

**THE TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST**

Saturday, November 15 and Sunday, November 16, 2025



**Bethlehem**

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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

ANTHEM (9:00am)

LSUS (3-5 grade choir)

*“On Eagles Wings”*

## WELCOME / RINGING OF THE BELLS

## OPENING HYMN

TFBF #291 (sing through twice)

**I WILL ENTER HIS GATES** *He Has Made Me Glad*

I will en - ter his gates with thanks - giv - ing in my heart,

The first line of the hymn is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "I will en - ter his gates with thanks - giv - ing in my heart,"

I will en - ter his courts with praise.

The second line of the hymn continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "I will en - ter his courts with praise."

I will say this is the day that the Lord has made;

The third line of the hymn continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "I will say this is the day that the Lord has made;"

I will re - joice for he has made me glad.

The fourth line of the hymn concludes the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "I will re - joice for he has made me glad."

He has made me glad, he has made me glad,

I will re-joice for he has made me glad.

He has made me glad, he has made me glad,

I will re-joice for he has made me glad.

*(Stand)*

## INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

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

**Congregation Amen.**

Pastor For I know that my Redeemer lives.

**Congregation Let the redeemed of the LORD say so.**

Pastor You have led in Your steadfast love the people whom You have redeemed;

**Congregation You have guided them by Your strength to Your holy abode.**

Pastor This is the day that the LORD has made;

**Congregation let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor The Lord has delivered us from the domain of darkness

**Congregation and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

Pastor Almighty God and Father,

**Congregation we confess, as Your people, our sinful human nature and the thoughts, words, and actions that are evil in Your sight. We need Your rescue. We need Your righteousness. We need a Redeemer. Mercifully draw near to us, O Lord. For the sake of Jesus Christ and His cross, rescue us from our troubles and cover our sin with true righteousness. Redeem our lives, that our days and deeds would be directed in Your peace. Amen.**

Pastor Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son, Jesus, to die for you, and for His sake forgives You all Your sins. As a servant of the Word made flesh, I announce that your sins are forgiven 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.



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. O Lord, almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may live and abide forever in Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Congregation        Amen.**

*(Sit)*

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Malachi 4:1–6

<sup>1</sup> “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. <sup>2</sup>But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. <sup>3</sup>And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>4</sup>“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and just decrees that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

<sup>5</sup>“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup>And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

Leader                      This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation        Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM (9:00am)**

LSUS 3-5 Grade Choir

*“In Thee is Gladness”*

## EPISTLE

2 Thessalonians 3:6–13

<sup>6</sup>Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. <sup>7</sup>For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, <sup>8</sup>nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. <sup>9</sup>It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. <sup>10</sup>For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. <sup>11</sup>For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. <sup>12</sup>Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

<sup>13</sup>As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

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

Luke 21:5–28

<sup>5</sup>While some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, [Jesus] said, <sup>6</sup>“As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” <sup>7</sup>And they asked him, “Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?” <sup>8</sup>And he said, “See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is at hand!’ Do not go after them. <sup>9</sup>And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once.”

<sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. <sup>11</sup>There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. <sup>12</sup>But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name’s sake. <sup>13</sup>This will be your opportunity to bear witness. <sup>14</sup>Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, <sup>15</sup>for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. <sup>16</sup>You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. <sup>17</sup>You will be hated by all for my name’s sake. <sup>18</sup>But not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup>By your endurance you will gain your lives.

<sup>20</sup>“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. <sup>21</sup>Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, <sup>22</sup>for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. <sup>23</sup>Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. <sup>24</sup>They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

<sup>25</sup>“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, <sup>26</sup>people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Pastor                      This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation          Praise to You, O Christ.

(Sit)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB #508

### THE DAY IS SURELY DRAWING NEAR



1 The day is sure - ly draw - ing near When Je - sus, God's a - noint - ed,  
2 The fi - nal trum - pet then shall sound And all the earth be shak - en,  
3 The books are o - pened then to all, A rec - ord tru - ly tell - ing  
4 Then woe to those who scorned the Lord And sought but car - nal plea - sures,



In all His pow - er shall ap - pear As judge whom God ap -  
And all who rest be - neath the ground Shall from their sleep a -  
What each has done, both great and small, When he on earth was  
Who here de - spised His pre - cious Word And loved their earth - ly



point - ed. Then fright shall ban - ish i - dle mirth, And flames on  
wak - en. But all who live will in that hour, By God's a -  
dwell - ing, And ev - 'ry heart be clear - ly seen, And all be  
trea - sures! With shame and trem - bling they will stand And at the



flames shall rav - age earth As Scrip - ture long has warned us.  
might - y, bound - less pow'r, Be changed at His com - mand - ing.  
known as they have been In thoughts and words and ac - tions.  
judg - e's stern com - mand To Sa - tan be de - liv - ered.

#### 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.

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.

Text: Bartholomäus Ringwaldt, 1532–99; tr. Philip A. Peter, 1832–1919, alt.  
 Tune: Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug

Text and tune: Public domain

## SERMON

*“The Day is Coming”*

(Stand)

## NICENE CREED

(Sit)

## OFFERING

ANTHEM (9:00am)

*“Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho”*

Handbells

(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.

### HYMN

LSB #434

#### LAMB OF GOD, PURE AND HOLY



1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,  
2 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,  
3 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,



Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.  
Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.  
Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.



All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:  
All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:  
All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:



Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!  
Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!  
Thy peace be with us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Text and tune: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546

Text and tune: Public domain

(Sit)

**DISTRIBUTION**

*Prayerful Meditation*

(Stand)

**POST COMMUNION CANTICLE  
HYMN**

LSB #937

**LORD, BID YOUR SERVANT GO IN PEACE**



1 Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace,  
2 This is the Sav - ior of the world,  
△ 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,  
Your word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -  
The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing  
To You we lift our voice; To Fa - ther, Son, and  
va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.  
in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.  
Spir - it blest Be hon - or, love, and praise.

Text (sts. 1–2): James Quinn, 1919–2010; (st. 3): Henry V. Gerike, 1948–2025

Tune: American

Text (sts. 1–2): © 1969, 1989 OCP Publications; (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn

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**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.

## SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US



1 Sav - ior, like a shep - herd lead us; Much we  
 2 We are Yours; in love be - friend us, Be the  
 3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, Poor and  
 4 Ear - ly let us seek Your fa - vor, Ear - ly



need Your ten - der care. In Your pleas - ant pas - tures  
 guard - ian of our way; Keep Your flock, from sin de -  
 sin - ful though we be; You have mer - cy to re -  
 let us do Your will; Bless - ed Lord and on - ly



feed us, For our use Your fold pre - pare.  
 fend us, Seek us when we go a - stray.  
 lieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
 Sav - ior, With Your love our spir - its fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have



bought us; we are Yours. Bless - ed Je - sus,  
 chil - dren when we pray. Bless - ed Je - sus,  
 let us turn to You. Bless - ed Je - sus,  
 loved us, love us still. Bless - ed Je - sus,



bless - ed Je - sus, You have bought us; we are Yours.  
 bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
 bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to You.  
 bless - ed Je - sus, You have loved us, love us still.

## MINISTRY TEAM

### **The Reverend Ben Ahlersmeyer**

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Vice President – Evans Branigan**

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## At Large Members:

**Dan Bates**

**Rachelle Dance**

**David Schult**

**Blake Sebring**

## SCHOOLS

**Lutheran South Unity School.....**[lsusfw.org](http://lsusfw.org).....**744-0459**

**Concordia Lutheran High School....**[clhscadets.com](http://clhscadets.com).....**483-1102**

## COUNSELING NEEDS

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

## BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

3705 South Anthony Boulevard, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46806-4329

[www.bethlehemlcms.org](http://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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