St. Martin's Lutheran Church
Archbold, Ohio

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost - Sunday, July 5, 2026
Summer Sermon Series – The Questions God Asks

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

THE CHURCH GATHERS

PRELUDE **"O BEAUTIFUL FOR SPACIOUS SKIES"**
-arr. Raney

BELL & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, source of hope in every nation, rest for the weary, glory and peace to the ends of the earth. We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God, and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of all mercy,
we have sinned against you, our neighbors, and your creation.
Within ourselves and our communities, our desire to do what is good is at war with the evil that dwells in us.
We mourn the evil that holds us captive.
We repent of the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.
Rescue us and forgive us.
Renew us as citizens of your kingdom, and restore us for lives of compassion, courage, and service through our Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.

All-merciful, Almighty God forgives us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, and may the Spirit's power strengthen us in doing what is good.
Amen.

*OPENING HYMN — *"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"*

(Please sing unison on Verse 3)

*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *(2 Corinthians 13:13)*

And also with you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE *"THIS IS THE FEAST"*

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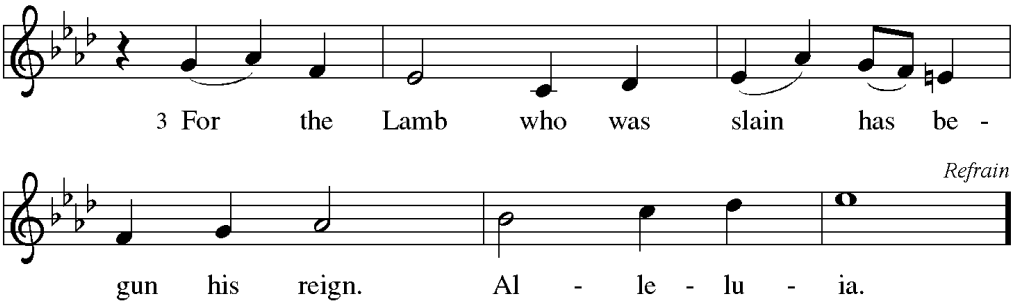


*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

THE CHURCH LISTENS

PSALMODY — Psalm 71 *(Selected Verses)*

1 In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
2 In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;
incline your ear to me and save me.
3 Be to me a rock of refuge,
a strong fortress to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.

17 O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.
18 So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,
until I proclaim your might to all the generations to come.
Your power 19 and your righteousness, O God,
reach the high heavens.
You who have done great things,
O God, who is like you?

20 You who have made me see many troubles and calamities
will revive me again;
from the depths of the earth
you will bring me up again.
21 You will increase my honor
and comfort me once again.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

OLD TESTAMENT READING — Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Lord took hold of me, and I was carried away by the Spirit of the Lord to a valley filled with bones. 2 He led me all around among the bones that covered the valley floor. They were scattered everywhere across the ground and were completely dried out. 3 Then he asked me, "Mortal, can these bones become living people again?"

"O Sovereign Lord," I replied, "you alone know the answer to that."

4 Then he said to me, "Speak a prophetic message to these bones and say, 'Dry bones, listen to the word of the Lord! 5 This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Look! I am going to put breath into you and make you live again! 6 I will put flesh and muscles on you and cover you with skin. I will put breath into you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'"

7 So I spoke this message, just as he told me. Suddenly as I spoke, there was a rattling noise all across the valley. The bones of each body came together and attached themselves as complete skeletons. 8 Then as I watched, muscles and flesh formed over the bones. Then skin formed to cover their bodies, but they still had no breath in them.

9 Then he said to me, "Speak a prophetic message to the winds, son of man. Speak a prophetic message and say, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, O breath, from the four winds! Breathe into these dead bodies so they may live again.'"

10 So I spoke the message as he commanded me, and breath came into their bodies. They all came to life and stood up on their feet—a great army.

11 Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones represent the people of Israel. They are saying, 'We have become old, dry bones—all hope is gone. Our nation is finished.' 12 Therefore, prophesy to them and say, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: O my people, I will open your graves of exile and cause you to rise again. Then I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13 When this happens, O my people, you will know that I am the Lord. 14 I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live again and return home to your own land. Then you will know that I, the Lord, have spoken, and I have done what I said. Yes, the Lord has spoken!'"

New Living Translation

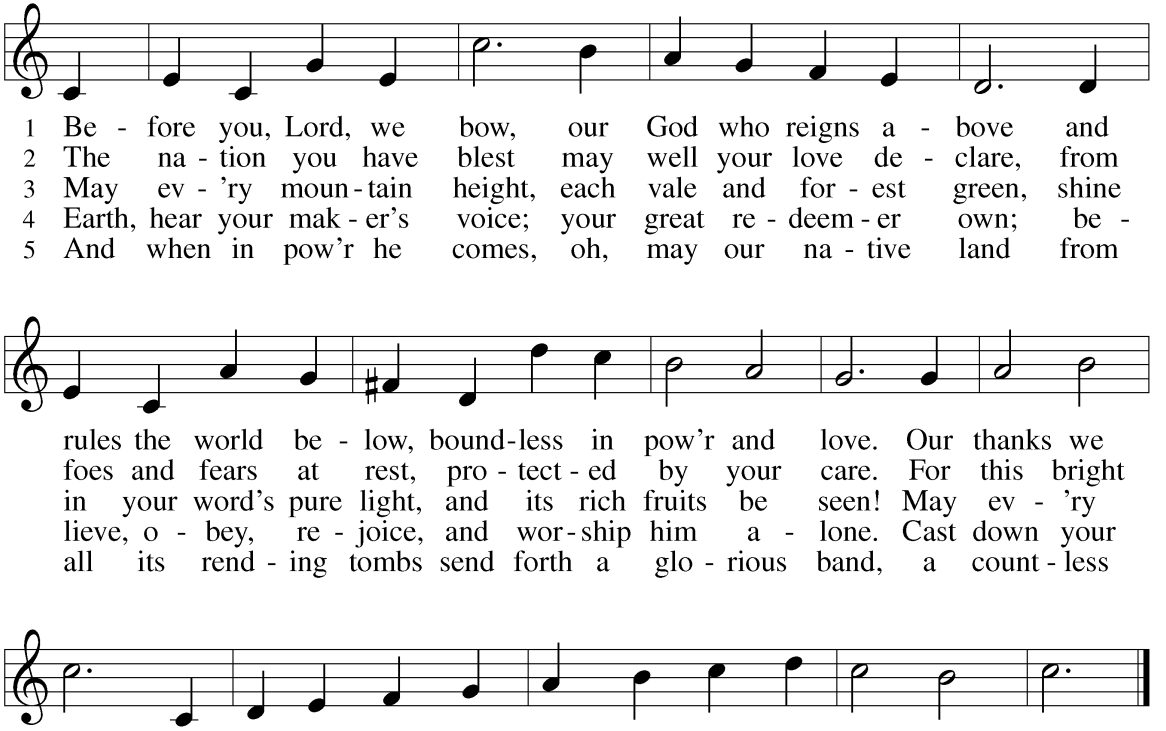
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE — THE QUESTIONS GOD ASKS: "CAN THESE BONES LIVE?"

THE CHURCH RESPONDS

HYMN OF THE DAY** ***"Before You, Lord, We Bow"

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



***PROFESSION OF FAITH** – *Apostles Creed and St. Martin's Mission Statement*

As the people of God building a welcome place, we confess the faith of the Church as the values by which we live, the faith in which we welcome all people, the faith in which we baptize.

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

As a church commanded by our Lord to make disciples of all nations, we confess our mission according to the Word of God. Called to make disciples, we are

Welcoming friends and strangers with God's love.

Called to teach all that our Lord commanded, we are

Working to build deeper relationships with Jesus.

Called to go out to serve all nations, we are

Witnessing to share God's love with everyone

As a church led by the biblical vision that we should all be united by our faith and understanding of the Son of God, to become mature, and completely like Jesus *(Ephesians 4:11-13),* we affirm God's vision for us.

We shall be people serving one real God, living one real faith, making one real difference.

Together we have made profession of this vision grounded in the faith of the Church. In building a welcome place, we pray for the gifts of the Spirit upon us all.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Amen. *(Galatians 5:22-23)*

*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

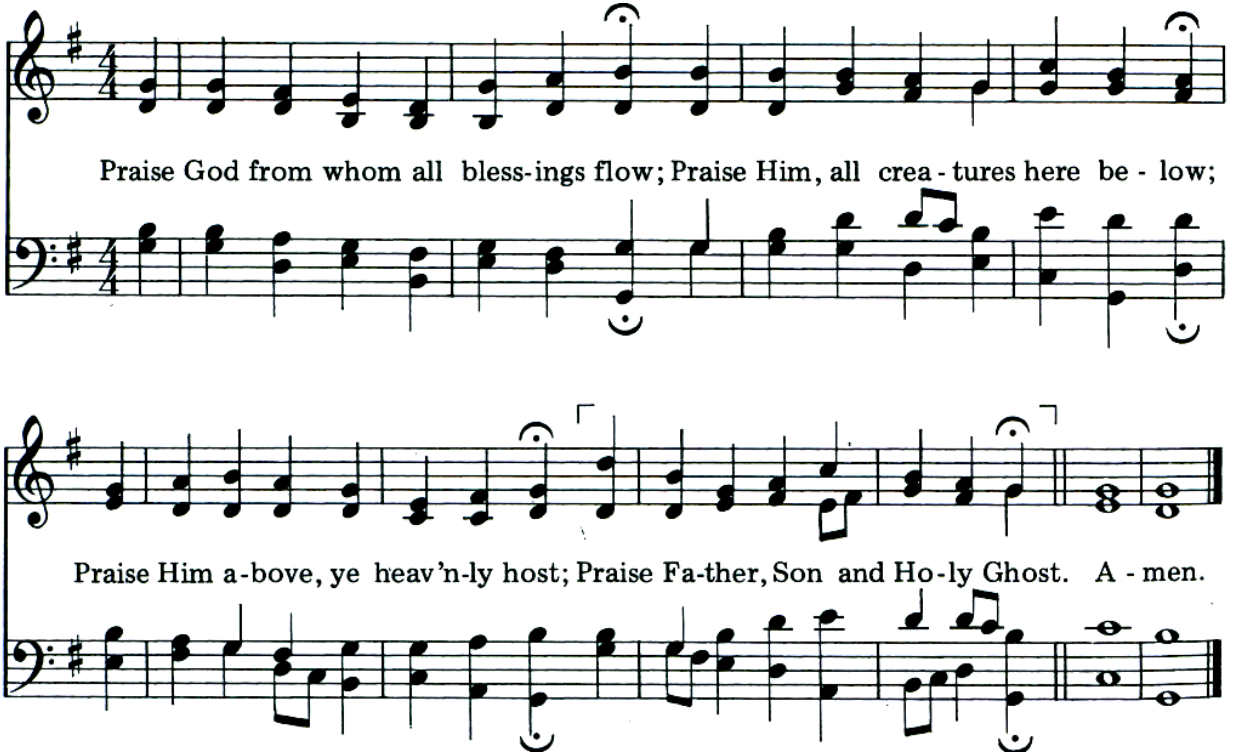
(We greet one another with the words "Peace be with you")

OFFERING OF GIFTS

"Dry Bones"
Arr. Moore

*OFFERTORY *"The Doxology"*

(Please sing in Unison)



*OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God,

for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vines and winepresses, for our labor and our rest, for the gifts of your hand in this land. Transform us and what we offer into the banquet of your compassion, serving your love without limits through Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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. *(Lamentations 3:41)*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise. *(2 Thessalonians 1:3)*

*Eucharistic Prayer

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,
but guided us into the path of love and light.
In every age you sent prophets
to make known your loving will for all humanity.
The cry of the poor has become your own cry;
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.
In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant
to preach good news to the afflicted,
to break bread with the outcast and despised,
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 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.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we await the day when Jesus shall return
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.
Amen.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.
Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

Amen.

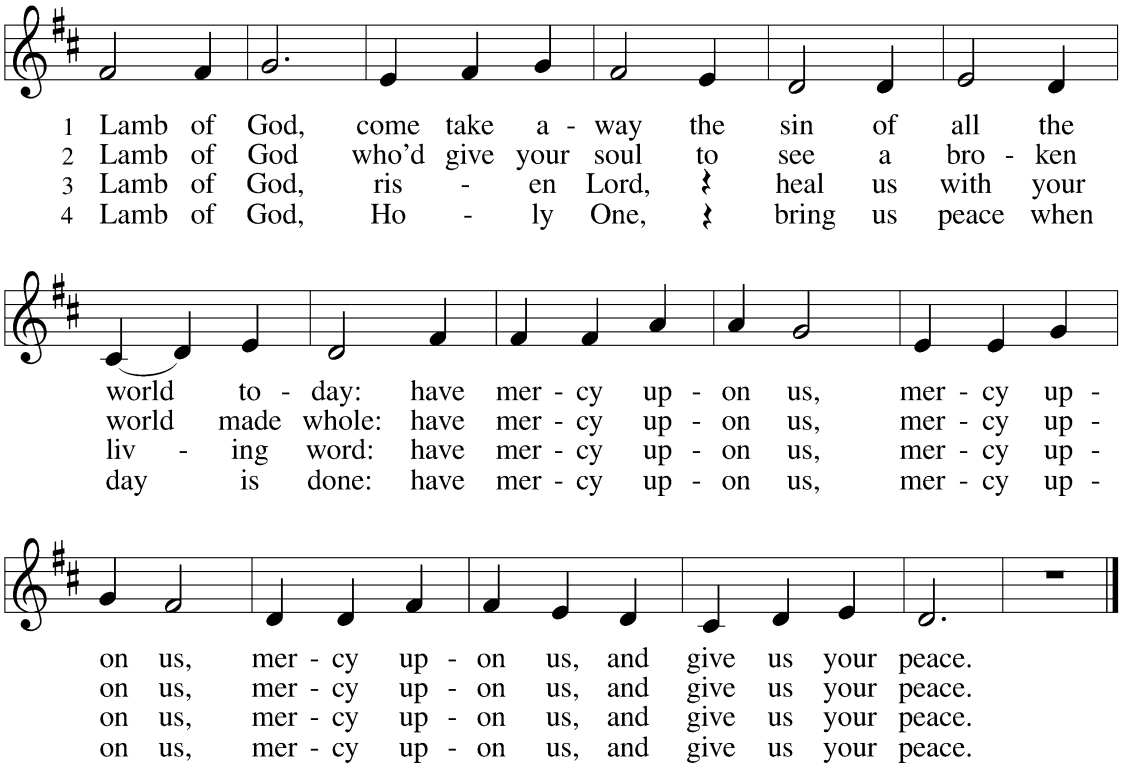
Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age,
that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.
Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

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"*



"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

"In Christ There is No East or West" ***LBW 359*** *(Green Hymnal)*

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

*Post-communion Prayer

We thank you, God of heaven and earth, that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us. Pour us out into a broken world. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads us now and forever.

Amen.

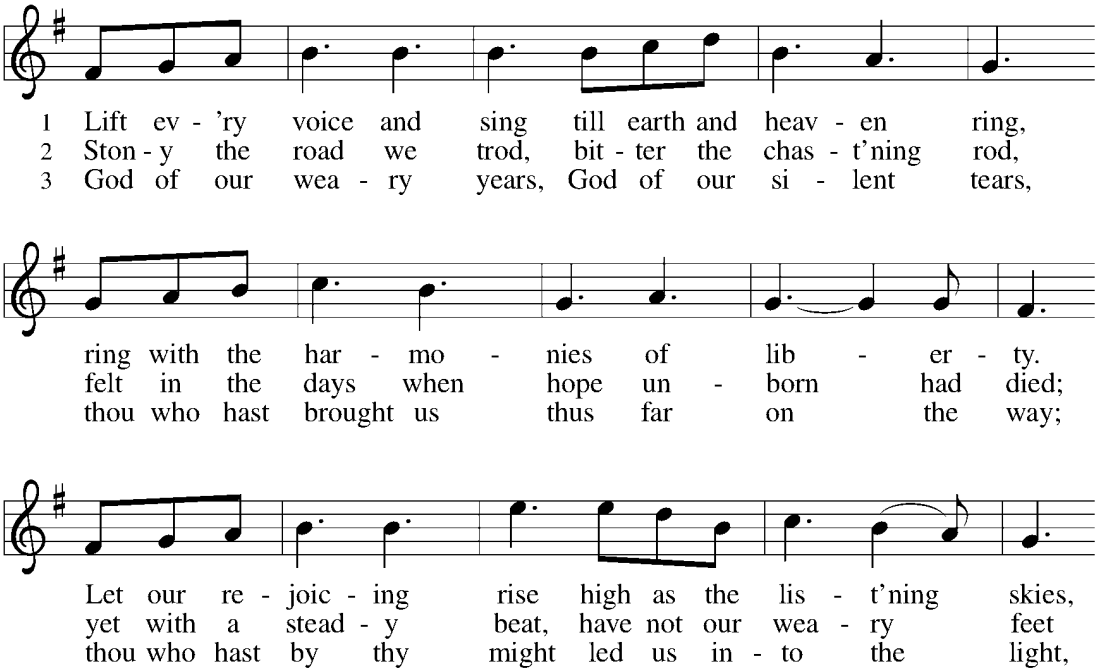
* Benediction

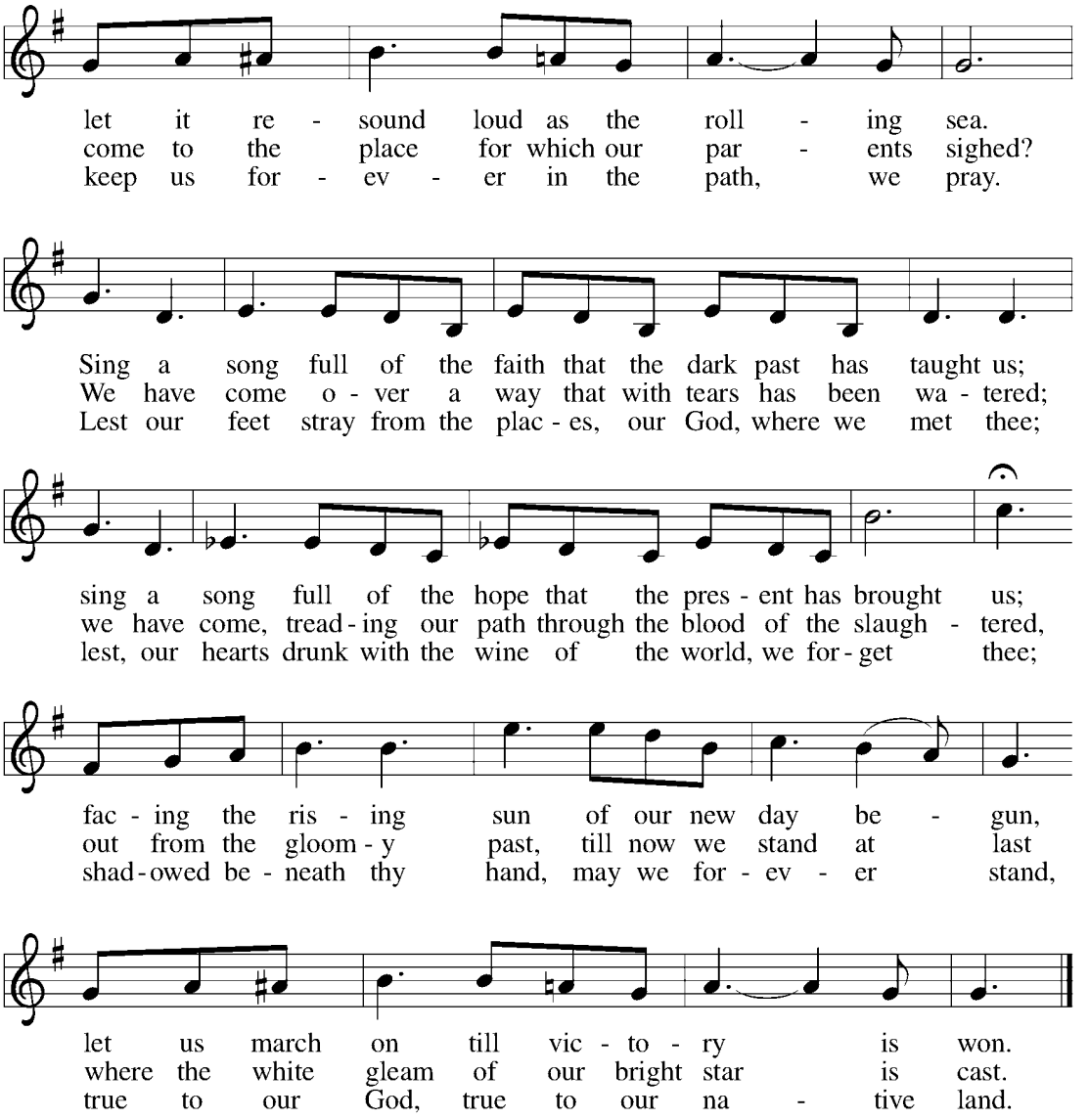
May the God who breathed life into creation be our joy.
May Christ Jesus give hope to our dreaming,
and may the Holy Spirit, set our hearts ablaze.

The blessing of the living God; Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, sustain us in our ministry now and always.

Amen

*Closing Hymn *"Lift Every Voice and Sing"*





*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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Worship Matters

The 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence invites both gratitude and reflection. While the church rarely observes civic holidays within its liturgy, this milestone offers an opportunity to pray for our nation in light of our faith. Today's worship is directed to God alone. Throughout the service, we give thanks for the blessings of freedom, confess the ways we have fallen short of God's vision for justice and peace, and pray for God's mercy and guidance for all people.

In keeping with the witness of the ELCA, we gather not as citizens of one nation but as members of the body of Christ. Within our prayers, hymns, and Scripture, may we be drawn beyond partisan identity and into the greater calling of God's kingdom—a kingdom of justice, reconciliation, and peace for the life of the world.

Our opening hymn, "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies" was born in the late 19th century as a poem by Katharine Lee Bates, inspired by her travels and the vast, awe-inspiring landscapes. It was never intended to be a patriotic anthem but a humble prayer for God's grace—asking for a nation, and indeed all people, to be guided by divine mercy. We reflect on how this prayer calls us beyond borders, inviting God's blessing on every heart, every land, and all of humanity.

St. Martin's Worship Servants . . .

Organist	-Matthew Wachtman
Usher Team Leader	-Ziegler Family
Sound System	-Bill Phelps
Altar Guild	-Joan Meyer & Janet Wyse
Offering Counters	-Jan Delaney & 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!

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.

Volunteers needed! If you can thread a needle, and tie a knot, you are qualified! The sewing group is looking for more volunteers to help knot quilts. Our numbers have dwindled, and although we have done about 100 quilts for Lutheran World Relief, we need more people to do the knotting as we start our Christmas Cheer quilts in June. Teachers, high schoolers, college students, moms and even dads, who are "home" for the summer, please give us some of your time. Our sewing group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, so in June that is June 9th and 23rd. We start at 9:00 a.m. and are done by noon. You can even come late and leave early to fit into your schedule. Come help us Do God's Work with Your Hands!

Local Ministry Opportunity – the Friendship House, our community's homeless shelter, is seeking a faith-based live-in House Mom or House Parents to provide friendship and guidance to those who have come to start over. Grit and Grace the two most important qualifications. The new addition offers a private first-floor room and bath. No-cost housing a perk. Candidate could be employed outside the home, but needs to be home for most evening meals and healthy early- evening interaction. (Volunteers available for days away) Is God calling you or someone you know to explore this opportunity further? If so contact Cecily Rohrs at 419-572-9530.

The Welcome Place Support Group meets this Tuesday, July 7, at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall. The speaker is Alex Munger, a Liscensed Massage Therapist, who will be speaking about massage therapy and its benefits.

This Week at St. Martin's

TODAY- Sunday – July 5
Worship, 9am

Tuesday – July 7
Men's Breakfast, 7am @ McDonald's
Parkinson's Group, 1pm

Wednesday- July 8
Connect Play Café-Kids Event, 9:15am
Welcome Place Meal, 5:15pm
Worship, 6pm

Thursday- July 9
Women's Breakfast, 7am @ The Home Restaurant
Bulletin Deadline, 8am
Church Council, 7pm

Next Sunday – July 12
Worship, 9am

Summer Sunday Sermon Series: The Questions God Asks

6/21 Where are you? - Genesis 3:9
6/28 Where were you when I laid the earth's foundations? - Job 38:4
7/5 Can these bones live? - Ezekiel 37:3
7/12 What do you want me to do for you? - Mark 10:51
7/19 Which of these was a neighbor? - Luke 10:36
7/26 Do you love me? - John 21:15

St. Martin's Lutheran Church

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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 6/28/2026 Budget and Year to Date

Operating Contributions	$3,875.56	Budgeted Weekly Operating Need	$7,848.00
Other Designated Income	$559.00		
Total Income	$4,434.56	**AS OF 5/31/2026**	
		YTD Operating Received	$144,789.39
		YTD Operating Expenses	($172,246.89)
Worship: Sun/Wed/Total	100/20/120	Net Income/(Deficit)	$(27,457.50)

Archbold Community VBS updates:

We are excited for this year's VBS - Sunday, July 19 - Thursday, July 23rd, 6:30-8:30pm at Zion Mennonite Church! St. Martin's is partnering with Zion and Peace Mennonite and Archbold United Methodist again this year!

In addition to registering your children/grandchildren for VBS, here are more ways you can get involved:

Volunteer Sign Up: Are you available to serve as a leader or a helper with one of the activity rotations at VBS? Would you like to serve as Shepherd and lead a group of children from one rotation to another? Set up crew? Clean up crew? There is a link in the Friday email to sign up.

Yard Games Needed: Do you have yard games that you'd be willing to loan to the Archbold Community VBS this summer? The last evening of VBS has traditionally been Family Night, in which the children bring along their parent(s), grandparent(s), and sibling(s) to enjoy a fun evening together. This year, Family Night will be Thursday evening, July 23rd. Following a short program in the sanctuary, we'll head outside (or use space inside, if rain) for some fun, snacks, and games. We'd love to be able to use a few sets of corn hole, ladder golf, giant Connect Four, or whatever other yard games you have. We'd also love for you to be present to help explain how to use your game, and to take it home at the end of the evening. If you have something to loan, let us know at: archboldcommunityvbs@gmail.com

Crafty People Needed: We are looking for folks to make some giant Lego blocks out of cardboard boxes (any size). These will be for decor only, and do not need to 'fit together' like actual plastic bricks. One idea would be to tape boxes shut, and then either spray paint, or wrap the boxes like a gift with a plain colored plastic tablecloth. (Like what you'd find at a party store or dollar store. You may need to wrap it in plain white paper first to hide any lettering on the box). To complete the Lego, attach some small paper plates on one side in the same color as the box. If you are willing to make a few of these, any color, contact us at: archboldcommunityvbs@gmail.com

Paper registration forms are available in the Entrance.

Archbold VBS COMMUNITY

July 19-23
6:30-8:30pm

Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches." (John 15:5) Come learn about connecting to Jesus and to one another through Bible stories, music, art and science fun, and games!

Age 4 through Grade 5

HOST: ZION MENNONITE

300 Short-Buehrer Rd.
Archbold

Questions?
archboldcommunityvbs@gmail.com
Click the QR code to register.

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.

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
Laurie Fetzer, Greg Rupp's niece
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
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

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 <u>only</u> with their permission.**