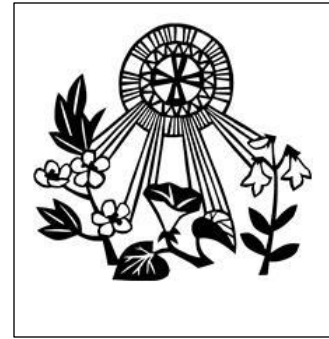


# **BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Sunday, May 10, 2026**

**Music: Glenda McGaffee**

**Lay Reader: Dan Ellingson**



**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SILENT PRAYER**

**\*Please stand as you are able**

**\*GATHERING HYMN ELW# 408 "Come, Thou Almighty King"**

1. Come, thou almighty King, help us thy name to sing; help us to praise;  
Father all-glorious, o'er all victorious, come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.
2. Come, thou incarnate Word, merciful, mighty Lord; our prayer attend.  
Come and thy people bless, and give thy word success, and let thy  
righteousness on us descend.
3. Come, holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour! Thou who  
almighty art, rule now in ev'ry heart, never from us depart, Spirit of pow'r.
4. To thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be hence evermore! Thy sov'reign  
majesty may we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore.

**\*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.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**P:** This is the day that the Lord has made;

**C: We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

**P:** The Lord is my strength and my song.

**C: The Lord has become my salvation.**

**P:** Open to me the gates of righteousness;

**C: I will go through them and praise the Lord.**

**P:** I shall not die, but live,

**C: and declare the works of the Lord.**

**P:** This is the day that the Lord has made;

**C: We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

**\*SCRIPTURE SONG ELW #857 “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”**

Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises. I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us. You came from heav-en to earth to show the way, from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay, from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky; Lord I lift your name on high.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

**FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31**

<sup>22</sup> Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup> “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

R: The Word of the Lord    **C: Thanks be to God**

**RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 66:8-20**

<sup>8</sup> Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

<sup>9</sup> **Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

<sup>10</sup> For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

<sup>11</sup> **You brought us into the net; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

<sup>12</sup> You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

<sup>13</sup> **I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows—**

<sup>14</sup> those that I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

<sup>15</sup> **I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats.**

<sup>16</sup> Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

<sup>17</sup> **I called out to God with my mouth, and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

<sup>18</sup> If I had cherished evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;

<sup>19</sup> **but in truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

<sup>20</sup> Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me.

### **SECOND READING: I Peter 3:13-22**

<sup>13</sup> Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, <sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup> And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

R: The Word of the Lord    **C: Thanks be to God**

### **\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION, ELW #388 "Be Not Afraid"**

Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia! Be not afraid, sing out for joy!  
Christ is risen, alleluia!

### **\*GOSPEL READING: John 14:15-21**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

P: This is, the Gospel of the Lord    **C: Thanks be to God**

### **MESSAGE:**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #397 “Loving Spirit” (sung to tune #696)**

1. Loving Spirit, loving Spirit, you have chosen me to be  
you have drawn me to your wonder, you have set your sign on me.
2. Like a mother you enfold me, hold my life within your own,  
feed me with your very body, form me of your flesh and bone.
3. Like a father you protect me, teach me the discerning eye,  
hoist me up upon your shoulder, let me see the world from high.
4. Friend and lover, in your closeness I am known and held and blessed:  
in your promise is my comfort, in your presence I may rest.
5. Loving Spirit, loving Spirit, you have chosen me to be—  
you have drawn me to your wonder, you have set your sign on me.

**\*RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

P: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

**C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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 power of 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**

P: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

**C: pray in the Holy Spirit.**

P: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

**C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

P: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**C: Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!**

P: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**C: Amen**

### **\*PEACE**

P: Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

### **OFFERING GATHERED**

#### **\*OFFERING SONG #82 "Oh, How He Loves You and Me"**

Oh, how he loves you and me. Oh, how he loves you and me; he gave his life, what more could he give? Oh, how he loves you; oh, how he loves me; oh, how he loves you and me!

### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Gracious God,

**In the abundance of your steadfast love, you call us from death to life, from silence to speech, from idleness to action. With these gifts we offer ourselves to you, and with the Church through all the ages we give thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

### **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: Merciful God,, **C: receive our prayer.**

### **\*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.**

### **\*BENEDICTION**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✝ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **\*SENDING HYMN TFF #93 "God Sent His Son"**

1. God sent his Son, they called him Jesus; he came to love, heal, and forgive; He lived and died to buy by pardon, an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Refrain

Because he lives I can face tomorrow; because he lives all fear is gone; because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living just because he lives.

2. How sweet to hold a newborn baby; and feel the pride and joy he gives, but greater still the calm assurance this child can face uncertain days because he lives.

Refrain

Because he lives I can face tomorrow; because he lives all fear is gone; because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living just because he lives.

3. And then one day I'll cross the river; I'll fight life's final war with pain; and then as death gives way to vict'ry, I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know he lives.

Refrain

Because he lives I can face tomorrow; because he lives all fear is gone; because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living just because he lives.

**\*DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia! C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Prayer Concerns:** Doug McGuire, Peggy Goettsch, Doug Chapman

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

May 10-16 is **National Nursing Home week** and we would like to do something special for the employees and residents at Tuff Home. We hope to provide cake or cupcakes for the employees and small gift bags for the residents. We are seeking donations of the following things: socks, hard candy, lip balm, nail polish, body spray, lotion, brush, pen and large print word search books. Please consider donating to this cause to brighten up the lives of the residents of Tuff Home for Nursing Home Week. Donations may be left in the narthex.

Join us next Sunday to honor our graduating seniors: Jayden Kueter and Hadley Spath.

There are multiple areas where **volunteers are needed** to assist in worship and help maintain the church property. These include **ushers, communion helpers, lay readers, power point operators, acolytes, and mowers**. Please sign up on the appropriate sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

**Ladies!** Mark your calendars for May 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm. We will meet at Chud's in Larchwood for lunch and then head to the Knoblach Greenhouse to do some browsing and/or buying! Come and enjoy the fellowship at lunch or at the green house! Everyone is welcome. Meet at the church at 12:30 to carpool.

**Tuff Home Country Store** is seeking donations of various items. A collection box can be found in the narthex. Requested items include: lip balm, lipstick, nail polish, body sprays, hair detangler/brush, socks, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hard candies, lotion, large print word searches, and seasonal room decorations.

**Generations Senior Meal Site** is looking for volunteers to assist with serving their scheduled noon meals. If you enjoy visiting with people and serving others, consider becoming a volunteer. There are needs for dishwasher and dining room volunteers...on a regular and/or intermittent basis. Please call Pam at Generations: 507-283-9846 to volunteer or for additional information! Volunteer schedules allow people to select the days they can serve!

**Shetek camp** brochures available in the narthex.

**Help Wanted:** Need someone to help with power point on Sunday morning worship. If interested, please contact Dawn Leenderts. Will train! (507-962-3560)