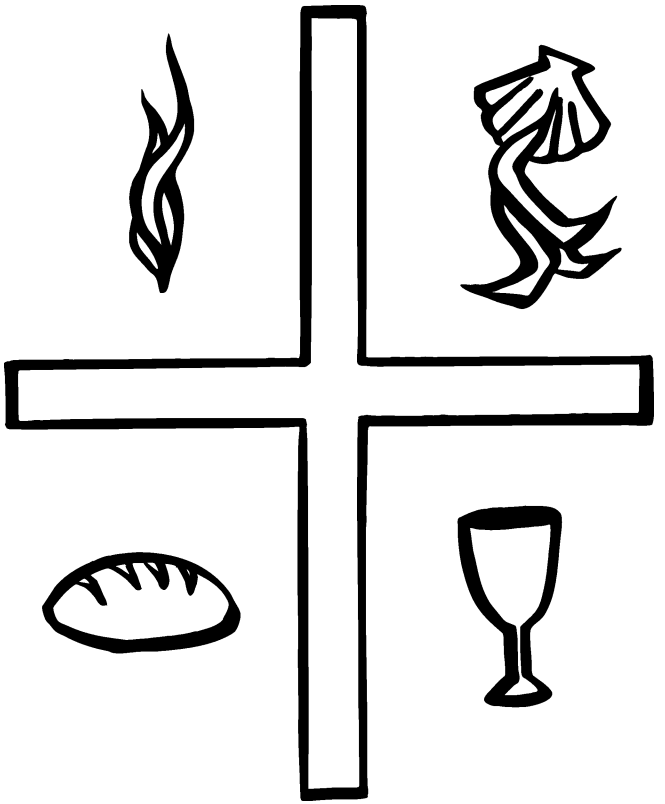


St. Martin's Lutheran Church

203 S. Defiance Street + Archbold, OH 43502
www.the-welcome-place.org

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2026

Seventh Sunday of Easter *May 17, 2026*

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

Regular text is spoken by the Worship Leader
Bold text is spoken by the congregation

THE CHURCH GATHERS

PRELUDE **MARCH ON "FATHER, WE THANK YOU"** *– arr. Wachtman*

BELL & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN** ***"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

(Verse 2 – Women and High Voices only ; Verse 4 – Men and Low Voices only)

vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you
vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?
songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

*Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Rejoicing in the resurrection news, let us confess our sins and seek God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

we confess that we are held captive to doubt and fear, dismissing the resurrection news. We place trust in ourselves and fail to love our sisters and brothers as you have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the abundant life given through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

This is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent Jesus Christ to die for us. *(1st John 4:10)* In the name of Jesus, your sins are forgiven. Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill you with joy, and inspire you to live for others proclaiming the glorious news of Christ's resurrection.

Amen.

*Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

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

And also with you.

*Hymn of Praise

*Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

The Church Listens

First Reading — Acts 1:6-14

6 When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when
you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or
periods that the Father has set 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, in all Judea
and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 9 When he had said this, as they were watching,
he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 While he was going and they
were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11 They
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."

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near
Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. 13 When they had entered the city, they went to
the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew,
Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the
Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14 All these were constantly devoting themselves to
prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his
brothers.

The word of the Lord…**Thanks be to God.**

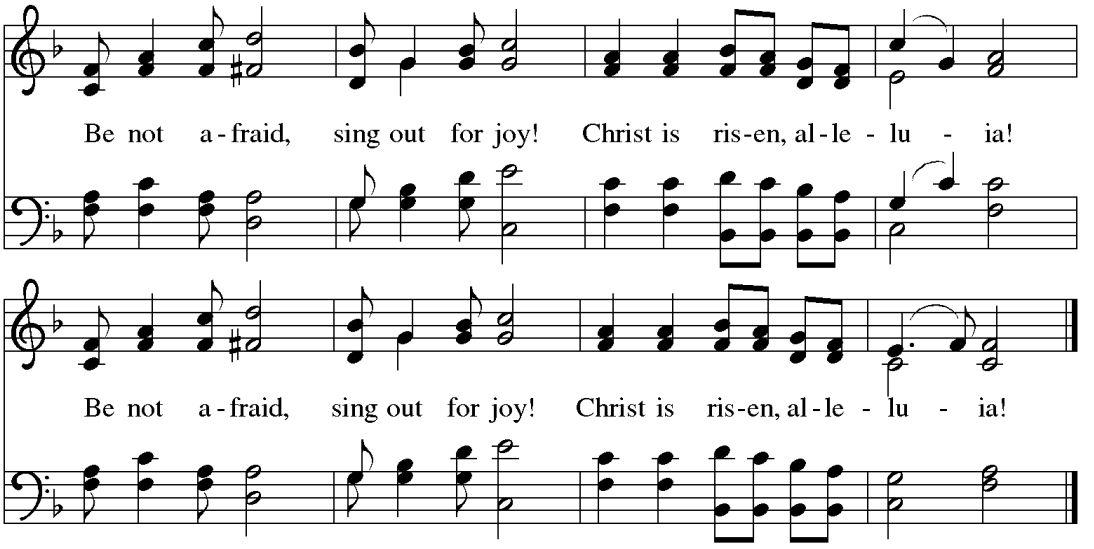
SECOND READING — 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test
you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you are
sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory
is revealed. 14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit
of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt
you in due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. 8 Discipline
yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking
for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers
and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. 10 And after you
have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory
in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. 11 To him be the
power forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord…**Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – *please sing two times*



*HOLY GOSPEL — John 17:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 17th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord!

1 After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and
said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify
you, 2 since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom
you have given him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. 4 I glorified you on earth by finishing the work
that you gave me to do. 5 So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory
that I had in your presence before the world existed.
6 "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They
were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know
that everything you have given me is from you, 8 for the words that you gave to me I
have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from
you, and they have believed that you sent me. 9 I am asking on their behalf; I am not
asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they
are yours. 10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in
them. 11 And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming
to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may
be one, as we are one."

The Gospel of the Lord.

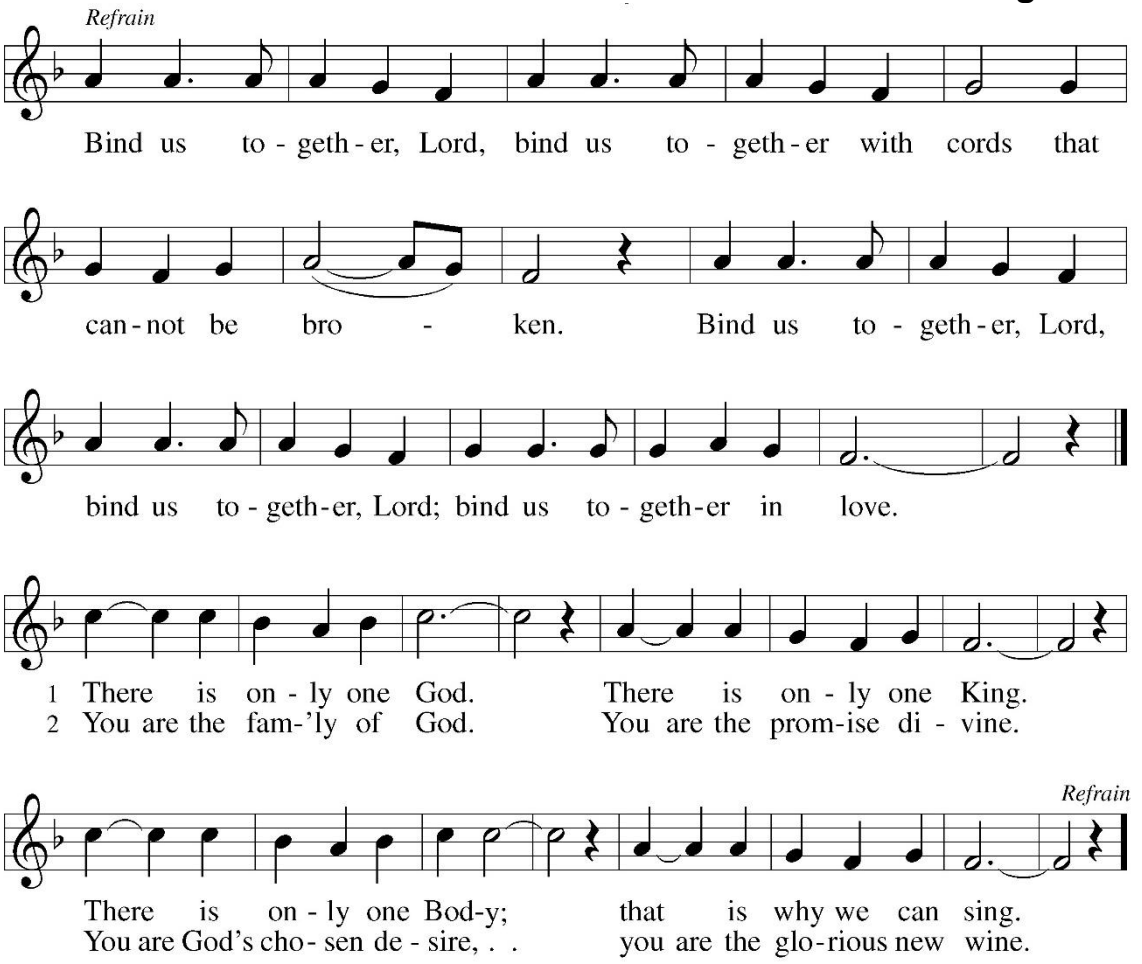
Praise to you, O Christ!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE — PASTOR STEVE

MESSAGE — *"Still Clueless. Still Called."*

THE CHURCH RESPONDS

HYMN OF THE DAY** ***"Bind Us Together"



*PROFESSION OF FAITH – *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 into hell.
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

*Each petition ends…*Lord, in your mercy…**hear our prayer.**

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.
(We greet one another with the words "Peace be with you")

OFFERING SONG

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God,

You are the ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE CHURCH SHARES THE MEAL

*THE THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts!
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

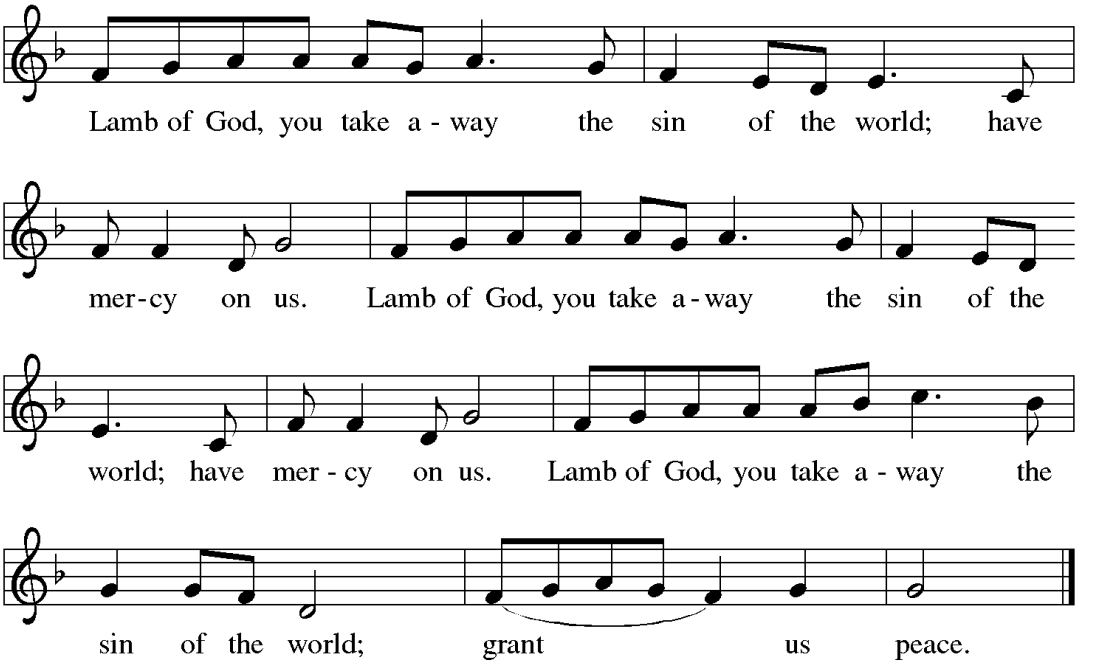
Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

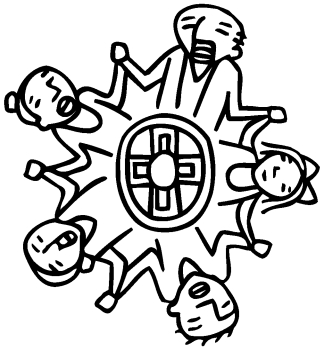
Amen

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

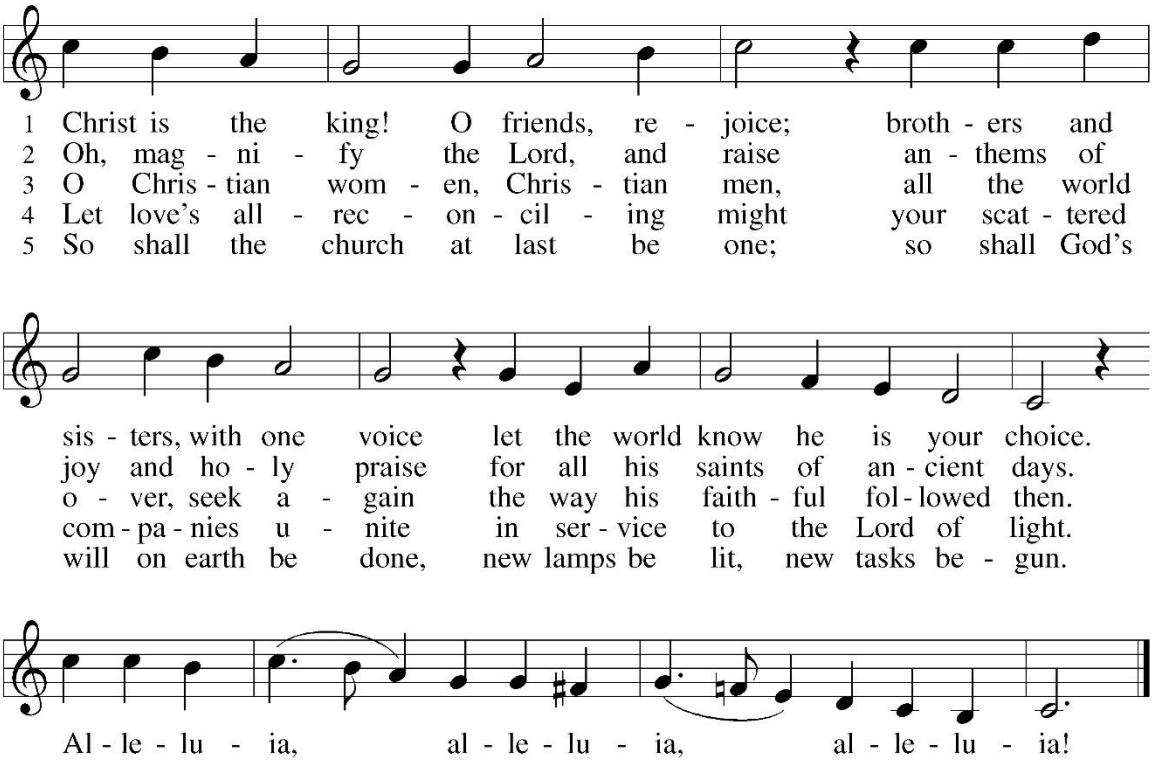
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION *"Lamb of God"*





"Christ is the King"



THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

* BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

*PRAYER

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

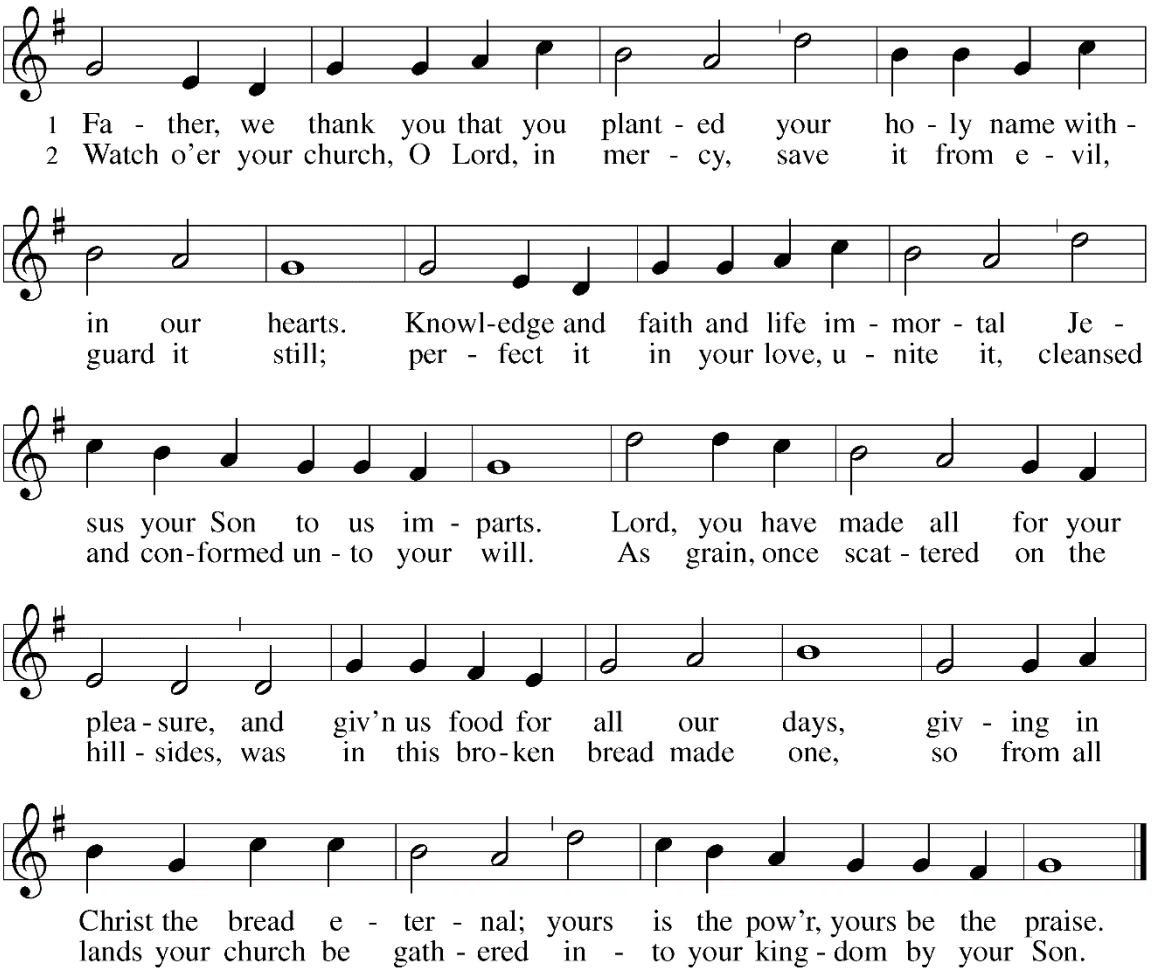
Amen.

* BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine brightly upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

*Closing Hymn *"Father, We Thank You"*



*Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!
Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord!
Thanks be to God!

+*+

Liturgical texts and music for Hymn of Praise, Prayer of the Day and Gospel Acclamation from Evangelical Lutheran Worship ©2006 Augsburg Fortress Publishers

St. Martin's Worship Servants . . .

Organist	-Matthew Wachtman
Lector	-Jake Keil
Usher Team Leader	-Mark Weaver
Sound System	-Cameron Thompson
Altar Guild	-Peg Bjorlin & Michelle Collins
Offering Counters	-Darren Sonnenberg & Jo Ann Liechty

The St. Martin's Webstore has some new items as of 5/6/2026! If you would like to order some apparel you can go to https://stmartinsarchbold.itemorder.com, click the link in your Friday email.

We are looking for people who would like to **provide the Wednesday Night meals**. Erinn Thompson is organizing this, so you can contact her if you would like to help. You can also scan the QR code provided or click the link in your Friday email to sign up!

Spring Cleaning? Puzzles, fidgets, simple games? If those items happen to be in that cleaning out process, please consider donating them to the new ***After School Tutoring*** *(AST)* ministry here at St. Martin's. Simply put those items on a table in the Fellowship Hall and label them ***AST*** and we'll make good use of them. *You are appreciated!*

Graduation Bibles & Gifts: The table in the entryway with Bibles is available for you to highlight meaningful verses and add notes of encouragement using the provided pens and sticky notes. These Bibles will be given to each graduate as a reminder of your support and prayers. There will also be designated baskets for each student where you can drop off gifts or items they may need as they continue their education or enter the workforce. **Graduation Recognition** will be next Sunday, May 24. We have five high school graduates this year: Drew Michael Bailey, Autumn Kaylynn Benecke, Jackson Robert Delaney, Charlee Nichole Forward, Miley Gene Gericke, & Jadelynn Lou Whitacre

May Concert Series is TODAY at 3pm… These are the songs you already know and love. On our St. Martin's Concert Series, Dreams and Delights is all about great tunes—from Over the Rainbow and Memory to You'll Never Walk Alone and What a Wonderful World. It's a mix of show tunes, familiar classics, and a few surprises, all centered around themes of dreams, struggle, and joy. Nothing heavy or hard to follow, just memorable melodies and music that speak for itself. Mezzo-soprano Lisa van der Ploeg brings warmth, personality, and a beautiful voice to these favorites. With a background in classical voice study and a career that has taken her to opera stages and concert halls across the U.S., she brings both polish and approachability to this music.

We are looking for several people who would be interested in being part of an usher team. Each team only ushers every five months and usually once or twice during that month. If you would be interested in considering doing this or have any questions, please reach out to Jim or Janet Wyse.

This Week at St. Martin's

TODAY- Sunday – May 17
Worship, 9am
May Concert Series-Dreams & Delights, 3pm

Tuesday – May 19
Men's Breakfast, 7am @ McDonald's
Newsletter Deadline, 9am

Wednesday- May 20
Welcome Place Meal, 5:15pm
Worship, 6pm

Thursday- May 21
Women's Breakfast, 7am @ The Home Restaurant
Bulletin Deadline, 8am

Saturday-May23
Whitacre Graduation in Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday – May 24-Graduation Recognition
Worship, 9am
Thompson Family Event in Fellowship Hall

St. Martin's Lutheran Church

203 S. Defiance Street Archbold OH 43502
Phone Number: 419-445-4656
Web Site: www.the-welcome-place.org
Email: stmartin@the-welcome-place.org

Office Hours:

Pastor Steve Basselman
steveb@the-welcome-place.org
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. morning
Tues, Wed, Thurs, afternoon
Cell Phone: 419-572-6091

Matthew Wachtman, Music & Worship
matthew@the-welcome-place.org
Mon, Tues, Thurs. All Day
Wed. PM

Jake Keil, **Youth**
jakek@the-welcome-place.org
Sun, Tues, Thurs. morning
Mon, Tues, Wed. afternoon & Sunday PM

Whitney Wyse, Office Manager
stmartin@the-welcome-place.org
Tues. AM & Fri. AM

Worship Services: 9:00 am each Sunday, live broadcast on Facebook
6:00 pm each Wednesday, Informal Service

We welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. – Romans 15:7

Online Giving - Mobile Access

Mobile users can now access the giving page to set up recurring donations or make one-time donations directly from phones using this QR code.
To change or delete recurring donations you will still need to go to: **https://givingtools.com** and sign in to your account.

Last Week at St. Martin's. . .
Week of 5/10/2026 Budget and Year to Date

Operating Contributions	$5,744.57	Budgeted Weekly Operating Need	$7,848.00
Other Designated Income	$817.00		
Total Income	$6,561.57	**AS OF 4/30/2026**	
		YTD Operating Received	$114,686.69
		YTD Operating Expenses	($136,727.17)
Worship: Sun/Wed/Total	150/22/172	Net Income/(Deficit)	$(22,040.48)

St. Martin's Prayer Line

For our prayers in worship this morning and our daily devotions in the coming week, we remember:

- The Bethel Parish of Dodoma, Tanzania, and Mission Partner Congregation of Redeemer, Toledo, may they continue to carry out God's ministry in their areas of mission.
- Those caught in the fighting between Israel and Palestine, the Ukraine, Iran; those recovering from natural disasters and the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief and other relief agencies.
- Family and Friends of Ruth Lange, Pam Meyers mother, whose funeral is at Zion Mennonite tomorrow.

For those who need healing, may they know the healing hand of God:

Bob Alley, Louise Beldon's brother-in-law, health concerns
Tim Anderson, Bjorlin cousin, cancer
Bonnie Badenhop, pancreatic cancer
Beverly Bettison, friend of Angie Avers, health concerns
Jeff Cook, Ann Ott's son
Jan Delaney, surgery
Jodi Downey, sister of Mark Weaver, health concerns
Jim Hayes, brother of June Hayes, health concerns
Jeanise Hoeffel, Jane Sonnenberg's sister
Jayne Jewell, Diana Ziegler's cousin
Shelly Kammeyer, daughter in law of Sharon Blair, Leukemia
Colleen Kelly
Sue Keil, Jake's mom
Bill Knause, Jess Short's father, health issues
Bonnie R. Lauber
Ann Ott
Dorothy Gifford, Diane Parsons' sister, cancer
Conrad and Karen Perry, Andi Erbskorn's brother and sister-in-law
Bill Phelps
Peg Roth
Eric and Susan Rupp, Greg Rupp's brother and sister-in-law, health concerns
Deb Schnitkey, friend of Deb & Stan Schmidt
Mary Schwartz, Dianne Parsons' sister
Trent Sholl, son of Marilyn Sholl, health concerns
Al & Lois Siewert
Joan Smith
Brad Welsh, brother-in-law of John & Chris Shafer, cancer
Joyce Winzeler
Paul Wyse, health concerns
Joe Wyse
Homebound – Milla Kohv, Jerry & Alice Geiger

For those who need God's protection and the assurance of God's presence:
All members, family & friends who serve in our military: Patrick Cirenza (June Hayes), Bradly & Victoria Nilsson, Kennedy Hartung, Brendon Johns

Any prayer requests to add or remove can be sent to the Church Office by Thursday of each week: stmartin@the-welcome-place.org **We include a person's name and details only with their permission.**

Hello St. Martin's Family,

Wednesday, May 13, marked the last day of the newest children's ministry program, After School Tutoring. This was a short year, but the students served and the volunteers made it a God inspired time.

The program ended successfully, with students traveling from station to station in the Fellowship Hall. The stations included: Cupcake decorating – one to eat right away, and one to take home; Make a card – student's pictures were taken when they arrived and then the picture was put in a small binder with them also creating a card or decorated paper to put in the folder; Flower planting – clay pots with Marigolds were planted (students just got a "little" dirty); Paper airplanes – airplanes were made and then a competition took place from the church's balcony to see whose plane flew the farthest; Yahtzee or Floor checkers – a hit with students who had no clue as to what Yahtzee was☹; Clay Creations – students received their own bag of different colored clay and were able to be creative; Magnetic stones – metal cookie sheets made this a fun activity to just watch the stones stick; Speed Reading – easy to difficult books were piled on the table and students were challenged to read as fast as they could to beat the timer; Extra Time Table – anything from coloring a wooden bird house to making bookmarks, playing with Bakuman creatures, coloring animal masks to wear, (you get the idea) when they finished other stations early.

Each session was timed for 7 minutes. When the timer rang, students and their adult moved to the next station. There were 9 stations in total, and students were given tickets along the way for good behavior, following directions, manners (please and thank you, etc.), moving along without lingering, being kind…15 tickets were available for the students to achieve for the evening. Fortunately (by some crazy luck), each student gained their 15 tickets. Those tickets then were able to purchase one of any 15 prizes from the prize table. There were 6 of each prize coincidentally☺.

After all of that, students were taken to the basement to eat their supper together and watch a short video before joining Jake K. for Kids Club.

It was a fun filled evening. A huge thank you to: Maggie Short who baked and ran the cupcake decorating table, and Mary Cooan (both are Angie's sisters) who was the paper airplane instructor. Also a huge thanks to Jake K for his picture taking and picking up and dropping off students for the AST time each week. Thank you to **ALL** the volunteers who made this year a success: Susan Short, Cindy Krueger, Chris Ziegler, Jackie Schnitkey, Gwen Grisier, Janet Wyse, Dana Bjorlin, Mark Weaver, and Yanira Reyes for their willingness to be a part of this ministry in its infancy. Thank you St. Martin's family for your continued support of children in this community. You are a blessing and God is at work, "let the children come."

Together in Christ,
Angie Avers