THE TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Saturday, November 15 and Sunday, November 16, 2025



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





Text: Psalm 100:4 and 118:24, adapt.
Music: Leona von Brethorst

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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 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.



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

¹ "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. ²But 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. ³And 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.

⁴"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and just decrees that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶And 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

⁶Now 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. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸nor 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. ⁹It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. ¹¹For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹²Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

¹³As 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



GOSPEL Luke 21:5–28

⁵While some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, [Jesus] said, ⁶"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." ⁷And they asked him, "Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?" ⁸And 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. ⁹And 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."

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

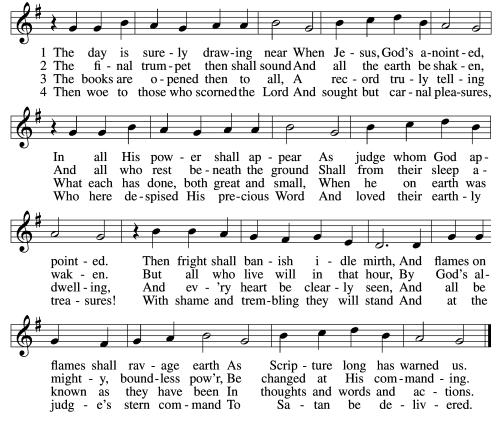
²⁰"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. ²¹Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, ²²for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. ²³Alas 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. ²⁴They 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.

²⁵"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, ²⁶people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸Now 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.





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 auffs new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

"The Day is Coming"

(Stand)

NICENE CREED

(Sit)

OFFERING "Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho" **ANTHEM** (9:00am) Handbells 1 (Stand) **OFFERTORY** LSB pg. 159 What shall I for all His ben-e-fits to ren-der to the Lord me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing of the Lord. I will take the cup of salcall on the name 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE LSB pg. 160

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation And also with you.

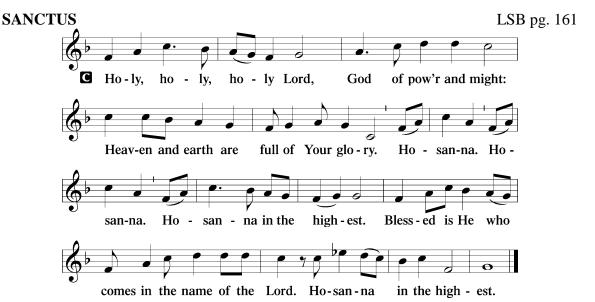
Pastor Lift up your hearts.

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



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

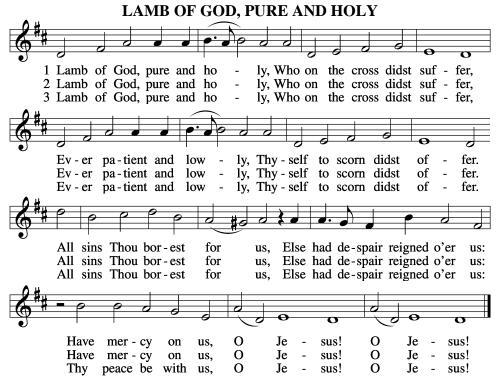
Pastor

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation

Amen.

HYMN LSB #434



Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

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

Text and tune: Public domain

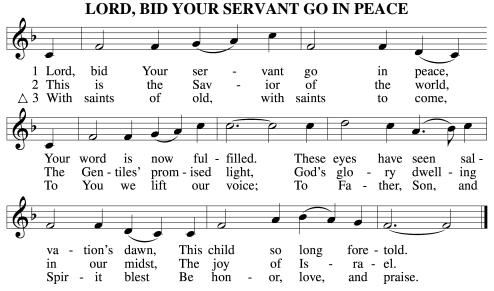
(Sit)

DISTRIBUTION

Prayerful Meditation

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

HYMN LSB #937



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

License no. 110001608 Tune: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

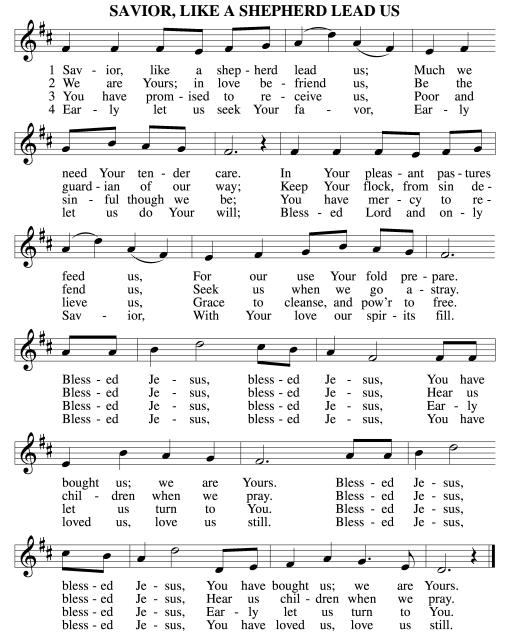
BENEDICTION LSB pg. 166

Pastor The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

Congregation Amen.

CLOSING HYMN LSB #711



Text: Hymns for the Young, 1836, 4th ed., London, alt.

Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–68

Text and tune: Public domain

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS At Large Members:

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Vice President – Evans Branigan
Secretary – John Stafford
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Rachelle Dance
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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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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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