

✠ The 25th Sunday after Pentecost ✠
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
November 18, & 19, 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

O God, by the patient endurance of Your only begotten Son You beat down the pride of the old enemy. Help us to treasure rightly in our hearts what our Lord has borne for our sakes that, after His example, we may bear with patience those things that are adverse to us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

WORSHIP NOTES

The Day of the Lord is "near and hastening fast," and it will be "a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation" (Zeph. 1:14, 15). The Lord will search out and punish "the men who are complacent" concerning His Word, "who fill their master's house with violence and fraud" (Zeph. 1:9, 12). Then all their works and efforts will be for nothing: "Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them" (Zeph. 1:13). But those who fear, love and trust in the Lord are "good and faithful" stewards of His property (Matt. 25:21). They live by faith in His free gift of forgiveness, and they multiply His goods in the loving forgiveness of their neighbor, and "the master of those servants" settles His accounts with them by the gracious reckoning of His Gospel (Matt. 25:19). Likewise, "God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thess. 5:9). Therefore, let us also "put on the breastplate of faith and love" in our dealings with one another (1 Thess. 5:8).

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!

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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 143:2, 5-6, 10-11; antiphon: v. 1

P Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

C **Enter not into judgment with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you.**

P I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands.

C **I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.**

P Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!
Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!

C **For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life!
In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!**

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 **Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for
mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your
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.
Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same 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

Zephaniah 1:7–16

- ⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is near;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice
and consecrated his guests.
- ⁸And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—
"I will punish the officials and the king's sons
and all who array themselves in foreign attire.
- ⁹On that day I will punish
everyone who leaps over the threshold,
and those who fill their master's house
with violence and fraud.
- ¹⁰"On that day," declares the LORD,
"a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,
a wail from the Second Quarter,
a loud crash from the hills.
- ¹¹Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!
For all the traders are no more;
all who weigh out silver are cut off.
- ¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the men
who are complacent,
those who say in their hearts,
'The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do ill.'
- ¹³Their goods shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them."
- ¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;

the mighty man cries aloud there.
¹⁵A day of wrath is that day,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Anthem – 7th & 8th grade choir (5:30pm)

Anthem -- Adult Choir (8:00am)

Anthem -- 1st, 2nd & 3rd grade choir (10:30am)

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

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 25:14–30

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

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

¹⁴[Jesus said:] “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

Offering (10:30)

508 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near

- 1 The day is surely drawing near
When Jesus, God's anointed,
In all His power shall appear
As judge whom God appointed.
Then fright shall banish idle mirth,
And flames on flames shall ravage earth
As Scripture long has warned us.
- 2 The final trumpet then shall sound
And all the earth be shaken,
And all who rest beneath the ground
Shall from their sleep awaken.
But all who live will in that hour,
By God's almighty, boundless pow'r,
Be changed at His commanding.
- 3 The books are opened then to all,
A record truly telling
What each has done, both great and small,
When he on earth was dwelling,
And ev'ry heart be clearly seen,
And all be known as they have been
In thoughts and words and actions.
- 4 Then woe to those who scorned the Lord
And sought but carnal pleasures,
Who here despised His precious Word
And loved their earthly treasures!
With shame and trembling they will stand
And at the judge's stern command
To Satan be delivered.
- 5 My Savior paid the debt I owe
And for my sin was smitten;
Within the Book of Life I know
My name has now been written.
I will not doubt, for I am free,
And Satan cannot threaten me;
There is no condemnation!
- 6 May Christ our intercessor be
And through His blood and merit
Read from His book that we are free

With all who life inherit.
Then we shall see Him face to face,
With all His saints in that blest place
Which He has purchased for us.

- 7 O Jesus Christ, do not delay,
But hasten our salvation;
We often tremble on our way
In fear and tribulation.
O hear and grant our fervent plea:
Come, mighty judge, and set us free
From death and ev'ry evil.

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Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

**C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from
heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the
virgin Mary and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the
Scriptures and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the
living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✕ of the world to come. 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, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. 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

Anthem – 7th & 8th grade choir (5:30pm)

Anthem -- 1st, 2nd & 3rd grade choir (10:30am)

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

691 Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing

- 1 Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing,
May we ripen and increase,
Fruit to life eternal growing,
Rich in love and joy and peace.
- 2 Laden branches freely bearing
Gifts the Giver loves to bless;
Here is fruit that grows by sharing,
Patience, kindness, gentleness.

3 Rooted deep in Christ our Master,
Christ our pattern and our goal,
Teach us, as the years fly faster,
Goodness, faith, and self-control.

4 Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending,
May we grow till harvests cease;
Till we taste, in life unending,
Heaven's love and joy and peace.

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733 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

- 1 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home:
- 2 Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.
- 3 Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.
- 4 A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.
- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home!

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806 Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

- 1 Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,

Give thanks because He's given
 Jesus Christ His Son.
 Give thanks with a grateful heart,
 Give thanks to the Holy One,
 Give thanks because He's given
 Jesus Christ His Son.
 And now let the weak say "I am strong,"
 Let the poor say "I am rich,"
 Because of what the Lord has done for us.
 And now let the weak say "I am strong,"
 Let the poor say "I am rich,"
 Because of what the Lord has done for us.
 Give thanks, give thanks.

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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.

853 How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

- 1 How clear is our vocation, Lord,
 When once we heed Your call:
 To live according to Your Word
 And daily learn, refreshed, restored,
 That You are Lord of all
 And will not let us fall.
- 2 But if, forgetful, we should find
 Your yoke is hard to bear;
 If worldly pressures fray the mind,
 And love itself cannot unwind
 Its tangled skein of care:
 Our inward life repair.
- 3 We marvel how Your saints become
 In hindrances more sure;
 Whose joyful virtues put to shame
 The casual way we wear Your name
 And by our faults obscure
 Your pow'r to cleanse and cure.
- 4 In what You give us, Lord, to do,
 Together or alone,
 In old routines or ventures new,
 May we not cease to look to You,
 The cross You hung upon—
 All You endeavored done.

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Acknowledgments

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Join us for Thanksgiving worship
Wednesday, November 22nd @ 6:00pm
Thursday, November 23rd @ 10:00am



ASSISTING AT WORSHIP

Preacher	Rev. Patrick Niles
Presiding Minister	Rev. Jeremy Hanson
Organist	Sandy Kasten Susan Wachter
Lay Readers	Roxy Mueller (5:30) Luke Timm (8:00) Luther Bajus (10:30)
Communion Assistants	Pete Nikisch & Mark Cyr (5:30) Doug Hasenstein (8:00) Luther Bajus (10:30)
Student Assistants	(A) Savannah Stirdivant (5:30) (U) Jaxon Scheidel (5:30) (A) Emerson Leibham & Cassi Hanson (8:00) (U) Axton Weisfeld & Graysen Seyferth (8:00) (A) Tevin Davis & Davis Littmann (10:30) (U) Gideon Marquez & Addyson Niles (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**