

GENTLE AND LOWLY: WEEK 6

Saturday, October 25 and Sunday, October 26, 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 (9:00am)

Handbell Choir

"Quickening Spirit" (Choristers Guild)

WELCOME / RINGING OF THE BELLS

OPENING HYMN

LSB #578

THY STRONG WORD



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy
2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as
3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with
4 From the cross Thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
night and deep as death, Broke the light of
Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we
forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -



light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.
Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - breath - ing breath.
press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.
ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to



Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

Give us lips to sing Thy glory, Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
 Throats that shout the hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
 Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which Thou dost send
 Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!

△ 6

God the Father, light-creator, To Thee laud and honor be.
 To Thee, Light of Light begotten, Praise be sung eternally.
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory be to Thee.
 Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!

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(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 Christ promises to prepare a place for us—to dwell with Him forever.
 Yet we often live as if this world is all there is.

Let us confess our fears and distractions before the One who holds
 eternity in His hands.

(Silence)

Pastor Lord Jesus,

**Congregation I lose sight of Your kingdom. I cling to what won't last. I fear
 what I cannot control. Forgive me. Anchor my heart in Your
 forever promises. Lead me to trust in You.**

Pastor Christ has conquered death and prepared a place for you. Your sins
 are forgiven, and your future is secure in Him. Rejoice and be glad in
 His salvation! 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. Eternal King, You promise us a future filled with peace, beauty, and joy in Your presence. Fix our eyes on what is unseen and give us courage to live as citizens of Your kingdom. Through Jesus Christ, who reigns forever.

Congregation Amen.

(Sit)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Hosea 11:1-9

¹When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. ²The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols. ³Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up by their arms, but they did not know that I healed them. ⁴I led them with cords of kindness, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them. ⁵They shall not return to the land of Egypt, but Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me. ⁶The sword shall rage against their cities, consume the bars of their gates, and devour them because of their own counsels. ⁷My people are bent on turning away from me, and though they call out to the Most High, he shall not raise them up at all. ⁸How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. ⁹I will not execute my burning anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Philippians 1:3-11

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



GOSPEL

John 13:1-17

1Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, 3Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, 4rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. 5Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. 6He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" 7Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." 8Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." 9Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 10Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." 11For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

12When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? 13You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. 14If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. 16Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

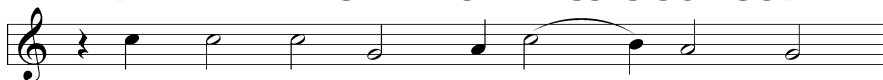
Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.

(Sit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

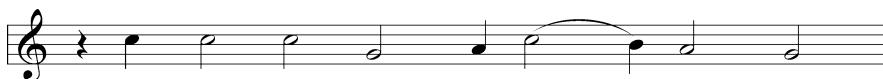
LSB #656



1 A might - y for - tress is our God,
2 With might of ours can naught be done,
3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,
4 The Word they still shall let re - main



A trust - y shield and weap - on;
Soon were our loss ef - fect ed;
All ea - ger to de - vour us,
Nor an - y thanks have for it;



He helps us free from ev - 'ry need
But for us fights the val - iant One,
We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
He's by our side up - on the plain



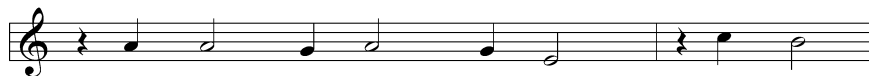
That hath us now o'er - tak - en.
Whom God Him - self e - lect ed.
They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.
With His good gifts and Spir - it.



The old e - vil foe Now means
Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus
This world's prince may still Scowl
And take they our life, Goods, fame,



dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might
Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,
as he will, He can harm us none.
child, and wife, Though these all be gone,



Are his dread arms in fight; On earth
And there's none oth - er God; He holds
He's judged; the deed - is done; One lit -
Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -



is not his e - qual.
the field for - ev - er.
tle word can fell him.
dom ours re - main eth.

Text: tr. Composite

SERMON

Text and tune: Martin Luther, 1483–1546

Text and tune: Public domain

“Forever with the Gentle King”

(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

“Praise the Lord! O Heavens Adore Him” (by Michael Burkhart)

(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

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

Prayerful Meditation

MUSICAL OFFERING (9:00am)

Choir

“O Lord, Thy Word Endureth”

(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.

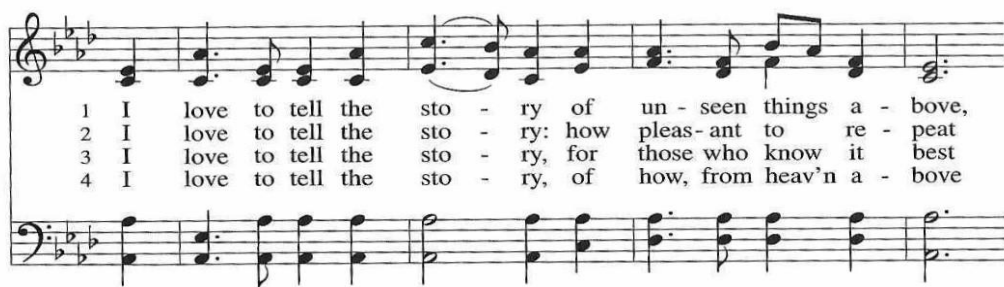
POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

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.

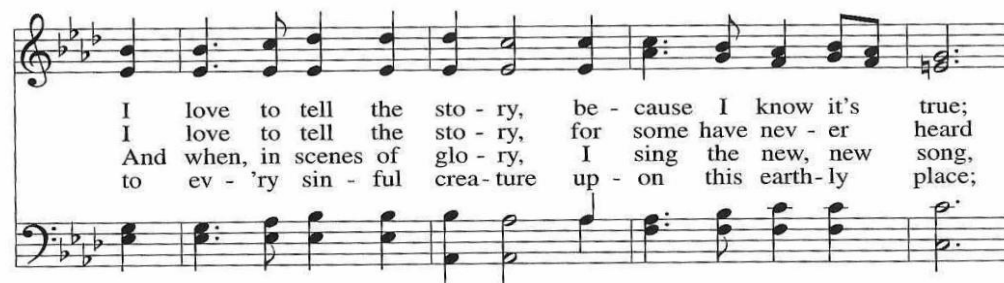
I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best
4 I love to tell the sto - ry, of how, from heav'n a - bove



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.
our Lord and Sav - ior Jes - us was sent to show God's love



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,
to ev - 'ry sin - ful crea - ture up - on this earth - ly place;



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.
how Christ, the gift from hea - ven, is God's great gift of grace.

Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry; I'll sing this theme in glo-ry

and tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911, sts. 1-3, Jeffrey E. Burkart, st. 4

Music: HANKEY, William G. Fischer, 1835-1912

Text st. 4 © Jeffrey E. Burkart

MINISTRY TEAM

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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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