SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Saturday, February 15, and Sunday, February 16, 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

OPENING HYMN

LSB #802



Text: W. Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt.

Tune: Welsh

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 I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received:

Congregation that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,

that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in

accordance with the Scriptures.

Pastor In fact Christ has been raised from the dead, Congregation the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Pastor Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy,

Congregation for behold, your reward is great in heaven.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor Relying on the grace of God and anticipating the joys of heaven He

has prepared for Jesus' sake, let us confess our sins to our gracious

God. Heavenly Father,

Congregation we confess that, although You have blessed us like trees planted

by streams of water, we have failed to bear fruit for You and

have feared when life has been difficult. Forgive us.

Pastor Lord Jesus Christ,

Congregation we confess that we have not relied on Your resurrection as proof

of the grace of God. We have not always lived in the hope of our

own resurrection. Forgive us.

Pastor O Holy Spirit,

Congregation we confess that we have failed to keep the faith You have given

us. It is not always active in the face of the difficulties of life and opposition from other people. Forgive us and renew a strong

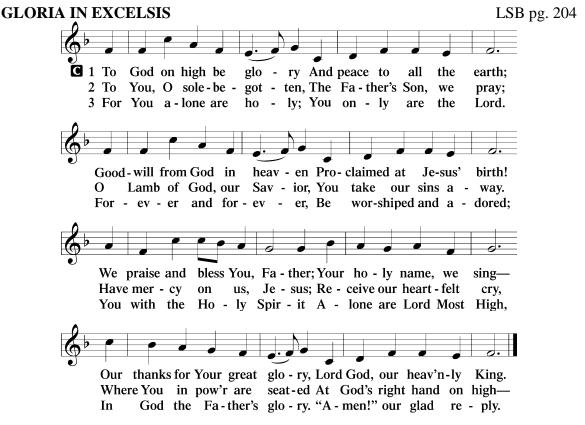
faith within us.

Pastor By the grace of God, you are like trees planted by streams of water!

Grace is abundant daily in God's Word and by His promises. For the sake of our living Lord, rejoice and be glad! I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation Amen. Thanks be to God!

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +



Text: Stephen P. Starke

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation And also with you.

Pastor Let us pray. O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully

we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; 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 READING

Jeremiah 17:5-8

⁵Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. ⁶He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. ⁷"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. ⁸He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

Assistant This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

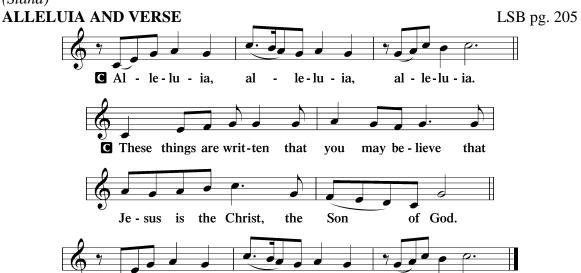
EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 15:1-20

¹Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed. ¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Assistant This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

(Stand)



GOSPEL Luke 6:17-26

le-lu-ia.

al - le-lu - ia.

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.

al

Congregation Glory to You, O Lord

C Al - le - lu - ia.

¹⁷[Jesus] came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all. ²⁰And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. ²²"Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! ²³Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. ²⁴"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵"Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. "Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. ²⁶"Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.



Text: David Denicke, 1603–80; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

"The Light Touches Our Hardship"

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.

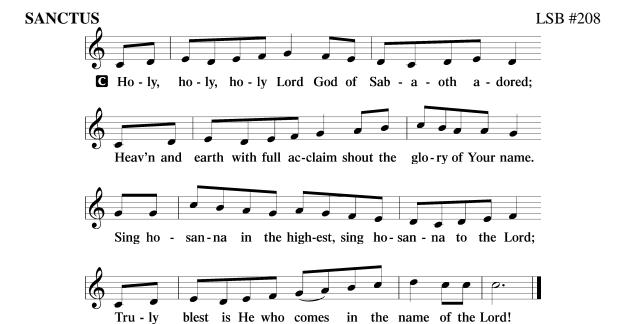
Pastor Lift up your hearts.

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



Text: Stephen P. Starke

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

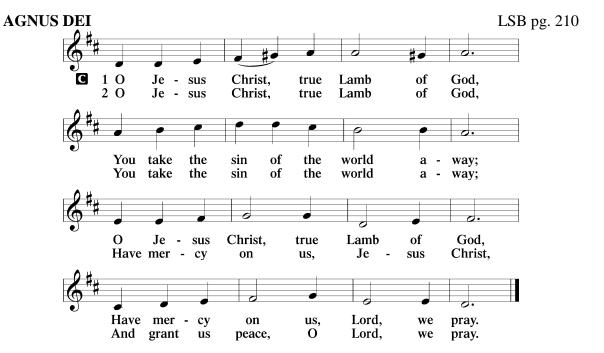
PAX DOMINI LSB pg. 209

Pastor

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation

Amen.



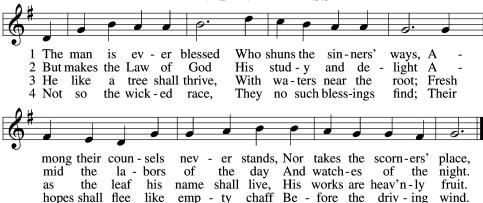
Text: Stephen P. Starke

(Sit)

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN LSB #705





5 How will they bear to stand
Before the judgment seat
Where all the saints at Christ's right hand
In full assembly meet?

6 He knows and He approves
The way the righteous go;
But sinners and their works shall meet
A dreadful overthrow.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois

Text and tune: Public domain

NUNC DIMITTIS



POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

BENEDICTION

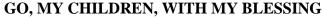
Pastor The

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.





Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Tune: Welsh, 18th cent.

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Tune: Public domain

MINISTRY TEAM

The Rev. Ben Ahlersmeyer

Rhonda Cheng, Office Manager

Office744-3228 ext. 300 Emailbethfw@yahoo.com

Sharon Shediack, Accounting Manager

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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

3705 South Anthony Boulevard 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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