## THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Saturday, August 2 and Sunday, August 3, 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.)

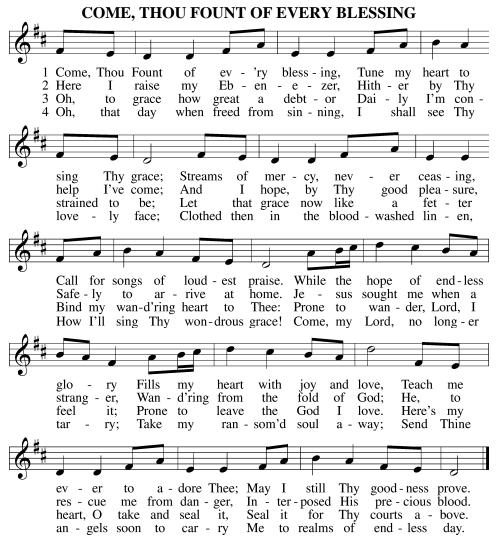
## + PREPARATION +

### PRESERVICE MUSIC

### WELCOME

### RINGING OF THE BELLS

OPENING HYMN LSB #686



Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–90, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg

(Stand)

INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation Amen.

Pastor The earth is the LORD'S and the fullness thereof, the world and those

who dwell therein, for He has founded it upon the seas and established

it upon the rivers.

Congregation He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry.

Pastor Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into

barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more

value than they?

Congregation It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the

bread of anxious toil; for He gives to His beloved sleep.

Pastor Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down

from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow

due to change.

Congregation The First Commandment reminds us, "You shall have no other

gods before Me."

Pastor Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality,

impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

**Congregation** On account of these the wrath of God is coming.

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** 

Pastor Almighty God,

Congregation You are the giver of everything we have. Yet, we are guilty of

coveting the possessions, experiences, and social standing of others. We sin by valuing these things above You. For Jesus' sake, forgive our sins. Renew us in Your knowledge and conform

us to Your image by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He

was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). We receive the riches of God's forgiveness because of Jesus. As a called and

ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all of 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**

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. Lord Jesus, You have set us free and made us a new

creation, renewed in knowledge after the image of our creator.

Empower us to live this new life in our families, with our friends, and to eat, drink, and find enjoyment in all the riches You graciously give you for You raign with the Fother and the Holy Spirit, one God

us; for You reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God,

forever and ever.

**Congregation** Amen.

(Sit)

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING:**

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-26

<sup>2</sup>Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. . . .

<sup>12</sup>I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. <sup>14</sup>I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind. . . .

<sup>18</sup>I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, <sup>19</sup>and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. <sup>20</sup>So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, <sup>21</sup>because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. <sup>22</sup>What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? <sup>23</sup>For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

<sup>24</sup>There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, <sup>25</sup>for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? <sup>26</sup>For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation** Thanks be to God.

**EPISTLE** Colossians 3:1–11

<sup>1</sup>If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup>For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup>Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup>On account of these the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup>In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. <sup>8</sup>But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup>and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. <sup>11</sup>Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation** Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

## **ALLELUIA AND VERSE**



GOSPEL Luke 12:13–21

<sup>13</sup>Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus], "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." <sup>14</sup>But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." <sup>16</sup>And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, <sup>17</sup>and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' <sup>18</sup>And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup>And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' <sup>20</sup>But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' <sup>21</sup>So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.



Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Tune: Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001608

Tune: Public domain

shall fol - low

e - ter - nal

Help me there Your

There to live with

where You guide.

to

on

joy

You

grant

know.

high.

me.

Ι

Life

a - bide;

die.

be.

I share Your woe;

me faith - ful

Ι

Lord, with me

here with You

here

let

(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.

## **OFFERING**

(Stand)



(Sit)

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

# + SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

(Stand)

PREFACE LSB pg. 160

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation And also with you.

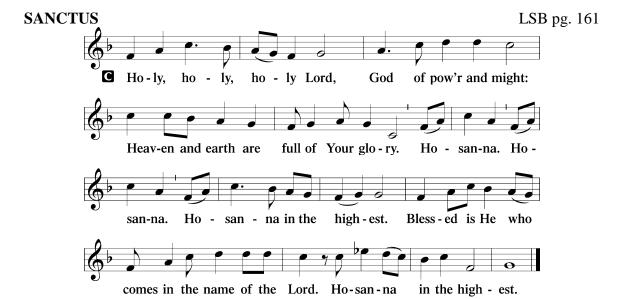
Pastor Lift up your hearts.

**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

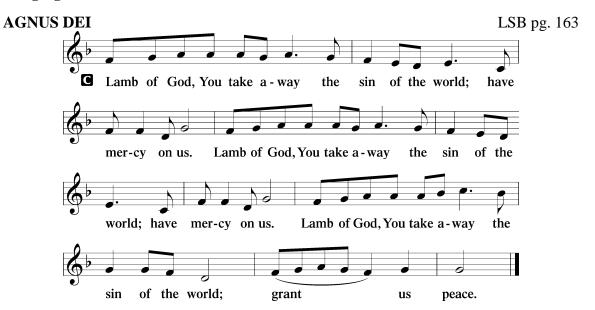
PAX DOMINI LSB pg. 163

**Pastor** 

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation

Amen.



(Sit) **DISTRIBUTION** 

Prayerful Meditation



## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

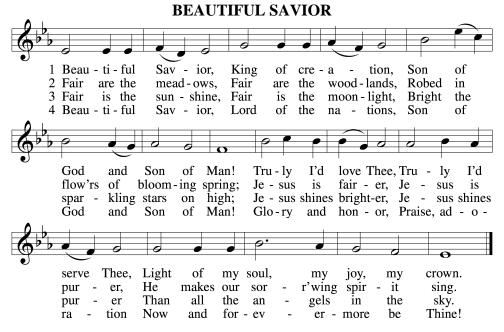
BENEDICTION LSB pg. 166

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 #537



Text: Münsterisch Gesangbuch, 1677, Münster; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904

Tune: Silesian, 19th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

### MINISTRY TEAM

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#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS At Large Members:**

**President – Greg Shediack** 

**Vice President – Evans Branigan** 

Secretary – John Stafford Treasurer - Brian Bates

**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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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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