

# SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Saturday, February 15, and Sunday, February 16, 2025



# Bethlehem

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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

### IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
3 To all life Thou giv - est— to both great and small—  
4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;  
In all life Thou liv - est, the true Life of all;  
Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree  
All laud we would ren - der: O help us to see

Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.  
Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
And with - er and per - ish— but naught chang - es Thee.  
'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light that hides Thee.

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 +

### GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

LSB pg. 204



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

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 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

<sup>5</sup>Thus says the LORD: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. <sup>6</sup>He 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. <sup>7</sup>“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. <sup>8</sup>He 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

<sup>1</sup>Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup>and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But 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.

<sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed. <sup>12</sup>Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup>We 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. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. <sup>17</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup>Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup>If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. <sup>20</sup>But 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)

## ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB pg. 205

**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**C** These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL

Luke 6:17-26

Pastor

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

**Congregation**

**Glory to You, O Lord**

<sup>17</sup>[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, <sup>18</sup>who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup>And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all. <sup>20</sup>And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. <sup>21</sup>"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. <sup>22</sup>"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! <sup>23</sup>Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. <sup>24</sup>"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. <sup>25</sup>"Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. "Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. <sup>26</sup>"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.**

(Sit)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB #703

### HOW CAN I THANK YOU, LORD



1 How can I thank You, Lord, For all Your lov - ing - kind - ness,  
2 It is Your work a - lone That I am now con - vert - ed;  
3 Lord, You have raised me up To joy and ex - ul - ta - tion  
4 Grant that Your Spir - it's help To me be al - ways giv - en



That You have pa - tient - ly Borne with me in my blind - ness!  
O'er Sa - tan's work in me You have Your pow'r as - sert - ed.  
And clear - ly shown the way That leads me to sal - va - tion.  
Lest I should fall a - gain And lose the way to heav - en.



When dead in man - y sins And tres - pass - es I lay,  
Your mer - cy and Your grace That rise a - fresh each morn  
My sins are washed a - way; For this I thank You, Lord.  
Grant that He give me strength In my in - fir - mi - ty;



I kin - dled, ho - ly God, Your an - ger ev - 'ry day.  
Have turned my ston - y heart In - to a heart new - born.  
Now with my heart and soul All e - vil I ab - hor.  
May He re - new my heart To serve You will - ing - ly.

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

## SANCTUS

LSB #208



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

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.

## AGNUS DEI

LSB pg. 210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

(Sit)

## DISTRIBUTION

## THE MAN IS EVER BLESSED



1 The man is ev - er blessed Who shuns the sin - ners' ways, A -  
 2 But makes the Law of God His stud - y and de - light A -  
 3 He like a tree shall thrive, With wa - ters near the root; Fresh  
 4 Not so the wick - ed race, They no such bless - ings find; Their



mong their coun - sels nev - er stands, Nor takes the scorn - ers' place,  
 mid the la - bors of the day And watch - es of the night.  
 as the leaf his name shall live, His works are heav'n - ly fruit.  
 hopes shall flee like emp - ty chaff Be - fore the driv - ing wind.

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

(Stand)

## NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB pg. 211

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

### BENEDICTION

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.

(Sit)

## CLOSING HYMN

LSB #922

### GO, MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING



1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing, Nev-er a-lone.  
2 Go, My chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, At peace and pure.  
3 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, Clos-er to Me;  
4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;



Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My  
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you  
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, Joy-ful and free. Here My  
I the Lord will smile up-on you And give you peace: I the



love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you Mine for-ev-er.  
heard My dear Son's sto-ry; Here you touched Him, saw His glo-ry.  
Spir-it's pow-er filled you; Here His ten-der com-fort stilled you.  
Lord will be your Fa-ther, Sav-ior, Com-fort-er, and Broth-er.



Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing— You are My own.  
Go, My chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, At peace and pure.  
Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, Joy-ful and free.  
Go, My chil-dren; I will keep you And give you peace.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Tune: Welsh, 18th cent.

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Tune: Public domain





## **MINISTRY TEAM**

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## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President – Greg Shediack**

**Vice President – Evans Branigan**

**Secretary – John Stafford**

**Treasurer – Brian Bates**

## **At Large Members:**

**Dan Bates**

**Rachelle Dance**

**David Schult**

**Blake Sebring**

## **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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Fort Wayne, Indiana 46806-4329

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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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