THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Saturday, July 19 and Sunday, July 20, 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.)

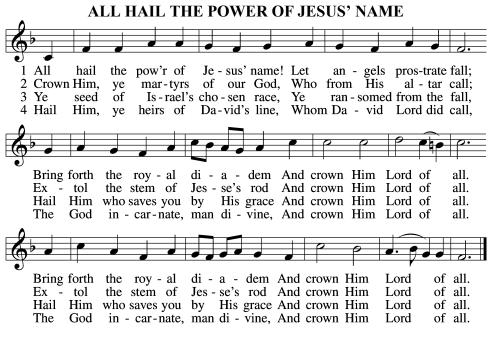
+ PREPARATION +

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

RINGING OF THE BELLS

OPENING HYMN LSB #549



- 5 Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget The wormwood and the gall, Go, spread your trophies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all. Go, spread your trophies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.
 - 6 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe, On this terrestrial ball To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all. To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all.
 - 7 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng We at His feet may fall! We'll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all. We'll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all.

Text (sts. 1–5): Edward Perronet, 1726–92, alt.; (sts. 6–7): A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt. Tune: Oliver Holden, 1765–1844

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 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil

deeds,

Congregation Christ has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death,

Pastor in order to present you holy and blameless

Congregation and above reproach before Him.

Pastor Wait for the LORD; be strong,

Congregation and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

Congregation Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and

unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have

not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and

eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your

holv name. Amen.

Pastor Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for

His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, 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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation And also with you.

Pastor Let us pray. O Lord, grant us the Spirit to hear Your Word and know

the one thing needful that by Your Word and Spirit we may live according to Your will; 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

Genesis 18:1–14

¹ The LORD appeared to [Abraham] by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth ³ and said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, ⁵while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes." ⁷And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." ¹⁰The LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" ¹³The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE Colossians 1:21–29

²¹You, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

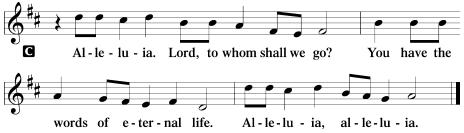
²⁴Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, ²⁵of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. ²⁷To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



GOSPEL Luke 10:38–42

³⁸Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. ³⁹And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, ⁴²but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

find,

0

Lamb

of



Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
 Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
 Because Thy promise I believe,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

come,

I

come.

God,

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown Has broken ev'ry barrier down; Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871 Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–68 Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON "Reconciled to God"

(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.

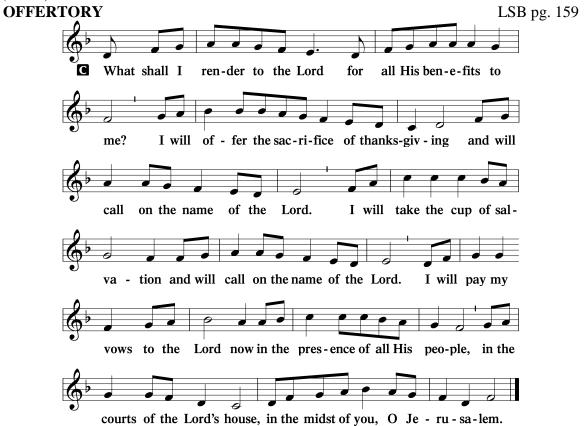
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

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)



(Sit)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE LSB pg. 160

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation And also with you.

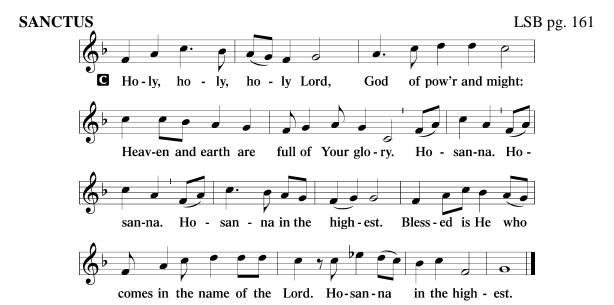
Pastor Lift up your hearts.

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



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.

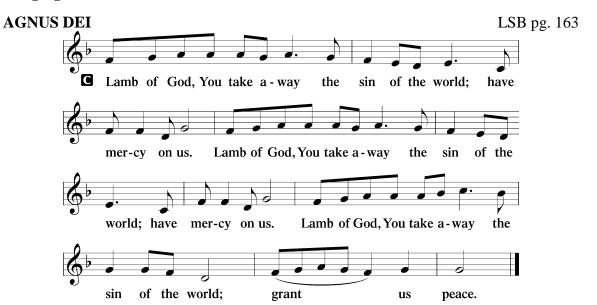
THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI LSB pg. 163

Pastor

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation Amen.



(Sit) **DISTRIBUTION**

Prayerful Meditation



POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

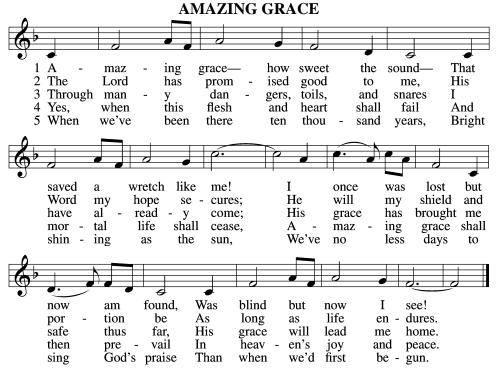
BENEDICTION LSB pg. 166

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 #744



Text (sts. 1–4): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1829, Cincinnati

Text and tune: Public domain

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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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