

# HAPPY *Mother's Day*



**MISSION SERVICE  
MAY 14, 2023  
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
MOTHER'S DAY & ROGATÉ SUNDAY**

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE**

*I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." (Psalm 122:1)*

## **PRELUDE AND PREPARATION**

*During the prelude, prepare your heart for worship: read the introduction, find the Scripture readings in your Bible or the pew Bible, and pray. You may pray: **God of grace, You have given us minds to know You, hearts to love You, and voices to sing Your praise. Fill us with Your Spirit, that we may celebrate Your glory and worship You in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN.***

## **CHILDREN**

*We welcome children of all ages. The Children's Library is available if a child needs a break during the service.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

*Jesus does not leave His followers orphaned. Through the Holy Spirit Jesus comes to abide with His disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. In yielding our lives to the Spirit we experience God's love and are transformed to be the body of the risen Christ and carry out His redemptive ministry in the world.*

# COMMEMORATION

*Matthias, apostle - After Christ's ascension, the apostles met in Jerusalem to choose a replacement for Judas. Matthias was chosen over Joseph Justus by the casting of lots. Little is known about Matthias, and little is reported about him in the account of his election in Acts 1:15-26. Matthias traveled among the disciples from the time of Jesus' baptism until his ascension. His task, after he was enrolled among the eleven remaining disciples, was to bear witness to the resurrection.*

# WELCOME AND MEDITATION

*(Please rise.)*

## GATHERING HYMN "Eternal God, Before Your Throne"

*(LBW # 354 - Text: Ernest E. Ryken; Tune: Carl W. Landahl)*

1 E - ter - nal God, be - fore your throne we bend, Your grace to seek, your  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, our Sav - ior and our friend, Whom an - gels praise be -  
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, truth and peace di - vine, De - scend to us in

ho - ly name to bless; Our grate - ful hearts in hum - ble praise as - cend  
fore the throne on high: How vast your love, to love us to the end  
all your sav - ing pow'r, And kin - dle flames of love and faith to shine

To you whose ways are truth and righ - teous - ness. With all the host of  
And on the cru - el cross to bleed and die! O blest Re - deem - er,  
With - in our year - ning hearts this sa - cred hour! Make plain the Fa - ther's

heav - en we a - dore Your match - less ho - ly love for - ev - er - more!  
hear your chil - dren pray; O Lamb of God, take all our sins a - way!  
will, the Sav - ior's love, And fit us all to dwell with you a - bove.

## **INVOCATION** ( = *All may make the sign of the cross.*)

P: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by Whose Spirit we have been reborn to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

**C: AMEN.**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Rejoicing in Christ's victory over sin and death, let us come before God Who calls us to repentance.

*(Please kneel. Silence is kept for reflection.)*

P: God of life, **C: in raising Jesus from the tomb, You make everything new. We confess our failure to live the good news of the resurrection. Our hearts are slow to believe Your promises. We shut our doors in fear. We resist the Holy Spirit. Forgive us, O God, and renew us to embrace without fear the new life You have given us in Jesus Christ. AMEN.**

P: People of God: Christ is alive. Sin and death have lost their power. Through the waters of baptism you have been born anew by the living word of God. Know that your sins are forgiven in Jesus' name and that the Spirit of the risen Christ is alive in you both now and forever.

**C: AMEN.**

## **GREETING** (*Please rise.*)

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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.**

## **WE PRAISE GOD'S NAME**

*With one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
"Let all the peoples praise him." (Romans 15:6,11)*

## **HYMN OF PRAISE** "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

*(Maj # 36 verses 1-3 - favorite)*

## HYMN TO JOY

Ludwig van Beethoven

Adapted by Edward Hodges

Henry van Dyke

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;  
 2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,  
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

1 Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.  
 2 Stars and an - gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
 3 Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!

1 Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;  
 2 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
 3 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ, our Broth - er— All who live in love are Thine;

1 Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.  
 2 Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.  
 3 Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the joy di - vine.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you.     **C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray together:     **C: Almighty and ever-living God, You hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In Your great mercy receive the prayers of all Your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of Your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.**

## RESPONSIVE READING...Psalm 66:8-20

*(congregation reads indented)*

Praise our God, O peoples,

**let the sound of His praise be heard;**

He has preserved our lives

**and kept our feet from slipping.**

For You, O God, tested us;

**You refined us like silver.**

You brought us into prison

**and laid burdens on our backs.**

You let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,

**but You brought us to a place of abundance.**

I will come to Your temple with burnt offerings

**and fulfill my vows to You—**

vows my lips promised

**and my mouth spoke when I was in trouble.**

I will sacrifice fat animals to You and an offering of rams;

**I will offer bulls and goats.**

Come and listen, all you who fear God;

**let me tell you what He has done for me.**

I cried out to Him with my mouth;

**His praise was on my tongue.**

If I had cherished sin in my heart,

**the Lord would not have listened;**

but God has surely listened

**and heard my voice in prayer.**


Praise be to God, Who has not rejected my prayer

**or withheld His love from me!**

# PRaise SONG (Please sit.) "Thy Holy Wings" (WOV # 741)



1 Thy ho - ly wings O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me  
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast  
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.  
where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.  
Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,  
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,  
Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy child - ren great and small,



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.  
for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.  
and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

*For everything was written to teach us, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)*

### **CHILDREN'S CHAT** (8:30) Ruthann Kistler

**FIRST READING** ....Acts 17:22-31.....Pg. 1724

P: Word of God, Word of Life.      **C: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING**....1 Peter 3:8-22.....Pg. 1890

P: Word of God, Word of Life.      **C: Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (*Please rise.*)

*"He is Lord" (Maj # 187 - favorite)*

He is Lord, he is Lord, he is ris-en from the dead and he is Lord;  
ev-'ry knee shall bow, ev-'ry tongue con-fess that Je - sus Christ is Lord.

The image shows a musical score for a two-part setting of the acclamation. The top part is in treble clef and the bottom part is in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "He is Lord, he is Lord, he is ris-en from the dead and he is Lord; ev-'ry knee shall bow, ev-'ry tongue con-fess that Je - sus Christ is Lord." The score ends with a double bar line.

Text: Philippians 2:10-11, adapt. Music: He Is Lord, traditional

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14th Chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL** ....John 14:15-24.....Pg. 1676

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

*(Please sit. See outline in Announcements insert.)*

**SERMON** "Always Be Prepared"



## WE RESPOND IN FAITH

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.

(Romans 15:13)

### HYMN OF THE DAY *(Please rise.)*

"Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice" (LH # 387 7 verses)

Nun freut euch, liebe Christen g'mein

8. 7. 8. 7. 8. 8. 7.

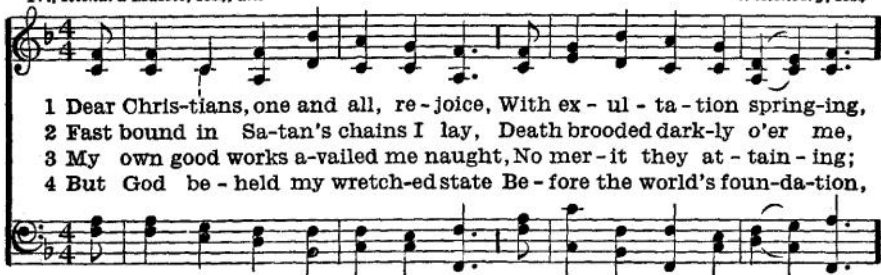
Martin Luther, 1523

Tr., Richard Massie, 1854, alt.

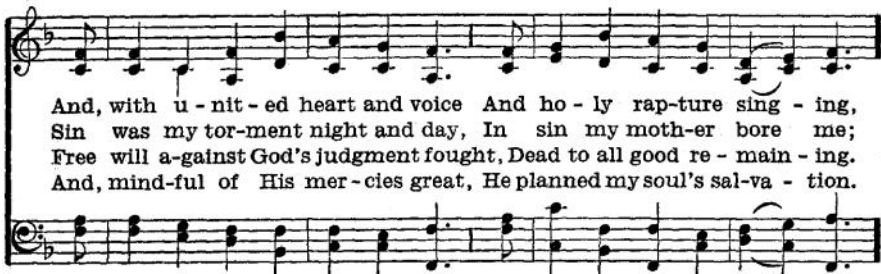
Nun freut euch

"Eitlich' christliche Lieder"

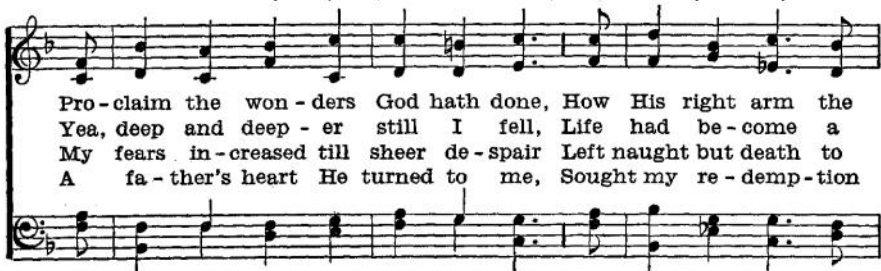
Wittenberg, 1524



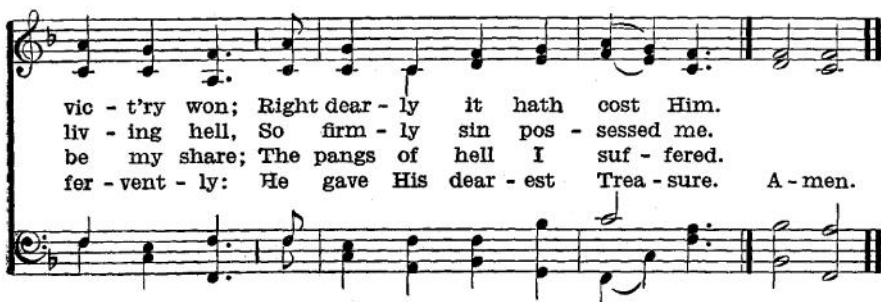
1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re-joice, With ex-ul-tation spring-ing,  
2 Fast bound in Sa-tan's chains I lay, Death brooded dark-ly o'er me,  
3 My own good works a-vailed me naught, No mer-it they at-tain-ing;  
4 But God be-held my wretch-ed state Be-fore the world's foun-da-tion,



And, with u-nit-ed heart and voice And ho-ly rap-ture sing-ing,  
Sin was my tor-ment night and day, In sin my moth-er bore me;  
Free will a-gainst God's judg-ment fought, Dead to all good re-main-ing.  
And, mind-ful of His mer-cies great, He planned my soul's sal-va-tion.



Pro-claim the won-ders God hath done, How His right arm the  
Yea, deep and deep-er still I fell, Life had be-come a  
My fears in-creased till sheer de-spair Left naught but death to  
A fa-ther's heart He turned to me, Sought my re-demp-tion



vic-t'ry won; Right dear-ly it hath cost Him.  
liv-ing hell, So firm-ly sin pos-sessed me.  
be my share; The pangs of hell I suf-fered.  
fer-vent-ly: He gave His dear-est Trea-sure. A-men.



5 He spoke to His beloved Son:

'Tis time to have compassion.

Then go, bright Jewel of My crown,  
And bring to man salvation;

6 No garb of pomp or power He wore,  
A servant's form, like mine, He bore,  
To lead the devil captive.

7 To me He spake: Hold fast to Me,

I am thy Rock and Castle;

Thy Ransom I Myself will be,  
For thee I strive and wrestle;

8 Life shall from death the victory win,  
My innocence shall bear thy sin;  
So art thou blest forever.

9 Now to My Father I depart,

The Holy Spirit sending

And, heavenly wisdom to impart,

My help to thee extending.

He shall in trouble comfort thee,

Teach thee to know and follow Me,

And in all truth shall guide thee.

## SMALL CATECHISM READING

L: Let us confess our faith by reading a portion of Luther's Small Catechism, *Part II. The Creed*:

L: What is The First Article of the Creed: On Creation?

**C: I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

L: What does this mean?

**C: I believe that God created me, along with all that exists.**

**He gave to me: my body and soul, my eyes, ears and all the other parts of my body, my mind and all my senses.**

**He preserves them as well. He gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and land, spouse and children, fields, animals and all I own. Every day He abundantly provides everything I need to nourish this body and life. He protects me against all danger. He shields and defends me from all evil. He does all this because of His pure, fatherly and divine goodness and His mercy, not because I've earned it or deserved it. For all of this, I must thank Him, praise Him, serve Him and obey Him. This is most certainly true!**

## OFFERING

*We no longer pass the plate, but your offerings are needed more than ever. The plate is located at the back of the center aisle. Please place your offering and your Communication Card there as you come in or go out. Thank You!*

*(Please sit.)*

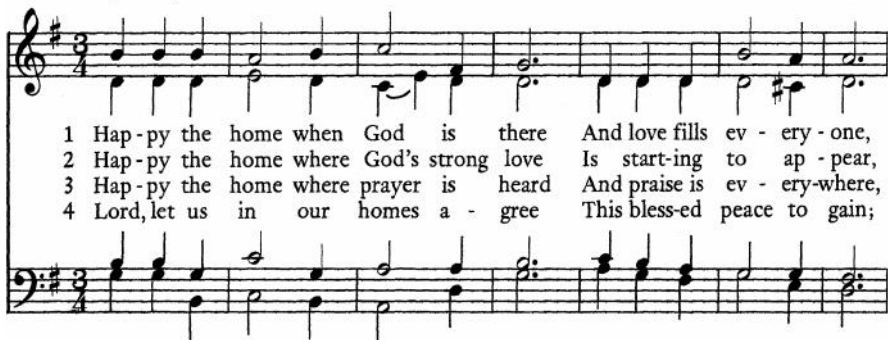
**MISSION MOMENT** Bright Hope Baby Bottle Campaign

*(Please sit. Men, young ladies who are not mothers and children stand in place to sing in honor of all mothers)*

## MOTHER'S DAY HYMN "Happy the Home" (Maj # 570)

Henry Ware, Jr.  
Bryan Jeffery Leech, alt.

ST. AGNES  
John B. Dykes



1 Hap - py the home when God is there And love fills ev - ery - one,  
2 Hap - py the home where God's strong love Is start - ing to ap - pear,  
3 Hap - py the home where prayer is heard And praise is ev - ery - where,  
4 Lord, let us in our homes a - gree This bless - ed peace to gain;



1 When with u - nit - ed work and prayer The Mas - ter's will is done.  
2 Where all the chil - dren hear His fame And par - ents hold Him dear.  
3 Where par - ents love the sa - cred Word And its true wis - dom share.  
4 U - nite our hearts in love to Thee, And love to all will reign. A - men.

## MOTHER'S DAY LITANY *(Please kneel.)*

P: Thank You, Father, for Your loving, hands-on care, imparting to us dignity from before our beginning, making us in Your image.

C: **“You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother’s womb ... My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in the secret place ... Your eyes saw my unformed body. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”** (Ps 139:13-16)

L: Dear Heavenly Father, You set the solitary in families. We praise and thank You for all parents, including those who parent their grandchildren or the children of others. We commend to Your loving care all the homes where Your people live. Keep them free from bitterness, and from pride in self. Let for-

givenness and love flow freely. Knit together with enduring affection those who have become one in marriage. Let children and parents have full respect for one another as one respects Your image in which we are made. Grant the solitary special friends in Christ. Send, by Your Spirit, sufficient grace for all.

**C: Lord, we ask Your blessing and grace on all mothers. Thank you for their parental role in our lives.**

P: John's Gospel tell us that during His crucifixion, "When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, '*Dear woman, here is your son,*' and to the disciple, '*Here is your mother.*' From that time on, this disciple took her into his home." (*John 19:26-27*)

**C: We thank You, Father, that You will parent us should our parents forsake and forget us (*Psalm 27:10; Isaiah 49:15-16*). We thank You for all foster and adoptive parents and ask You to bless those relationships.**

L: Paul wrote to Timothy, "I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also." (*1 Timothy 1:5*)

**C: We thank You, Father, for our mothers and grandmothers, both our biological ones and those whom You gave to us in the faith, who have prayed for us and passed on to us the good news of Your grace, who by their example encouraged us in our own faith.**

P: Father in Heaven, we remember today those who are no longer with us. We miss them at times like this. We thank You that they are with You and Your Son in the place prepared for them where all things are made new - no more tears, no more suffering, no more heartaches.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit, and comfort all who miss their mothers, and other special loved ones. Keep us in union with them here through faith and love toward You, that hereafter we may enter into Your Presence and be numbered with those who serve You and look upon Your face in glory everlasting, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Response: L: Lord, in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer.)

## THE 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.**

## WE ARE SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD

*Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! (Isaiah 2:5)*

*(Please rise and follow Pastor to the front yard.)*

## SENDING HYMN “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” (Maj # 15)

Johann J. Schütz  
Tr. by Frances E. Cox

MIT FREUDEN ZART  
Bohemian Brethren's “Kirchengesänge”

1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, The God of all cre -  
2 What God's al-might-y power hath made His gra - cious mer - cy  
3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, But, through all grief dis -  
4 Thus, all my glad - some way a - long, I sing a - loud His

1 a - tion, The God of pow'r, the God of love, The God of our sal -  
2 keep - eth; By morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade His watch - ful eye ne'er  
3 tress - ing, An ev - er - pres - ent help and stay, Our peace, and joy, and  
4 prais - es, That men may hear the grate - ful song My voice un - wea - ried

1 va - tion; With heal - ing balm my soul He fills, And ev - ery faith - less  
 2 sleep - eth; With - in the king - dom of His might, Lo! all is just and  
 3 bless - ing; As with a moth - er's ten - der hand, He leads His own, His  
 4 rais - es, Be joy - ful in the Lord, my heart, Both soul and bod - y

1 mur - mur stills: To God all praise and glo - ry.  
 2 all is right: To God all praise and glo - ry.  
 3 cho - sen band: To God all praise and glo - ry.  
 4 bear your part: To God all praise and glo - ry. A - men.

## ROGATE BLESSING

**Prayer for the Soil** *Hold soil aloft.*

P: Creating God, we give You thanks that in the richness of the soil, nature awakens to Your call of spring. Help us to be good stewards of this land and make our hearts good soil for Your Word.

**C: AMEN. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Prayer for Seeds** *Hold seeds aloft. The people scatter their seeds.*

L: Redeeming Lord, You have given seed to the sower and bread to the people. Nourish, protect, and bless the seeds which Your people have sown in hope. May they bring forth their fruit in due season, and may our lives yield a harvest of righteousness through the Holy Spirit.

**C: AMEN. Come, Holy Spirit.**

**Prayer for Water and Rain** *Hold water aloft.*

P: Sanctifying Spirit, You hover over the waters to bring life to the earth and You raise us to new life in baptism. We ask that the rain come as often as it is needed so that the crops may flourish and the coming harvest be indeed bountiful, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: AMEN.**

**SENDING BLESSING**

P: May God the sower make you good and fertile soil. May Christ the seed bloom and grow in your words and actions. May the fruitful Spirit bring forth a bountiful yield in your lives. God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**C: AMEN.**

**ROGATÉ HYMN** “*O Zion, Haste*”

*(Maj # 681 - Text: Mary A. Thomas; Tune: James Walch - sing A Cappella)*

**PASSING THE PEACE**

L: As we leave to serve the Risen Lord in the power of His Spirit, let us share with one another some of the blessings of peace we have received. The peace of the Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS**

*Everyone is invited to remain for fellowship and refreshments. Snacks, coffee and hot water are available in the Gathering Place. You can brew your own coffee/tea using the Keurig® in the Parlor.*

ALTAR FLOWERS ARE SPONSORED BY:

*Alyce & Richard Stein  
In Honor of their Wedding Anniversary!*

BULLETINS ARE SPONSORED BY:

*Holy Cross to the glory of God*

1 O Zi - on, haste, thy mis - sion high ful - fill - ing, To tell to  
 2 Pro - claim to ev - ery peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion That God in  
 3 Give of thy sons to bear the mes - sage glo - rious, Give of thy

1 all the world that God is light; That He who made all na - tions  
 2 whom they live and move is love; Tell how He stooped to save His  
 3 wealth to speed them on their way; Pour out thy soul for them in

1 is not will - ing One soul should per - ish, lost in shades of night.  
 2 lost cre - a - tion, And died on earth that man might live a - bove.  
 3 prayer vic - to - rious, And haste the com - ing of the glo - rious day.

Pub - lish glad ti - dings, ti - dings of peace,

Ti - dings of Je - sus, re - demp - tion, and re - lease.



**MAY 14, 2023**  
**SIXTH SUNDAY IN EASTER**

**SERVANTS OF THE LORD THIS WEEK**

GREETER: 8:30-Sarah Barlow / 10:45-Irene Graham

SOUND: 8:30-Chris Chmela / 10:45-Ken Yoxheimer

GUEST ORGANIST: Bob Harwick

LIVESTREAM: 8:30-Mike Zyskowski

PROJECTOR: Karen Brown

SONG LEADER: Pastor David

LITURGIST: 8:30-Faith Miller / 10:45-**VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

CHILDREN'S CHAT: 8:30-Ruthann Kistler

LECTOR: 8:30-Patty Stein / 10:45 Kathy Ballek

ALTAR GUILD: Irene Graham, Sharon Branigan

PHONETREE: Jonathan Mosebach

COUNTERS: Karen Brown, Jan Stryker

GRASS CUTTERS: Sam Glasmire, Rich Stein

HOSPITALITY: Holy Cross Social Ministry

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Mike Zyskowski

PRAYER CARE: call Ruthann Kistler 610-217-0397

**Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church**

2700 Jacksonville Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017

Office (610) 867-6231 † Holycrossoffice@rcn.com

Pastor (610) 867-9725 † Holycrosspastor@rcn.com

Preschool (610) 867-9735 † FAX (610) 867-3755

[www.holycrossbethlehem.com](http://www.holycrossbethlehem.com)

**CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. David L. Brown, *Pastor* † Ruthann Kistler, *Christian Ed. Dir.*  
Nancy Cook, *Music Director* † Jonathan Mosebach, *Office Secretary*  
Jim Steiner, *Sexton* † Karen Steiner, *Pre-school*  
Lisa Wechsler, *Treasurer* † Glade Schroeter, *Webmaster*

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

Worship - 8:30 & 10:45 AM † Sunday School - 9:45 AM  
(*Holy Communion 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays & Major Feasts*)

Hymns used by permission of OneLicense.net #A-714282.

Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible NIV. Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society.

Liturgy adapted from *Sundays and Seasons* Copyright 2014 by Augsburg Fortress.

Small Catechism reading adapted from *Luther's Little Instruction Book*, Robert E. Smith, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN.