

THE ASCENSION OF THE
Lord

MAY 16, 2021



Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.

Mark 16:15

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
14531 Old Olga Road
Fort Myers, FL

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

14531 Old Olga Road S.E.

Ft Myers, FL 33905

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

Sunday School & Bible Class: 11:30 AM

Church Office: **(239) 694-3878**

bethlehemlutheranfortmyers.org

E-Mail: bethlehemlc@gmail.com

Rev. Karl P. Glander, Pastor

Pastor's Cell Phone: **(239) 293-1489**

Pastor's E-Mail Address:

pastorkarlglander@gmail.com

Linda Kirsch, Church Secretary

Recall how you are strengthened and led by the power of Jesus, the one who is above all rule and authority on earth (Ephesians 1:21). Who would you like to bless with the power of God's love in Christ? Think of some creative ways to show God's love to that person today.

At his Ascension, Jesus was “lifted up” into heaven. We sometimes talk about being “lifted up” emotionally by experiences we have in life. The encouragement of others is uplifting for us. Think or talk about people who have encouraged you or brought you joy. In celebration of Jesus’ ascension, make and decorate a cloud shaped card. Write a prayer of thanks to God inside the card, place it next to your bed, and say the prayer tonight.



IT IS GREAT TO HAVE YOU IN WORSHIP WITH US TODAY!

Here at Bethlehem Lutheran, we believe in the teachings of the Bible as taught by Jesus and the apostles and strive to live our lives in accord with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are all fellow sinners who live together in the mercy and grace of Jesus. Jesus is the heart and center of all that we say and do as we serve Him and live in Christian love with one another.

If you would like to learn more about this church, or are looking for a church family, please talk to our pastor or one of the ushers or elders. They would be happy to talk with you! Regardless of

whether you join or not, we welcome you and your family to worship with us any time! Please sign our guest register in the lobby and fill out the Communication Card in the bulletin and place in the offering plate in the Narthex. Please include your local contact information and email.

Members, please fill in your name for attendance. Thank you!

Should you have something we could privately pray about for you this week, we invite you to let our pastor or one of our members know so we can seek the Lord's face together.

Come visit us again sometime soon and may the Lord richly bless you!



ATTENDING COMMUNION AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN

The Lord's Supper was established as a meal of fellowship and confession. In this meal, we confess together our one faith in Christ and our Confessions, especially the doctrine set forth in Luther's Small Catechism. Therefore, those who are not one in membership in The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod are asked to speak with the pastor.

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

May 16th, 2021

PRELUDE

✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION

821 ALLELUIA! SING TO JESUS

- 1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood:
“Jesus out of ev’ry nation
Has redeemed us by His blood.”

- 2 Alleluia! Not as orphans
Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us;
Faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received Him

When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget His promise:
"I am with you evermore"?

3 Alleluia! Bread of heaven,
Here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! Here the sinful
Flee to You from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
Earth's Redeemer, hear our plea
Where the songs of all the sinless
Sweep across the crystal sea.

4 Alleluia! King eternal,
Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! Born of Mary,
Earth Your footstool, heav'n Your throne.
As within the veil You entered,
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest,
Here on earth both priest and victim
In the eucharistic feast.

5 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
His the scepter, His the throne;

Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood:
“Jesus out of ev’ry nation
Has redeemed us by His blood.”

(please rise)

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and
of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is
faithful and just, will forgive our sins and
cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*(Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-
examination.)*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

(please be seated)

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT

Psalm 47

God Is King over All the Earth

P Clap your hands, all peoples!
Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

C For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,
a great king over all the earth.

P He subdued peoples under us,
and nations under our feet.

C He chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

P God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

C Sing praises to God, sing praises!
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

P For God is the King of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm!

C God reigns over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.

P The princes of the peoples gather
as the people of the God of Abraham.
For the shields of the earth belong to God;
he is highly exalted!

(please rise)

KYRIE

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation
let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P 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.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

♪ **THIS IS THE FEAST** ♪

C This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☩ Amen.

(please be seated)

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1–11

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

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

⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard

from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

The Ascension

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed 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 and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and 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 This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Ephesians 1:15–23

Thanksgiving and Prayer

¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having 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, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far 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. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

LThis is the Word of the Lord.

CThanks be to God.

(please rise)

♪ALLELUIA AND VERSE♪

CAlleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:44–53

PThe Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

CGlory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁴Then [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.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and

on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And 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.”

The Ascension

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple blessing God.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(please be seated)

HYMN OF THE DAY

537 BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

- 1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee,
Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

- 2 Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

- 3 Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.

- 4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!

Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!

SERMON

"Jesus is Enough"

. . . Pastor Karl

(please rise)

NICENE CREED

**☐ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;**

**who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of
the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under
Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again
according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to
judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the
Son,
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and
apostolic Church,**

**I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord, in Your mercy

C Hear our prayer.

(please be seated)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

805 PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

(please rise)

**△ 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.**

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary 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 that He might make us partakers of His divine life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

♪SANCTUS♪

☐ Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

☐ Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament.

Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☩ Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

☩ 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.”

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD’S PRAYER

C **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.**

☐ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☑ Amen.

♪ AGNUS DEI ♪

☑ Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

♪ THANK THE LORD ♪

C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who

lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

☪ Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

525 CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS

- 1 Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king
Through all eternity.

- 2 Crown Him the virgin's Son,
The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won
Which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic rose,
Yet of that rose the stem,

The root whence mercy ever flows,
The babe of Bethlehem.

3 Crown Him the Lord of love.

Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.

No angels in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes
At mysteries so bright.

4 Crown Him the Lord of life,

Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save.

His glories now we sing,
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die.

5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n,

Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n

The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns
As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,
For He is king of all.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be
gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give
you peace.

C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

This Week's Calendar



TODAY, SUNDAY ~ MAY 16, 2021

11:30 a.m. Bible Class and Confirmation

Class



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY ~ MAY 19, 2021 10:30 a.m. Kings that followed Samuel in person or on Zoom

SPECIAL NEWS & NOTES



SUNDAY ~ May 23, 2021

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

11:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class and Confirmation Class



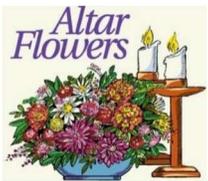
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY ~ May 26, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. Kings that

followed Samuel in person or on Zoom



Flower Calendar: The 2021 Flower Chart is up in the narthex. The flowers decorating the chancel at Bethlehem are placed there as an act of worship and devotion to glorify God. They are also, an expression of the beauty and goodness of God. Members of the congregation may donate altar flowers as an expression of thanksgiving to God, in remembrance of departed loved one, on the

occasion of a special event, such as a baptism, birthday, wedding anniversary, or simply to praise God. If you wish to donate flowers for use on the chancel, the cost is \$40.00 for two vases, if you would like to just purchase 1 vase at \$20.00 that's okay, but please put up there 1 vase and someone can sign up with you for the other. It is also tax deductible. Please place money in an envelope marked flowers in the offering basket.



The Flowers at our altar this morning were given to the *Glory of God* by Pam and Paul Rugenstein



Anniversary Greetings!!

5/22: Linda & Chester Rust (66 yrs.)

Stewardship & Attendance

Monthly Giving

Offerings: \$8276

Expenses: \$9490

Weekly Attendance

Worship Service – 31

Adult Bible Class – 8

Confirmation – 3



Air Conditioning Fund:

Air Conditioning Fund: The air conditioning units for the sanctuary were installed about 15 years ago. They have required more frequent maintenance and repair in the last year. We have begun raising funds to replace these units. The estimated replacement cost is approximately \$25,000. We have raised \$9490 so far. Please label your donations as “A/C Fund “.

Prayer Chain: Life presents challenges to all of us, but sometimes those challenges can feel like it’s just too much. If you are experiencing situations, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual, you may give your prayer requests to Linda Kirsch 239-693-5026 or e-mail: jlkirsch3@comcast.net or call or email Linda if you would like to become a part of our Prayer chain. “Hear my prayer, O Lord; listen to my cry for mercy.”



Bertha Bos
Frederick Dreischerf
Vi Hacker

Harrison and Joyce Kimbrell
Jan and Emy Larson



Rev. Karl P. Glander
Organist: Holly Bell
Elder: Paul Rugenstein
Altar Guild: Pam Rugenstein, Betty Willis
Ushers: Paul Rugenstein
Reader: Bob Jurs
Acolyte: Jake Stecklein