

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
Saturday, March 8 and Sunday, March 9, 2025



Bethlehem

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering – Welcoming – Serving – Restoring

WHO WE ARE

*As forgiven children of God, Bethlehem Lutheran Church
shows Christ's love through acts of service
so that we can share the hope of the Gospel with others.*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are so glad you're here! Bethlehem is a caring community of believers committed to being a birthplace of hope in southeast Fort Wayne. We are a congregation of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, where Christ's sacrificial love shapes who we are and how we serve.

Our worship centers on God's gifts to us in His Word and Sacraments. Here, Jesus meets us through His promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and we respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. Whether this is your first time worshiping with us or your spiritual home, you are part of our family today.

Thank you for joining us as we rest in God's grace and grow in His love. May you be refreshed by the beauty of Christ's sacrifice and sent out to reflect His light in the world!

HOLY COMMUNION EXAMINATION

In the Bible the Apostle Paul wrote, "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup." (I Corinthians 11:28) In order to examine yourself before attending the Lord's Supper, ask yourself the following questions:

Do I believe that I am a sinner, and am I sorry for my sins?
(Proverbs 28:13; Romans 3:23; I John 1:8-9)

Do I believe that Jesus Christ by His death offers me forgiveness for all my sins?
(Romans 5:8; Colossians 2:13; Hebrews 9:28; I John 1:7)

Do I believe that I receive the body and blood of Christ in and with the bread and wine (not merely symbolically present)?
(Matthew 26:26-28; I Cor. 10:16; I Cor. 11:24-25)

Do I desire to turn from my sinful ways and live a God-pleasing life?
(Isaiah 1:16; John 8:11; Romans 6:12)

If you are unable to answer "yes" to these questions or believe further instruction is needed, please talk to a pastor or an elder before communing as participating without a proper understanding of Holy Communion can be spiritually harmful (I Corinthians 11:27-29). If you can answer "yes" to these questions, then come with a repentant heart and join us in the reception of the Lord's Supper. If not, adults and children who have not yet taken part in communion instruction classes are invited to come forward for a blessing and are asked to keep their arms folded over their chest during the distribution.

***(Children's Activity bags are available in the Narthex.
Please remember to return them to the rack after the service.)***

+ *PREPARE* +

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

RINGING OF THE BELLS

HYMN

LSB #571

GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO THAT HE GAVE



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

5 If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.

△ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessèd Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93

Text and tune: Public domain

(Stand)

INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation Amen.

Pastor Our help is in the name of the LORD,

Congregation who made heaven and earth.

Pastor Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Congregation For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith and confess our sins unto God our Father, that we may receive His forgiveness.

Congregation O God, we believe Your Word is true for it reveals our sin for which we deserve Your rebuke and judgment. Yet even more, we believe in Your promise of mercy and forgiveness for the sake of Christ. We therefore confess to You all our sins. We plead the suffering and sacrifice of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, as the all-sufficient price of our redemption, and beg Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of faith in our Savior alone. Hear us in Your mercy and according to Your promise in Christ, our Lord.

Pastor “Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge,” upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation And also with you.

Pastor Let us pray. O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation Amen.

(Sit)

OLD TESTAMENT

Deuteronomy 26:1–11

¹“When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there. ³And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.’ ⁴Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God. ⁵“And you shall make response before the LORD your God, ‘A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. ⁶And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. ⁷Then we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. ⁹And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O LORD, have given me.’ And you shall set it down before the LORD your God and worship before the LORD your God. ¹¹And you shall rejoice in all the good that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.”

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 10:8b-13

“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

GOSPEL

Luke 4:1-13

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ²for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. ³The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” ⁴And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” ⁵And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸And Jesus answered him, “It is written, “‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.’” ⁹And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written, “‘He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,’” ¹¹and “‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’” ¹²And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.

(Sit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB #734

I TRUST, O LORD, YOUR HOLY NAME



1 I trust, O Lord, Your ho - ly name; O let me not be
2 Bow down Your gra - cious ear to me And hear my cry, my
3 You are my strength, my shield, my rock, My for - tress that with -
4 With You, O Lord, I cast my lot; O faith - ful God, for -



put to shame Nor let me be con - found - ed. My faith, O
prayer, my plea; Make haste for my pro - tec - tion, For woes and
stands each shock, My help, my life, my tow - er, My bat - tle
sake me not, To You my soul com - mend - ing. Lord, be my



Lord, Be in Your Word For - ev - er firm - ly ground - ed.
fear Sur - round me here. Help me in my af - flic - tion.
sword, Al - might - y Lord— Who can re - sist Your pow - er?
stay, And lead the way Now and when life is end - ing.

Text: Adam Reusner, 1496–c. 1575; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Davids Himlische Harppfen, 1581, Nürnberg

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

NICENE CREED

(Sit)

OFFERING / FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

(Stand)

PREFACE

LSB pg. 208

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation And also with you.

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

Congregation We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS

LSB #208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation Amen.

LSB pg. 209

AGNUS DEI

LSB pg. 210

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

(Sit)

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYERFUL MEDITATION

(Stand)

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB pg. 211

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

BENEDICTION

Pastor

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.

Congregation

Amen.

(Sit)

CLOSING HYMN

LSB #718

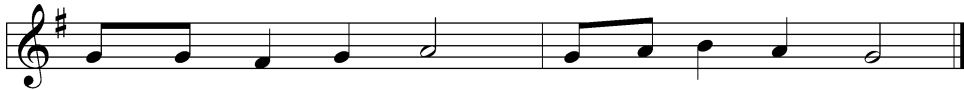
JESUS, LEAD THOU ON



1 Je - sus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won; And al-though the
2 If the way be drear, If the foe be near, Let not faith-less
3 When we seek re - lief From a long-felt grief, When temp - ta - tions
4 Je - sus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won. Heav'n-ly lead - er,



way be cheer-less, We will fol-low calm and fear-less.
fears o'er-take us; Let not faith and hope for-sake us;
come al-lur-ing, Make us pa-tient and en-dur-ing.
still di-rect us, Still sup-port, con-sole, pro-protect us,



Guide us by Thy hand To our fa-ther-land.
For through man-y a woe To our home we go.
Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.
Till we safe-ly stand In our fa-ther-land.

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700–60; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–97, alt.

Tune: Adam Drese, 1620–1701

Text and tune: Public domain

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COUNSELING NEEDS

Please talk to Pastor Ben Ahlersmeyer for a referral for counseling to Cross Connections.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Fort Wayne, Indiana 46806-4329

www.bethlehemlcms.org

Church Office, (260) 744-3228 Fax Number, (260) 744-3229

Office Hours: 10:00am – 4:00pm (Monday – Friday)

Our Worship Schedule:

Saturday Afternoon Worship Service at 4:00pm

Sunday Morning Worship Service at 9:00am

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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