

✠ The Last Sunday of the Church Year ✠
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
November 25, 26 & 29, 2023

WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME

WELCOME to our guests and members as we gather for worship today! **Please place your names in our red "Record of Fellowship" books.** Also, please give attention to the written "News and Notes".

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Almighty, everlasting God, You gave Your only Son to be a High Priest of good things to come. Grant unto us, Your unworthy servants, to have our share in the company of the blessed for all eternity; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

WORSHIP NOTES

When the crucified and risen Lord Jesus comes to judge the living and the dead, "he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats" (Matt. 25:32). "To those on his right," who have been crucified and raised with Him through repentance and faith in His Gospel, He will grant the blessed kingdom of His Father (Matt. 25:34). Having been justified by His grace, they live unto righteousness in Him (Matt. 25:35-40). But "those on his left," who trust in themselves and despise their neighbor, will depart "into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matt. 25:41). Until that day, the Lord searches for His sheep "as a shepherd seeks out his flock" (Ezek. 34:11-12). Through His preaching of repentance, He disciplines the proud sheep and goats, "the fat and the strong," but through the preaching of forgiveness He rescues the lost, binds up the injured, strengthens the weak and feeds "the lean sheep" (Ezek. 34:16, 20). In this way, He destroys the power of death in the children of Adam by His cross, so that "in Christ shall all be made alive" by His resurrection (1 Cor. 15:20-26).

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

671 Sing with All the Saints in Glory

- 1 Sing with all the saints in glory,
Sing the resurrection song!
Death and sorrow, earth's dark story,
To the former days belong.

All around the clouds are breaking;
Soon the storms of time shall cease;
In God's likeness we awaken,
Knowing everlasting peace.

- 2 Oh, what glory, far exceeding
All that eye has yet perceived!
Holiest hearts for ages pleading
Never that full joy conceived.
God has promised, Christ prepares it;
There on high our welcome waits.
Ev'ry humble spirit shares it,
Christ has passed the eternal gates.

- 3 Life eternal! Heav'n rejoices:
Jesus lives who once was dead.
Shout with joy, O deathless voices!
Child of God, lift up your head!
Life eternal! Oh, what wonders
Crowd on faith; what joy unknown,
When, amid earth's closing thunders,
Saints shall stand before the throne!

Text: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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.**

☩ Service of the Word ☩

Introit

Psalm 39:4-5a, 7-8, 12; antiphon: 2 Peter 3:13

P In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

C **O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am!**

P Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you.

C **And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?
My hope is in you.**

P Deliver me from all my transgressions.
Do not make me the scorn of the fool!

C **Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace at my tears!**

P For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers.

ALL **Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

ALL **In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to
a new heaven and a new earth, the home of
righteousness.**

Kyrie

LSB 152

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

LSB 155

- 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.
 Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24

¹¹“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹²As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. . . .

²⁰“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, ²²I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:20–28

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For as by a man

came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. ²⁸When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

C **Alleluia.**

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:31–46

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

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

³¹[Jesus said:] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰And the King will

answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

⁴¹"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

⁴²For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Offering (10:30)

532 The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns

- 1 The Head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now;
A royal diadem adorns
The mighty Victor's brow.
- 2 The highest place that heav'n affords
Is His, is His by right,
The King of kings and Lord of lords,
And heav'n's eternal Light;
- 3 The Joy of all who dwell above,
The Joy of all below
To whom He manifests His love
And grants His name to know.
- 4 To them the cross, with all its shame,
With all its grace, is giv'n;
Their name an everlasting name,
Their joy the joy of heav'n.
- 5 They suffer with their Lord below,
They reign with Him above,

Their profit and their joy to know
The myst'ry of His love.

- 6 The cross He bore is life and health,
Though shame and death to Him:
His people's hope, His people's wealth,
Their everlasting theme.

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Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed

- C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Sit

Offering (5:30 & 8:00)

Stand

☩ Service of the Sacrament ☩

Preface

LSB 160

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, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. 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

LSB 161

C **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

LSB 161

P 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.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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 Words of Our Lord

P 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."

Pax Domini

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

C 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.

Sit

Distribution

If you desire to commune, please speak to one of the pastors before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are members of our congregation or sister congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and are not under church discipline in another congregation.

Please note that “gluten free” communion wafers are available for those who need them. Please tell the Communion Assistant “gluten free” when he approaches you at the Communion Rail. Also, for those who desire, highly diluted wine is available in individual cups (one drop of wine in the cup of water). Please tell the Communion Assistant “clear” when he approaches you at the Communion Rail.

Distribution Hymns

626 Come, Let Us Eat

- 1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
 Our Lord’s body let us take together,
 Our Lord’s body let us take together.
- 2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
 Jesus’ blood poured let us drink together,
 Jesus’ blood poured let us drink together.
- 3 In His presence now we meet and rest,
 In His presence now we meet and rest.
 In the presence of our Lord we gather,
 In the presence of our Lord we gather.
- 4 Rise, then, to spread abroad God’s mighty Word,
 Rise, then, to spread abroad God’s mighty Word.
 Jesus risen will bring in the Kingdom,
 Jesus risen will bring in the Kingdom.

Text (sts. 1–3): tr. Margaret D. Miller, 1927, alt.; (sts. 1–3): Billema Kwillia, 1925; (st. 4): Gilbert E. Doan, 1930, alt.

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902 Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, be present now;
 Our hearts in true devotion bow.
 Your Spirit send with light divine,
 And let Your truth within us shine.
- 2 Unseal our lips to sing Your praise
 In endless hymns through all our days.

Increase our faith and light our minds;
And set us free from doubt that blinds.

- 3 Then shall we join the hosts that cry,
"O holy, holy Lord Most High!"
And in the light of that blest place
We then shall see You face to face.

Stand

- 4 All glory to the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise throughout eternity!

Text: Public domain

625 Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,
May I in grace possess You.
Let me with holy food be fed,
In hunger I address You.
Prepare me well for You, O Lord,
And, humbly by my prayer implored,
Give me Your grace and mercy.
- 2 To pastures green, Lord, safely guide,
To restful waters lead me;
Your table well for me provide,
Your wounded hand now feed me.
Though weary, sinful, sick, and weak,
Refuge in You alone I seek,
To share Your cup of healing.
- 3 O bread of heav'n, my soul's delight,
For full and free remission
I come with prayer before Your sight
In sorrow and contrition.
Your righteousness, Lord, cover me
That I receive You worthily,
Assured of Your full pardon.
- 4 I do not merit favor, Lord,
My weight of sin would break me;
In all my guilty heart's discord,
O Lord, do not forsake me.
In my distress this comforts me

That You receive me graciously,
O Christ, my Lord of mercy!
Text: Public domain

Stand

Thank the Lord

LSB 164

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.
C Amen.

Benediction

LSB 166

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.

348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

- 1 The King shall come when morning dawns
And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills
And life to joy awakes.
- 2 Not as of old a little child,
To bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun
That lights the morning sky.
- 3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn
When Christ, victorious, rose

And left the lonesome place of death
Despite the rage of foes.

4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes
And we shall see His face.

5 The King shall come when morning dawns
And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings!

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
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ASSISTING AT WORSHIP

Preacher	Rev. Jeremy Hanson
Presiding Minister	Rev. Jeremy Hanson

Organist	Sandy Kasten
	Susan Wachter

Lay Readers	Jan Wegner (5:30)
	Nancy Brown (8:00)
	David Ames (10:30)
	Randy Holler (6:00)

Communion Assistants	Phil Ditter & Dave Strohschoen (5:30)
	Pat Vanic & Jon Krueger (8:00)
	David Ames & Luther Bajus (10:30)
	Randy Holler (6:00)

Student Assistants	(A) Jacob Grunewald (5:30)
	(U) Rylan Hess (5:30)
	(A) Alaina Lindsay & McCoy Michael (8:00)
	(U) Maizy Boerger & Garrett Gries (8:00)
	(A) Cassi Hanson & Hank Scholz (10:30)
	(U) Connor Barts & Brayden Reimer (10:30)

The faculty at Bethlehem Lutheran School faithfully prays for the students entrusted to their care, along with their families.

As Bethlehem congregation members, please add these students and families to your prayer list.

November Weekly Prayers

Week of November 6th

- Mason Bell & Tyler Eddie
- Zachariah Hackbarth
- Bradyn & Jordyn Mentink
- Hank & Vernon Scholz

Week of November 13th

- Nathan & Hailey Boenisch
- Cassandra Hanson
- McCoy Michael
- Derek Senkbeil

Week of November 27th

- Maizy Boerger
- Emma Harmelink
- Luke Milatz
- Graysen Seyferth

UPCOMING ADVENT SERVICES

8:30am and 6:00pm

Wednesday, December 6th – Presented by grades 4, 5 & 6

Wednesday, December 13th – Presented by grades 3K, 4K, 5K & 8

Wednesday, December 20th – Presented by grades 1, 2, 3 & 7

**Soup Suppers will be held on these Wednesday evenings,
beginning at 5:00pm, in the school cafeteria.**