

GENTLE AND LOWLY: WEEK 4

Saturday, October 11 and Sunday, October 12, 2025



Bethlehem

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Proclaiming Christ. Nurturing Faith. Restoring Hope.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

We're so glad you're here. At Bethlehem, worship is where faith is nourished. Rooted in the historic liturgy and the teachings of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, we gather around God's gifts—His Word and His Sacraments. Here, Jesus Himself is present, speaking forgiveness, sustaining life, and giving hope. Worship is not just something we do—it's where God serves us, and we respond with praise, prayer, and thanksgiving.

Our mission is simple but deep: Proclaiming Christ. Nurturing Faith. Restoring Hope. As a catalyst for Gospel transformation in southeast Fort Wayne, we long to see lives renewed by Christ's love. Whether this is your first time or your spiritual home, you belong here. May this time of worship be a moment of renewal for you—and may it send us all back into the world as people shaped by hope, growing in faith, and living out the love of Jesus together.

REGARDING THE LORD'S SUPPER

At Bethlehem, we believe that in the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us more than a symbol—He gives us Himself. In, with, and under the bread and wine, we receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, the strengthening of faith, and the unity of His people. This is how Christ continues to proclaim His saving work and nurture our faith today.

As we prepare to receive this gift, we follow the Scriptures and the Small Catechism in examining ourselves: Do I believe I am a sinner in need of God's grace? Do I trust in Jesus as my Savior? Do I believe that Christ is truly present in this meal? Do I desire to turn from sin and live in faith and love? Whoever answers yes to these is truly worthy and well prepared.

Bethlehem is a congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and we ask that all who commune share our confession of faith. If you are not yet instructed in this teaching or have questions, we warmly invite you to come forward for a blessing—simply cross your arms over your chest—or speak with our pastor after the service. We are glad you're here, and we would love to walk with you as we grow in Christ together.

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

+ PREPARATION +

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

RINGING OF THE BELLS

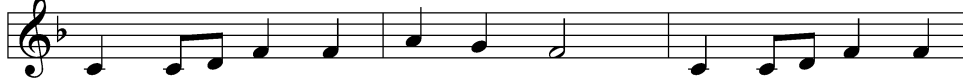
OPENING HYMN

LSB #782

GRACIOUS GOD, YOU SEND GREAT BLESSINGS



1 Gra - cious God, You send great bless - ings
2 By Your Word You formed cre - a - tion
3 In His earth - ly life, our Sav - ior
△ 4 Heav'n - ly Fa - ther, may our car - ing



New each morn - ing all our days. For Your mer - cies
Filled with crea - tures large and small; As we tend that
Knew the care of faith - ful friends; May our deeds of
Bear the im - print of Your grace; With the Son and



nev - er end - ing, For Your love we of - fer praise.
end - less trea - sure May our care en - cir - cle all.
ded - i - ca - tion Of - fer love that nev - er ends.
Ho - ly Spir - it, Praise be Yours in ev - 'ry place!

Refrain



Lord, we pray that we, Your peo - ple Who Your gifts un - num - bered claim,



Through the shar - ing of Your bless - ings May bring glo - ry to Your name.

Text: Gregory J. Wismar, 1946

Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1825, Cincinnati

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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 Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden,

Congregation And I will give you rest.

Pastor Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me,

Congregation For I am gentle and lowly in heart.

Pastor You will find rest for your souls.

Congregation For His yoke is easy, and His burden is light.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor Jesus said, “Whoever comes to Me, I will never cast out.” Yet we often fear we’ve gone too far, sinned too much, or failed too often. Let us come to Him again in repentance.

(Silence)

Pastor Lord God,

Congregation I often doubt Your grip on me. I feel weak and afraid. I wonder if You’re tired of me. But You promise never to let go. Hold me in Your mercy. Forgive my sin. Help my unbelief.

Pastor Nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus. He holds you, even now. You are forgiven, the dividing wall of hostility broken and removed. In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

HYMN OF PRAISE

LSB pg. 154

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Pastor Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation And also with you.

Pastor Let us pray. Gracious Redeemer, You promise never to cast out those who come to You. Strengthen our faith when we feel weak. Hold us fast in Your mercy until the day we see You face to face. Through Christ our Lord.

Congregation Amen

INSTALLATION OF FIELDWORKER (9:00am)

Jon Dize

(Sit)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 49:13–16

¹³Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! for the LORD has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted. ¹⁴But Zion said, “The LORD has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me.” ¹⁵“Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. ¹⁶Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 8:31–39

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

John 6:35–40

³⁵Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. ³⁶But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. ³⁷All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.


Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.

(Sit)

HYMN

TFBF #98

OPEN OUR EYES LORD



O - pen our eyes, Lord; we want to see

D G² G Em⁷/A A⁷

Je - sus, to reach out and touch

G/D D A/C# Bm D/A G⁹

him, and say that we love him.

Em A⁷ G/D Dsus² D

O - pen our ears, Lord, and help us to

DM⁷ A/G G Em⁷ A⁷

lis - ten. O - pen our eyes,

Lord, we want to see Je - sus.

Text: Robert Cull, b. 1949
 Music: Robert Cull, b. 1949
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SERMON

“Held by Grace”

(Stand)

NICENE CREED

**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.

(Sit)

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING (9:00am)

Choir

“Sing Ye Joyfully” (by Don Besig)

(Stand)

OFFERTORY

LSB pg. 159



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

(Sit)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

+ *SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT* +

PREFACE

LSB pg. 160

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation And also with you.

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

Congregation We lift them to the Lord.

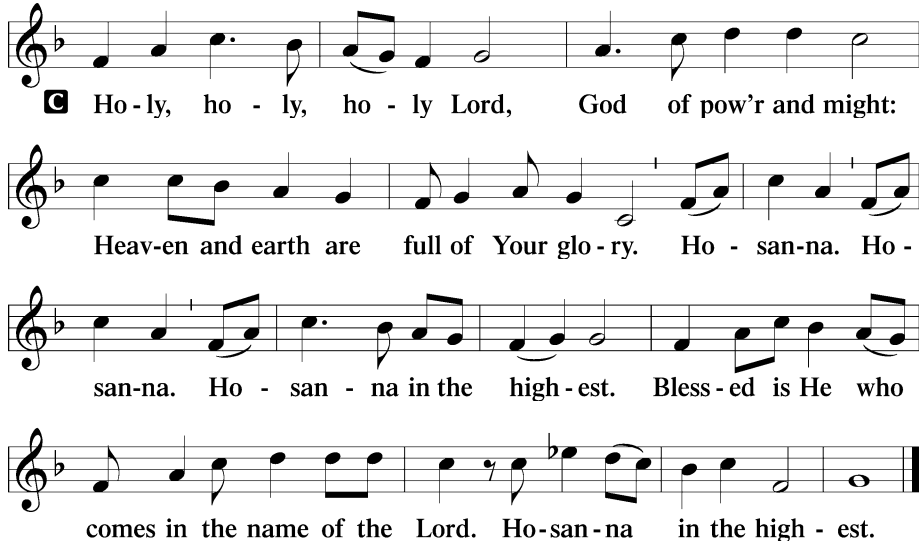
Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS

LSB pg. 161



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER

LSB pg. 162

**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

PAX DOMINI

LSB pg. 163

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB pg. 163

Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Sit)

DISTRIBUTION

CHOIR ANTHEM (9:00am)

Choir

“Let Us Break Bread Together” (by John Helgen)

(Stand)

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

LSB pg. 165

NUNC DIMITTIS



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have prepared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to reveal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

BENEDICTION

LSB pg. 166

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.

SPIRIT SONG

D GM⁷ Bm/F# Em⁷ A A/G F#m⁷

1 Oh, let the Son of God en - fold you with his Spir - it and his
 2 Oh, come and sing this song with glad - ness as your hearts are filled with

Bm⁷ Em⁷ A⁷ DM⁷

love, let him fill your heart and sat - is - fy your soul.
 joy, lift your hands in sweet sur - ren - der to his name.

Em⁷ F#m⁷ GM⁷ Bm/F# Em⁷ A A/G F#m⁷

Oh, let him have the things that hold you, and his Spir - it like a
 Oh, give him all your tears and sad - ness, give him all your years of

Bm⁷ Em⁷ Em⁷/A G/A A D C/E D/F#

dove will de - scend up - on your life and make you whole.
 pain, and you'll en - ter in - to life in Je - sus' name.

Refrain

GM⁷ A/G F[♯]m⁷ Bm⁷ Em⁷

Je - sus, O Je - sus, come and

A DM⁷ C/E D/F[♯] GM⁷ A A/G

fill your lambs. Je - sus, O

F[♯]m⁷ Bm⁷ Em⁷ Asus⁷ A⁷ D

Je - sus, come and fill your lambs.

MINISTRY TEAM

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Vice President – Evans Branigan

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SCHOOLS

Lutheran South Unity School.....lsusfw.org.....744-0459

Concordia Lutheran High School....clhscadets.com.....483-1102

COUNSELING NEEDS

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

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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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