

# THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Saturday, July 12 and Sunday, July 13, 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

### WELCOME

### RINGING OF THE BELLS

### OPENING HYMN

LSB #801

#### HOW GREAT THOU ART



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er  
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the  
3 But when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to  
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y  
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; When I look down from loft - y moun - tain  
die, I scarce can take it in— That on the cross my bur - den glad - ly  
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;  
gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;  
bear - ing He bled and died to take a - way my sin;  
ra - tion And there pro - claim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

*Refrain*



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee, How great Thou



art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

Text: Carl Gustaf Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899–1989

Tune: Swedish; arr. Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899–1989

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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 Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,  
Congregation **for His steadfast love endures forever.**

Pastor It is He who remembered us in our low estate,  
Congregation **for His steadfast love endures forever;**

Pastor and rescued us from our foes,  
Congregation **for His steadfast love endures forever;**

Pastor He who gives food to all flesh,  
Congregation **for His steadfast love endures forever.**

Pastor Give thanks to the God of heaven,  
Congregation **for His steadfast love endures forever.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor Let us approach the throne of mercy, humbly, and in need of forgiveness.  
Congregation We confess, Lord our God,  
**that we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We do not reflect Your love, heavenly Father, in the way we treat others. Forgive us.**

Pastor We confess, gracious Lord Jesus,  
Congregation **that we do not always give You the due honor and glory for all that You have done for us in Your life, death, and resurrection. Forgive us.**

Pastor We confess, O Holy Spirit,  
Congregation **that we forget that even our faulty attempts at loving as You have loved us are covered by Your overarching grace and mercy.**

Pastor Our gracious God has done all that was needed for us to be His friends, followers, and family. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins 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



**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



**G** 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. Lord Jesus Christ, in Your deep compassion You rescue us from whatever may hurt us. Teach us to love You above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Congregation        Amen.**

*(Sit)*

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Leviticus 19:9–18

<sup>9</sup>“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. <sup>10</sup>And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.

<sup>11</sup>“You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. <sup>12</sup>You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.

<sup>13</sup>“You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning. <sup>14</sup>You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

<sup>15</sup>“You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. <sup>16</sup>You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

<sup>17</sup>“You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. <sup>18</sup>You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”

Leader                      This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation        Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

Colossians 1:1–14; 4:12-13

<sup>1:1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

<sup>2</sup>To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

<sup>3</sup>We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,

<sup>4</sup>since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, <sup>5</sup>because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, <sup>6</sup>which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, <sup>7</sup>just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf <sup>8</sup>and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

<sup>9</sup>And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

<sup>10</sup>so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. <sup>11</sup>May you be strengthened

with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy,

<sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. <sup>13</sup>He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to

the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>4:12</sup> Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. <sup>13</sup>For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis.

Leader                      This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation            Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

## ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB pg. 156



## GOSPEL

Luke 10:25–37

<sup>25</sup>Behold, a lawyer stood up to put [Jesus] to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>26</sup>He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” <sup>27</sup>And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>28</sup>And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup>But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” <sup>30</sup>Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup>Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup>So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup>But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. <sup>34</sup>He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him.

<sup>35</sup>And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ <sup>36</sup>Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” <sup>37</sup>He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

Pastor                      This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
Congregation            Praise to You, O Christ.



(Sit)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB #844

### LORD OF ALL NATIONS, GRANT ME GRACE



1 Lord of all na - tions, grant me grace  
2 Break down the wall that would di - vide  
3 For - give me, Lord, where I have erred  
4 Give me Thy cour - age, Lord, to speak  
5 With Thine own love may I be filled



To love all peo - ple, ev - 'ry race;  
Thy chil - dren, Lord, on ev - 'ry side.  
By love - less act and thought - less word.  
When - ev - er strong op - press the weak.  
And by Thy Ho - ly Spir - it willed,



And in each per - son may I see  
My neigh - bor's good let me pur - sue;  
Make me to see the wrong I do  
Should I my - self the vic - tim be,  
That all I touch, wher - e'er I be,



My kin - dred, loved, re - deemed by Thee.  
Let Chris - tian love bind warm and true.  
Will grieve my wound - ed Lord a - new.  
Help me for - give, re - mem - b'ring Thee.  
May be di - vine - ly touched by Thee.

Text: Olive Wise Spannaus, 1916–2018, alt.

Tune: Georg Joseph, 17th cent., adapt.

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Tune: Public domain

## SERMON

## “Kingdom Work Lessons”

*(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**

*(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

**G** 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*

(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.**

## LORD, WHOSE LOVE THROUGH HUMBLE SERVICE



1 Lord, whose love through hum - ble ser - vice Bore the weight of  
 2 Still Your chil - dren wan - der home - less; Still the hun - gry  
 3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, Till Your love's re -  
 4 Called by wor - ship to Your ser - vice, Forth in Your dear



hu - man need, Who up - on the cross, for - sak - en,  
 cry for bread; Still the cap - tives long for free - dom;  
 veal - ing light In its height and depth and great - ness,  
 name we go, To the child, the youth, the a - ged,



Of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed, We, Your ser - vants, bring the  
 Still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, Your deep com -  
 Dawns up - on our quick - ened sight, Mak - ing known the needs and  
 Love in liv - ing deeds to show; Hope and health, good - will and



wor - ship Not of voice a - lone, but heart, Con - se -  
 pas - sion Healed the sick and freed the soul, Use the  
 bur - dens Your com - pas - sion bids us bear, Stir - ring  
 com - fort, Coun - sel, aid, and peace we give, That Your



crat - ing to Your pur - pose Ev - 'ry gift that You im - part.  
 love Your Spir - it kin - dles Still to save and make us whole.  
 us to tire - less striv - ing, Your a - bun - dant life to share.  
 ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom May Your mer - cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-84, alt.

Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia

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## **MINISTRY TEAM**

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## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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## **At Large Members:**

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**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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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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