**

L: *Let us pray.* Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into heaven, so may we †be

comforted by His reigning over all things and, *until the day when He comes again*, †serve Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**



Reign (H.S.)

Jesus' Birth, Life, Death, Resurrection, Ascension Return

GOSPEL – Part 1: Jesus has Risen from the Dead: Luke 24:44-49

⁴⁴ Then [Jesus] said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and

that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to You, O Christ.



NEW TESTAMENT HISTORY: Jesus Ascends into Heaven: Acts 1:1-11 ESV

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

eternal.] ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

L: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL – Part 2: Jesus Ascends into Heaven: Luke 24:50-53

⁵⁰ Then [Jesus] led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with

great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY – Part 1: “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” LSB 493, sts. 1-3

1 A hymn of glory let us sing!
New hymns throughout the world shall ring:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Christ, by a road before untrod,
Ascends unto the throne of God.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 The holy apostolic band
Upon the Mount of Olives stand.
Alleluia, alleluia!
And with His faithful foll’wers see
Their Lord ascend in majesty.

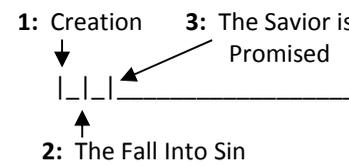
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 To them the shining angels cry,
“Why stand and gaze upon the sky?”
Alleluia, alleluia!
“This is the Savior,” thus they say;
“This is His glorious triumph day!”
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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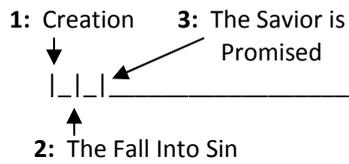
CHILDREN’S MESSAGE: “What Is Jesus Doing Now?”

All children (along with parents / grandparents) are welcome to come forward!
“Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.” (Rev 1:5 ESV)



Reign

Jesus' Birth, Life, Death, Resurrection, Ascension Return



Reign

Jesus' Birth, Life, Death, Resurrection, Ascension Return

NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLE – Jesus Is Reigning Over All Things: Ephesians 1:15-23 ESV

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us

who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.
 L: The Word of the Lord.
 C: **Thanks be to God!**

(↑arise) HYMN OF THE DAY – Part 2: “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” LSB 493, sts. 4-5

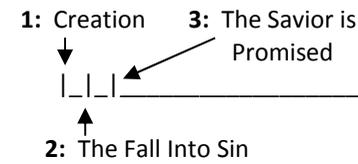
4 “You see Him now, ascending high
 Up to the portals of the sky.”
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 “Hereafter Jesus you shall see
Returning in great majesty.”
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

5 Be now our joy on earth, O Lord,
 And be our future great reward.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Then, throned with You forever, we
 Shall praise Your name eternally.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYERS: After each petition:

L: O Lord, hear my prayer.
 C: **And let my cry come to You.**
 L: Dear Father: Thank You for finishing Your plan to save us through Jesus!
 C: **Amen.**
 L: Dear Jesus: Thank You for everything – creating us, saving us, and, now, reigning over all things for the good of those who know You as their only Savior!

C: **Amen.**
 L: Dear Holy Spirit: Thank You for coming to dwell with us to enable us to understand the Bible and live according to it!
 C: **Amen.**
 L: We trust O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
 C: **Amen.**



Reign

Jesus' Birth, Life, Death, Resurrection, Ascension Return

APOSTLES' CREED: A summary of what we believe about the Triune God!

L: God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:
 A: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy *Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. (sit)

* “Christian” – The ancient text reads “catholic,” meaning the whole Church as it confesses the wholeness of Christian doctrine.

HONORING THE LORD WITH OUR FIRSTFRUITS:

Tithes, offerings, good works; they “are not the root but the fruit of faith.” (Handling the Word of Truth, 32)
 + **Offertory:**
 + Please help us to know you are here by signing the Record of Fellowship pad in your pew.

LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION:

Dear Friend: I praise God that He has led you to attend with us today! I also rejoice in ♦your sorrow for your sins, ♦your trust alone in Jesus as your Savior, and ♦your interest in receiving the Lord's Supper with us. I want ♦everyone to receive *who will rightly be assured of God's forgiveness in Christ*, but ♦everyone to wait *who could be harmed by receiving* – because the Bible says: “...anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.” (1 Cor. 11:29-30 ESV) *Pastor Green*

Self-Examination Questions:

1. Am I sorry for my sins, so I desire – *with God's strength* – to turn from my sins (2 Cor. 7:10-11)?
2. Do I believe in Jesus as my Savior (John 3:16)?

3. Do I believe Jesus' words of institution: bread-body, wine-blood, for my forgiveness (1 Cor. 10:16; Matthew. 26:26-28; Mark. 14:22-24; Luke. 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25)?

Who Should Receive the Supper?

- LCMS Members who answered “yes” to the self-examination questions.
- Non-Members who have completed our Lord's Supper Preparation packet (by our main entrance) and answered “yes” to the self-exam questions.

Receive at Your Pew: Please notify an usher.

Everyone Not Receiving the Supper: All ages are invited to come forward to receive a *spoken blessing* (to indicate your desire, please cross your arms)!

† Service of the Sacrament †

↑arise) PREFACE and PROPER PREFACE (LSB 160-161) (*spoken as noted*) (2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136):

L: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
 L: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them to the Lord.
 L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
 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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who after His resurrection appeared openly to all His disciples and in their sight was taken up into heaven to rule over all things for the good of the His body, the Church. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

HYMN OF THE DAY – Part 3: “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” LSB 493, sts. 6

6 O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
 All praise to You let earth accord:
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 You are, while endless ages run,

With Father and with Spirit one.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

LORD’S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4): *God has made us His children through Jesus!*

L: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
A: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our

trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

JESUS’ WORDS OF INSTITUTION (*the sum of* Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25):

L: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said:
 “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying:
 “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PAX DOMINI / THE PEACE OF THE LORD (LSB 163) (John 20:19): *Forgiven in Christ; at peace with God!*

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always! **C: Amen.**

AGNUS DEI / LAMB OF GOD (LSB 198) (*sung by all*) (John 1:29): *Jesus is the True Lamb of God!*

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us thy peace. Amen. 

LORD’S SUPPER DISTRIBUTION and DISMISSAL INFORMATION:

- † *Before receiving* → you may make the sign of the cross as a reminder of your baptism and the source of Jesus’ body and blood.
- † *Receive the Supper / a spoken blessing* → the bread is unleavened – *remembering that Jesus is without sin*; the wine is available from the chalice or individual cup, the center cups are alcohol

removed wine. Along with the bread and wine, *we receive Jesus’ body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins!*
 † *After the dismissal* → say “Amen” to accept the blessings offered in the dismissal.
 † *Return with joy* → *your sins are forgiven!*

HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION: *Please use a maroon hymnal!*

“Crown Him with Many Crowns” LSB 525
 “Beautiful Savior” LSB 537

↑arise) POST-COMMUNION COLLECT / PRAYER (LSB 212):

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, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” LSB 805

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host:
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

BENEDICTION / BLESSING (LSB 166) (Numbers 6:24-26):

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.
C: Amen. 

POSTLUDE and CANDLE EXTINGUISHING:

Thanks to all who made our Meal and Service possible!

To God be the glory!

CONNECT WITH US:

Website → BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com ♦ **Podcast** → “Benefit from the Bible”
Facebook → “Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma” ♦ **Address** → 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134
Church Office → Monday – Thursday, 9:00 to 3:00 ♦ 440-845-2230 ♦ Kathy Green: Secretary@blc7500.com
Childcare Center → Monday – Friday, 6:45-6:00, 440-884-0430 ♦ Tricia Wise: ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com
Pastor – Robert Green → Cell: 440-292-5915 ♦ E-Mail: Pastor@blc7500.com
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