

Ascension of Our Lord

May 29, 2022 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 4

Prelude Music

Announcements/My Country 'Tis of Thee (words below)



My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing:
Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride from every mountain side let freedom ring!
My native country, thee, land of the noble free, thy name I love:
I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills; My heart with rapture thrills like that above.
Let music swell the breeze and ring from all the trees sweet freedom's song:
Let mortal tongues awake, let all that breathe partake; Let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.
Our fathers' God to Thee, author of liberty, to Thee we sing:
Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light; Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King!

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation. For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

C: We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne: through the earth, through the city, through every living thing. You rescued Noah and his family from the flood; You opened wide the sea for the Israelites. Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever. You open the gate of righteousness and we pass safely through. In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters. You nourish us and enclose us in safety. You call us forth and send us out. In lush and barren places, you are with us. You have become our salvation. Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more. Claim us again as your beloved and holy people. Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear. To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb, be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever. Amen.

Gathering Song:

Come, All You People

ELW 819

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all!

C: And also with you!

Kyrie

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord have mercy.**

A: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

A: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **C: Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

C: Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Message

Annie Slabaugh

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

Luke writes: ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." ⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been 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 Acclamation:

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

P: A reading from... **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁴⁴Jesus said to the eleven and those with 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, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in

his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” ⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Thine the Amen

ELW 826

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of Heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the Church / Sign of the Peace

Offering

Offering Song:

Mighty to Save

(words below)

Ev’ryone needs compassion, love that's never failing. Let mercy fall on me.

Ev’ryone needs forgiveness, the kindness of a Savior. The hope of nations.

Savior, He can move the mountains. My God is mighty to save. He is mighty to save.

Forever, Author of salvation. He rose and conquered the grave. Jesus conquered the grave.

So take me as You find me, all my fears and failures. Fill my life again.

I give my life to follow, ev’rything I believe in. Now I surrender.

Savior, He can move the mountains. My God is mighty to save. He is mighty to save.

Forever, Author of salvation. He rose and conquered the grave. Jesus conquered the grave.

Shine your light, and let the whole world see. We're singing for the glory of the risen King.

Jesus. Shine your light, and let the whole world see. We're singing for the glory of the risen King.

Savior, He can move the mountains. My God is mighty to save. He is mighty to save.

Forever, Author of salvation. He rose and conquered the grave. Jesus conquered the grave.

Savior, He can move the mountains. My God is mighty to save. He is mighty to save.

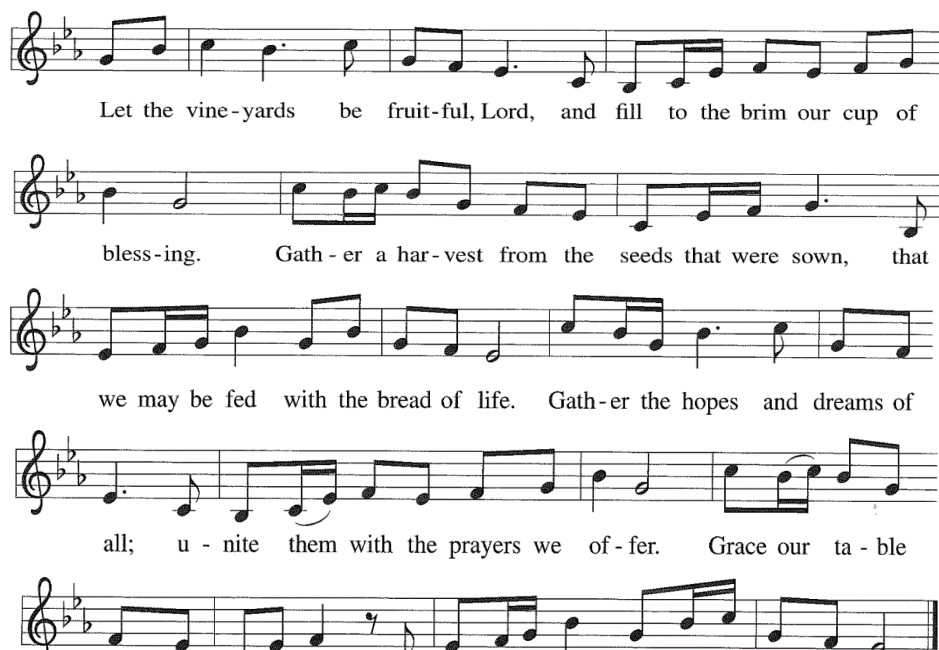
Forever, Author of salvation. He rose and conquered the grave. Jesus conquered the grave.

Shine your light, and let the whole world see. We're singing for the glory of the risen King.

Jesus. Shine your light, and let the whole world see. We're singing for the glory of the risen King.

Offertory:

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u - nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta - ble
with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Offering

Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: Living God, you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

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.

Communion

Communion Songs:

One Bread, One Body Bind Us Together

ELW 496
(words below)

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken. Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord; bind us together in love.

There is only one God. There is only one King. There is only one Body; that is why we can sing:
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken. Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord; bind us together in love.

You are the family of God. You are the promise divine. You are God's chosen desire, you are the glorious new wine. .
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken. Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord; bind us together in love.

Final Blessing

P: God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ☩ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Song: **America the Beautiful** (words below)

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!
O beautiful for pilgrim feet, whose stern impassioned stress a thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw, confirm thy soul in self control, thy liberty in law!
O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country loved and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine till all success be nobleness, and ev'ry gain divine!
O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A: Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH *May 29, 2022*

1050 Peninsula Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 947-9880
www.bethlehemtc.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

5/29—Cody Smith
5/31—Lois Gray
6/1—Kevin Kurkowski
6/1—Don Sheehan

6/2—Tom Miller
6/3—Christian Stretlien
6/4—Carol Collins
6/4—Leonard Graf

6/4—Stewart Nunnelley
6/4—Milt Bowes
6/5—Betty Cole
6/5—Marilyn Dork

Please note that the Building and Office Hours are: 9:00am – 2:30pm, Monday – Thursday.

COVID NEWS: According to the CDC and Munson Hospital, Covid-19 is once again on the rise in Grand Traverse County, and our county now has one of the highest transmission rates in Michigan. Council voted on May 17th to adopt a guideline that **masks are required for unvaccinated persons in worship and highly encouraged for those who are vaccinated.**

Pentecost is coming... the first Sunday of June! If you have red in your closet please plan to wear it that day as we celebrate the SPIRIT!!

Sunday Coffee and Conversation: Interior Renovations for the Future: Chuck Ardingo and the Refresh sub-committee invite you to join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, **June 5th**, immediately following the service for a conversation about refreshing and updating the functionality and appearance of our church spaces. Please consider stopping in and meeting with us to share your perspective and thoughts. What would you like to see? How could our spaces be made more useful, impactful, and attractive? We want to hear from you!

Special Musical Guests on Sunday, June 12th! An ELCA church youth choir from the Chicago suburbs has reached out to Bethlehem to be a part of their "around the Lake (Michigan) mission tour" this summer. Normally they take their chorus overseas but are going domestic this summer because of Covid and travel concerns. After performing downstate on Saturday, 6/11, they will head to Traverse City to spend the night and have graciously offered to bless us with singing/leading a few songs for us at worship at Sunday's traditional worship service on June 12. Our congregational meeting is also after worship that day, so spread the word to help us provide a hearty welcome and make a joyful noise together!

Music news at BLC: Many of you commented how much you enjoyed the choir music during Holy Week. The choir members appreciate the nice comments and we relay them to our new director, Tony Bero. It is sad that he is not on-site so he can hear from you himself. If you want to make certain he knows how much his skill in selecting the anthems and preparing the choir is appreciated, feel free to drop him a note in the "choir director" mailbox by the office or send him an email at bero.tony@gmail.com. And for all of you budding vocalists out there... just think... if he can make the 4 of us sound that good, what could he do with you?!? Don't hesitate... the choir always wants more singers.



Offerings: The offering plates are now passed during the service. The vase in the back of the Sanctuary is still available for those who prefer not to touch the offering plate.

The June issue of the STAR is now available. For current issues of the Star, feel free to check online at www.bethlehemtc.org < About Us > "The Online Bethlehem Star" or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>.

Prayer Requests:

- Prayer Chain: Please contact Jan Stretlien at jstretlien@gmail.com or 231-947-3265
- Prayers read from the altar: Please call Rebecca in the church office 231-947-9880

Today's altar flowers are donated by: *Barbara Oster in celebration of my Bethlehem Family.*

Celebrate a new child in your life with a rose on the baptismal font! Cost \$10.00 per rose. Contact Barbara Oster at beo6475@yahoo.com or 231.668.7038.

The newest Living Lutheran magazine and the April/May/June Christ in Our Home can be picked up at the welcome table on Sunday mornings, from the Shooting STAR box below the outside mailbox, or during parking lot communion. The July/August/September Christ in Our Home is also available.

The Congregational Meeting packet is available today. Please pick one up.

Children's Message Corner: The next Message Corner is scheduled for today at 2:45pm. To be put on the email list to receive the Zoom link please see Annie after worship or contact her at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org.

Due Dates for STAR/Bulletin/Screen Announcements: PLEASE NOTE NEW DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN

STAR: The third Friday of the month sent to admin@bethlehemtc.org (Please note STAR in subject line)

Bulletin/Verbal Announcements: **Tuesday** of the week sent to admin@bethlehemtc.org (Bulletin/Worship Folder is prepared on Wednesday and printed on Thursday morning.) (Please note Bulletin or Announcement in subject line)

Screen Announcements/Weekly BLC Emails: Tuesday of the week sent to annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org (Annie works Sunday – Wednesday)

This summer, we will be participating in a weeklong serving opportunity from July 18th - July 23rd with Freedom Builder's Missions Week and all of Bethlehem is invited! Freedom Builders understands that most people can only serve 1-2 days tops or possibly even only a partial day is perfectly fine. They also understand that not all want to be involved with construction so they have quite a few opportunities for those who wish to serve, but be sure to let Annie know which days you are hoping to attend and if you are looking to serve in a specific capacity. There will be an informational meeting on Sunday June 5th right after church in the youth room and all who are interested in serving are invited. Reach out to Annie at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org if you have any other questions!

We are happy to announce that we have finalized our VBS dates for this summer! Join us on a fun faithful adventure with Jerusalem: Marketplace! We will join Jesus' faithful friends and followers during His final days on earth. You'll travel back into Bible times--without setting foot outside your community! **VBS this year will be Monday, July 25th - Wednesday July 27th 8:30AM - 1:00PM!** **The VBS Registration Website is now open. You may register at myvbs.org/blcvbs2022.** You can also still sign up as a volunteer as well! We are still in need of:

- A Village Playground Leader (games)
- At least 2 Tribe Leaders (small group leaders)
- At least 1 Tribe Leader Assistant (small group support, great for older youth!)
- Set Up/Tear Down Crew (day before and end of VBS)
- Decoration Coordinators (day before and end of VBS)

We will also still take Marketplace Shopkeepers if you are interested in one of those roles! Sign up sheets are still in the Narthex, or you can sign up online! Reach out to Annie for more information.

LAUNDRY BASKET PROJECT FOR 2022: We are collecting cleaning items to be given out during the Baby Pantry here at Bethlehem. There is an example basket in the Narthex along with a list of items needed. You may fill an entire basket OR bring single items if you prefer. We would like to have baskets available beginning in March. Thank you for your participation!

Book Club: After two highly emotional books the book club will relax a little with its June selection, The Recipe Box by Viola Shipman. This book has ties to Michigan with its main character, Sam leaving her family's orchard and pie shop to be a star chef in New York, and then returning to northern Michigan. There are even recipes in the book! Books are in the box outside church. **The Zoom meeting will be Tues, June 28 at 5:30.** If you are not on the list send your email to cmonroe@chartermi.net.

The Wednesday morning bible study has completed its study of Matthew and the "Zoom Book Study" has completed its study of Home By Another Way. These two groups will take the summer off. Look for more information later in the summer. The Wednesday morning leader is Barbara Graf if you have any questions. Please contact Pr. Paul if you are interested in joining the Zoom Bible/book study.

Our interim tech support person is Trent Slabaugh. He welcomes your comments on the audio or video system. You may contact him by email at tslabaugh93@gmail.com

Monthly STAR: Thanks to all of you who have said that you will read the STAR on line or pick it up at church. Those of you who come to church, be thinking if there is any member close in your neighborhood that you could deliver their copy to them. If you have recently decided to read on line or pick-up at church please call the office and let them know.

Bethlehem's 24/7 outdoor food pantry has reopened!! And thanks to our friends at Thrivent Financial we have some extra incentives to encourage you to remember to pick up some extra staples when you are at the store. Take along one of the cloth Thrivent bags and find some items you would like to share with the pantry. Return the food to the table in the narthex and the bag will be emptied so someone else can use it. Feel free to pick up a free shirt, pen, or note pad to use yourself or to pass on to someone who would like one. First come-first served so please join in the fun of "Jumping into June"!

A big thank you to all who turned in Olesons receipts. Please continue to drop your Olesons receipts off at church.

Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers for a Sunday service. While we do not have Altar Flowers during Lent, there are plenty of dates available for the rest of the year. You may use the sign-up poster in the Narthex by signing on the date you request. **Then fill out a pink slip with the necessary information and place it and a check for \$40 (payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church or BLC) in the offering plate on Sunday morning (Preferable) or during the week, in the Administration Assistant's mailbox near the church office entrance.** You may select either "in honor" or "in memory" or "to celebrate". If someone has already signed on the date you would like, feel free to add your name – we welcome more than one on a Sunday.

Have something important going on at Bethlehem that you'd like others to know about? Maybe a Small Group? A Club Event? Feature it on the Screen Announcements and on our Facebook Events Page! **If there is something you'd like featured or included for either Screen Announcements or Facebook Events please reach out to Annie at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org.** **Bethlehem sends weekly emails directly to your inbox with important announcements and information!** If you are not getting them for any reason or if you have something you'd like to have added please reach out to Annie at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org.

Our blog has been renamed "Paths of Hope". Check it out on the Bethlehem website: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/new-blog-paths-of-hope>.

Please see back page for calendar.

The church calendar has returned below. Please be sure to notify the office (admin@bethlehemtc.org or 231.947.9880) to be sure that your group is on the calendar.

CALENDAR

Sunday, May 29

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:00am—Parking Lot Communion
2:45pm—Children's Message Corner (Zoom)

Monday, May 30

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY

Tuesday, May 31

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
9:00am—Property Work Group
10:00am—Staff Meeting (CR)
7:00pm—All Star DE (FH)

Wednesday, June 1

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
7:00pm—All Star DE (FH)

Thursday, June 2

5:30pm—ACOA (GS)
7:00pm—All Star DE (FH)

Friday, June 3

7:00pm—All Star DE (Makeup) (FH)

Sunday, June 5

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:00am—Parking Lot Communion
11:00am—Mission Trip Informational Meeting (YR)
11:15am—WELCA Board (CR)
11:15am—Worship and Music Committee
11:15am—Refresh Sunday Coffee and Conversation (FH)