



*Bethlehem Lutheran Church—William Penn  
Founded 1860—Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*

## **SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2024**



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Ann Sommer

Ushers

Stanley Haferkamp  
Ben Holtkamp  
Craig Kankel  
Caleb Kettler

Acolyte

Taylor Nowicki

Greeter

Peggy McDonald



## Divine Service: Setting III with Communion

Order of Service: *Lutheran Service Book*, pp 184-202

*Pre-Service Music*

### September Bible Verse

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,  
and all these things will be added to you.”

*Matthew 6:33*

### Our Mission Statement

Representing God’s Love to our Congregation, Community, and the World!



In Light of 1 Cor. 11:23-26, Bethlehem Lutheran Church maintains the historical practice of “closed” communion in the belief that the Sacrament requires faith in Christ’s words that His body and blood are truly present. Furthermore, participation in the Sacrament is a sign of our unity in the faith with all those who join us at the altar. *For that reason, we ask that those visitors desiring to commune be members in good standing of a congregation of the LCMS and speak to the pastor or an elder before the beginning of the service.* Our denial of admission to those who are members of another confession is not a judgment upon their faith but a recognition that we hold to different confessions concerning God, salvation, and the Sacrament itself. Such individuals are invited to speak with the pastor following the service.

### *Ringing of the Church Bell*

#### OPENING HYMN

#### *Evening and Morning*

LSB 726



1 Eve - ning and morn - ing, Sun - set and dawn - ing, Wealth, peace, and  
 2 Fa - ther, O hear me, Par - don and spare me; Calm all my  
 3 Ills that still grieve me Soon are to leave me; Though bil - lows  
 4 To God in heav - en All praise be giv - en! Come, let us



glad - ness, Com - fort in sad - ness: These are Thy works; all the  
 ter - rors, Blot out my er - rors That by Thine eyes they may  
 tow - er, And winds gain pow - er, Af - ter the storm the fair  
 of - fer And glad - ly prof - fer To the Cre - a - tor the



glo - ry be Thine! Times with - out num - ber, A - wake or in  
 no more be scanned. Or - der my go - ings, Di - rect all my  
 sun shows its face. Joys e'er in - creas - ing And peace nev - er  
 gifts He doth prize. He well re - ceiv - eth A heart that be -



slum - ber, Thine eye ob - serves us, From dan - ger pre - serves us,  
 do - ings; As it may please Thee, Re - tain or re - lease me;  
 ceas - ing: These shall I trea - sure And share in full mea - sure  
 liev - eth; Hymns that a - dore Him Are pre - cious be - fore Him



Caus - ing Thy mer - cy up - on us to shine.  
 All I com - mit to Thy fa - ther - ly hand.  
 When in His man - sions God grants me a place.  
 And to His throne like sweet in - cense a - rise.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; (sts. 1–2): tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.; (sts. 3–4): tr. Hermann H. M. Brueckner, 1866–1942, alt. Tune: Johann G. Ebeling, 1637–76. Text (sts. 1–2): Public domain. Text (sts. 3–4): © 1930 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013. Tune: Public domain

*Stand.*

INVOCATION

*LSB 184*

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*LSB 184*

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**
- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
- C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.



SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

*Psalm 31:14–16; antiphon: v. 24*

Be strong, and let your heart take courage,  
**all you who wait for the LORD!**  
 But I trust in you, O LORD;  
**I say, “You are my God.”**  
 My times are in your hand;  
**rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!**  
 Make your face shine on your servant;  
**save me in your steadfast love!**  
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**  
**and to the Holy Spirit;**  
**as it was in the beginning,**  
**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**  
 Be strong, and let your heart take courage,  
**all you who wait for the LORD!**

GLORIA PATRI

LSB 186



**G** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



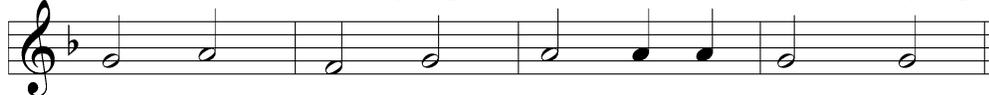
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

KYRIE

LSB 186



**G** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

HYMN OF PRAISE

LSB 187

*Gloria in Excelsis*

**P** Glory be to God on High,



**G** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



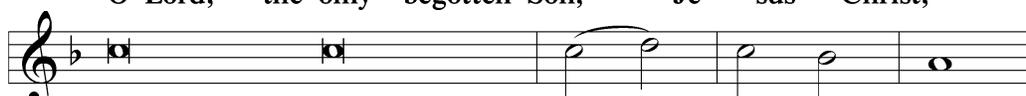
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



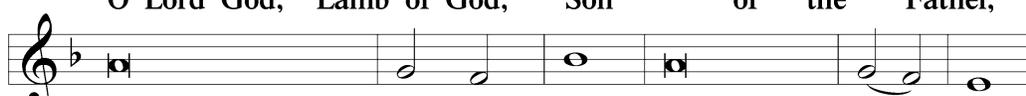
O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



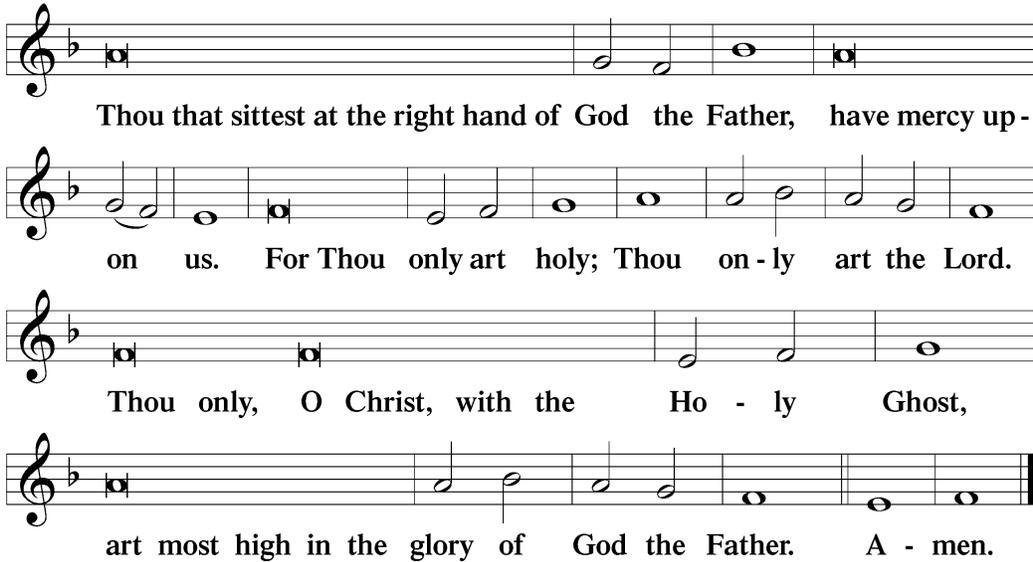
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-  
 on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.  
 Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,  
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Let us pray.

**C** Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defense in every need, continue to preserve Your Church in safety, govern her by Your goodness, and bless her with Your peace; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Sit.*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 50:4–10*

<sup>4</sup>The Lord GOD has given me  
 the tongue of those who are taught,  
 that I may know how to sustain with a word  
 him who is weary.  
 Morning by morning he awakens;  
 he awakens my ear  
 to hear as those who are taught.  
<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
 and I was not rebellious;  
 I turned not backward.  
<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who strike,  
 and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;  
 I hid not my face  
 from disgrace and spitting.  
<sup>7</sup>But the Lord GOD helps me;  
 therefore I have not been disgraced;  
 therefore I have set my face like a flint,  
 and I know that I shall not be put to shame.  
<sup>8</sup>He who vindicates me is near.  
 Who will contend with me?  
 Let us stand up together.  
 Who is my adversary?  
 Let him come near to me.

<sup>9</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;  
 who will declare me guilty?  
 Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment;  
 the moth will eat them up.  
<sup>10</sup>Who among you fears the LORD  
 and obeys the voice of his servant?  
 Let him who walks in darkness  
 and has no light  
 trust in the name of the LORD  
 and rely on his God.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

*James 3:1–12*

<sup>1</sup>Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup>For we all stumble in many ways, and if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. <sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. <sup>4</sup>Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup>So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! <sup>6</sup>And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup>For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup>but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup>From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup>Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? <sup>12</sup>Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand.*

ALLELUIA

*LSB 190*



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

HOLY GOSPEL

*Mark 9:14–29*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>14</sup>And when [Jesus, Peter, James, and John] came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. <sup>15</sup>And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to [Jesus] and greeted him. <sup>16</sup>And he asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” <sup>17</sup>And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. <sup>18</sup>And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” <sup>19</sup>And he answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.” <sup>20</sup>And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him,

immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth.  
<sup>21</sup>And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood.”  
<sup>22</sup>And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”  
<sup>23</sup>And Jesus said to him, “‘If you can!’ All things are possible for one who believes.”  
<sup>24</sup>Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!”  
<sup>25</sup>And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.”  
<sup>26</sup>And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.”  
<sup>27</sup>But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.  
<sup>28</sup>And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?”  
<sup>29</sup>And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

LSB 159

**C** 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  $\text{✠}$  of the world to come. Amen.

Sit.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

LSB 849



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -  
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet  
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,  
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons  
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the  
With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool  
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing  
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this  
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.  
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

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SERMON

Vindicated – Isaiah 50:4–10

Stand.

OFFERTORY

LSB 192



☐ Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

OFFERING PRAYER

*Sit.*

OFFERING

*Stand.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH



SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

LSB 194

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



SANCTUS

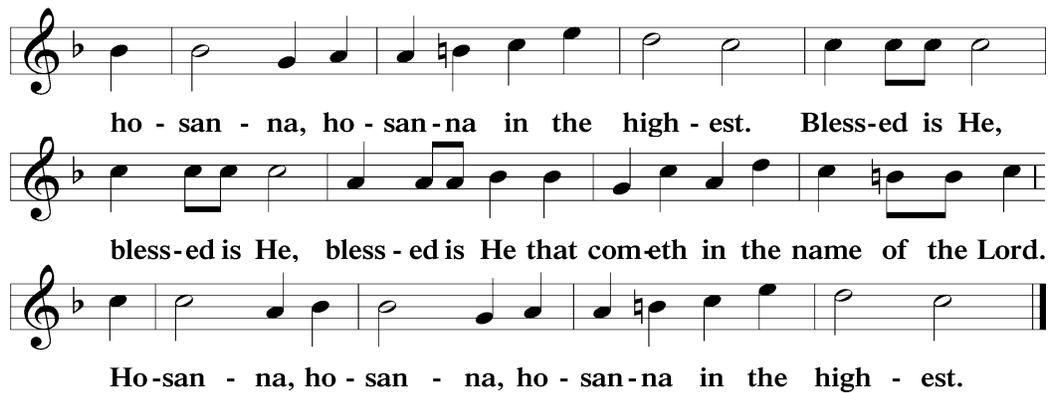
LSB 195



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



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,  
 bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C** 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

LSB 197

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

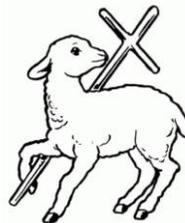
PAX DOMINI

LSB 197

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

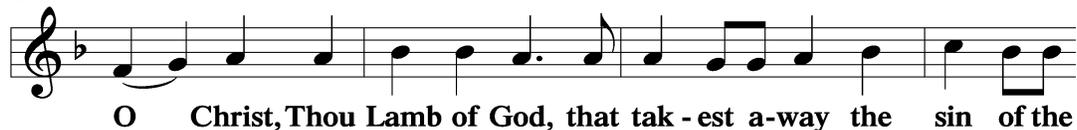


**C** A - men.



AGNUS DEI

LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that  
 tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.  
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the  
 world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

*Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old*

LSB 846

1 Your hand, O Lord, in days of old  
 2 Your touch then, Lord, brought life and health,  
 3 O be our great de - liv - 'rer still,  
 Was strong to heal and save; It tri - umphed o - ver  
 Gave speech and strength and sight; And youth re - newed and  
 The Lord of life and death; Re - store and quick - en,  
 ills and death, O'er dark - ness and the grave.  
 fren - zy calmed Re - vealed You, Lord of light.  
 soothe and bless, With Your life - giv - ing breath.  
 To You they came, the blind, the mute,  
 And now, O Lord, be near to bless,  
 To hands that work and eyes that see  
 The pal - sied and the lame, The lep - ers in their  
 Al - might - y as be - fore, In crowd - ed street, by  
 Give wis - dom's heal - ing pow'r That whole and sick and  
 mis - er - y, The sick with fe - vered frame.  
 beds of pain, As by Gen - nes - 'ret's shore.  
 weak and strong May praise You ev - er - more.

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821-91, alt. Tune: English; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958, alt.  
 Text and tune: Public domain



1 Word of God, come down on earth, Liv - ing rain from  
 2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to  
 3 Word that caused blind eyes to see, Speak and heal our  
 4 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, One with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; Touch our hearts and bring to birth  
 life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,  
 mor - tal blind - ness; Deaf we are: our heal - er be;  
 yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove,



Faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,  
 Cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, Sav - ing Word, the  
 Loose our tongues to tell Your kind - ness. Be our Word in  
 God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to

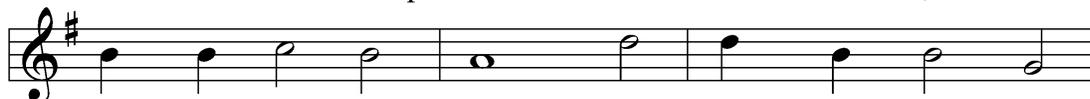


we re - vere You; Word made flesh, we long to hear You.  
 world re - stor - ing, Speak to us, Your love out - pour - ing.  
 pit - y spo - ken, Heal the world, by sin now bro - ken.  
 all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

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1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing My  
 2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, As -  
 3 Je - sus! The name that charms our fears, That  
 4 He breaks the pow'r of can - celed sin; He



great Re - deem - er's praise, The glo - ries of my  
 sist me to pro - claim, To spread through all the  
 bids our sor - rows cease; 'Tis mu - sic in the  
 sets the pris - 'ner free. His blood can make the



God and King, The tri - umphs of His grace!  
 earth a - broad, The hon - ors of Thy name.  
 sin - ner's ears, 'Tis life and health and peace.  
 foul - est clean; His blood a - vails for me.

5 Look unto Him, ye nations; own  
 Your God, ye fallen race.  
 Look and be saved through faith alone,  
 Be justified by grace.

6 See all your sins on Jesus laid;  
 The Lamb of God was slain.  
 His soul was once an off'ring made  
 For ev'ry soul of man.

7 To God all glory, praise, and love  
 Be now and ever giv'n  
 By saints below and saints above,  
 The Church in earth and heav'n.

Text and tune: Public domain

*Rise, Shine, You People*

LSB 825



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered  
 2 See how He sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;  
 3 Come, cel - e - brate, your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,  
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent His Son to save us.



Our hu - man sto - ry; God in Him is cen - tered.  
 He brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing.  
 Your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing.  
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us.



He comes to us, by death and sin sur -  
 All men and wom - en, who by guilt are  
 To all the world go out and tell the  
 Tell how the Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry



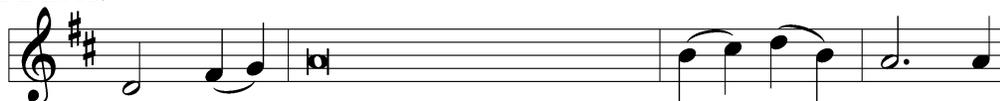
round - ed, With grace un - bound - ed.  
 driv - en, Now are for - giv - en.  
 sto - ry Of Je - sus' glo - ry.  
 na - tion His new cre - a - tion.

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*Stand.*

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 199



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

THANKSGIVING

LSB 200

**P** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  

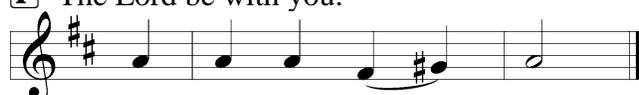

**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**P** Let us pray.  
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

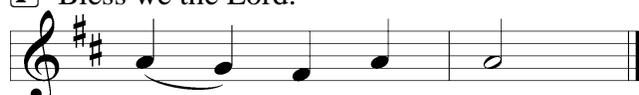
**C** Amen.

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

LSB 201

**P** The Lord be with you.  


**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Bless we the Lord.  


**C** Thanks be to God.



BENEDICTION

LSB 202

**P** 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.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

Sit.

CLOSING HYMN

*Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure*

LSB 533



1 Je - sus has come and brings plea - sure e - ter - nal,  
 2 Je - sus has come! Now see bonds rent a - sun - der!  
 3 Je - sus has come as the might - y Re - deem - er.  
 4 Je - sus has come as the King of all glo - ry!



Al - pha, O - me - ga, Be - gin - ning and End;  
 Fet - ters of death now dis - solve, dis - ap - pear.  
 See now the threat - en - ing strong one dis - armed!  
 Heav - en and earth, O de - clare His great pow'r,



God - head, hu - man - i - ty, u - nion su - per - nal,  
 See Him burst through with a voice as of thun - der!  
 Je - sus breaks down all the walls of death's for - tress,  
 Cap - tur - ing hearts with the heav - en - ly sto - ry;



O great Re - deem - er, You come as our friend!  
 He sets us free from our guilt and our fear,  
 Brings forth the pris - 'ners tri - um - phant, un - harmed.  
 Wel - come Him now in this fast - fleet - ing hour!



Heav - en and earth, now pro - claim this great won - der:  
 Lifts us from shame to the place of His hon - or.  
 Sa - tan, you wick - ed one, own now your mas - ter!  
 Pon - der His love! Take the crown He has for you!



Je - sus has come and brings plea - sure e - ter - nal!  
 Je - sus has come! Hear the roll of God's thun - der!  
 Je - sus has come! He, the might - y Re - deem - er!  
 Je - sus has come! He, the King of all glo - ry!

Text: Johann Ludwig Conrad Allendorf, 1693–1773; tr. Oliver C. Rupprecht, 1903–2000, alt. Tune: Cöthen, c. 1733. Text: © 1982 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013. Tune: Public domain



POSTLUDE

*Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, where we worship in the name of the crucified and risen Lamb of God, Jesus Christ our Lord. Blessings to you as you worship with us today.*



**Congregation:** for Milton Schwartz, Blake Powers, Edith Erwin, and Deloris Griffin; for our shut-in members: Renee Brinkmann, Mildred Holle, Lathel Norris, James Schoenemann, Roger & Elvera Schroeder, and others who are unable to come to church

**Community:** may our Lord continue to deliver to us favorable weather; for Brenham Pregnancy Center and those whose lives they touch; Faith Mission; families and individuals cared for by Child Protective Services

**World:** for all those suffering in the war in Israel, may God watch over and protect His children, and by His Holy Spirit, may they all come to know Christ as their Savior and thus enjoy eternity with Him, for those who have been led astray into false belief; for those facing crisis pregnancies, that they would find the strength to choose life for their unborn child; for the leaders of the nations, that they would make godly decisions for their people and countries

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**This Week's Schedule**  
**September 15 – September 22**

**Today:** *Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
**9:00 AM** Sunday School, Confirmation, Adult Bible Class  
**10:15 AM** Divine Worship: Setting III with Holy Communion  
Acolyte: Taylor Nowicki  
Greeter: Peggy McDonald  
Ushers: Stanley Haferkamp Ben Holtkamp  
Craig Kankel Caleb Kettler

**11:30 AM** Shekel Store

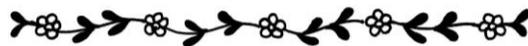
**Wednesday: 4:30 PM** Confirmation

**Thursday: 6:30 PM** Women's Bible Study

**Next Sunday:** *Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
**8:00 AM** Outdoor Amphitheater Worship Service  
**9:00 AM** Sunday School, Confirmation, Adult Bible Class  
**10:15 AM** Divine Worship: Setting I  
Acolyte: Michael Hinze  
Greeter: Destry Pohlmeier  
Ushers: Clinton Kettler Henry Kettler  
Matt Kettler Michael Kettler

**Serving in September: Elder** – Clinton Kettler / **Trustee** – Kevin Harrington

*If you have a question or thought concerning spiritual care or the church property, please contact the appropriate elder or trustee.*



*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God by Peggy McDonald in remembrance of the birthday of her mother, Gertie Kramer.*



Next week begins our monthly **outdoor amphitheater worship** services during the fall season. Please join us **next Sunday at 8:00am to worship in the beauty of Our Lord's creation!**

## **New Sisters in Christ Bible Study begins Monday, September 23 at 10:00 am**



Women of Bethlehem, we invite you to join us each month at Marilyn Klussmann's home as we study God's Word in 2 Corinthians with Kelly Minter's book *All Things New*. We'll read and rest in what our Lord tells us and discuss how His Word directs and instructs us in our daily walk with Him. We'll rest in this truth from 2 Corinthians 5:17—*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."*

Please contact Amy Schroeder if you have any questions: (979) 255-4206.

### *The Lutheran Witness* Subscription

If you are a member and would like to receive *The Lutheran Witness* beginning in January 2025, contact the church office by October 17 at [office@bethlehemwmpenn.org](mailto:office@bethlehemwmpenn.org) or (979) 836-7303.



## **Bethlehem Prayer Vigil: Seeking God's Guidance for Our Nation**

*Are you worried about the coming election?*

*Wish there were something you could do?*



Join us in the Bethlehem Prayer Vigil! From the beginning of October until the election, we invite you to come and pray for our country daily in the sanctuary. Let's unite in prayer and seek God's wisdom and protection during this crucial time.

### **How It Works:**

- **Dates:** October 1st - Election Day
- **Location:** Church Sanctuary
- **Goal:** At least one congregation member praying each day



**Sign-Up:** To ensure each day is covered, please sign up on the form in the parish hall or use the QR code above for the day and time you wish to come and pray. Others may join you during your chosen time if they would like. A booklet will be available in the narthex to help guide you if you so desire.



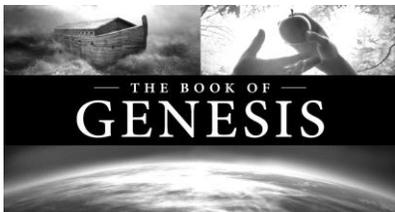
### *Life Thoughts from Lutherans for Life*

Promoting or even permitting abortion and physician-assisted suicide condemns precious human beings who are made in the likeness of God (James 3:9). Thanks be to God that in the good news of receiving every neighbor as gift and privilege, the Lord has given us a tongue to sustain with a word the one who is weary (Isaiah 50:4)! For more information, please visit <https://lutheransforlife.org/>.

## *Sunday School Corner*

In our Fall unit, we begin a deeper study of the Old Testament. This unit begins with the creation of man and woman and leads to the exodus of the children of Israel from Egypt. Today in Sunday School, the kids studied the lesson “A Laughable Promise – Isaac is Born.” The Lord and two angels appear to Abraham in human form, promising the birth of a son to Abraham and Sarah within the year. Sarah conceives and gives birth to Isaac, as the Lord fulfills His promise of generations to come and the promised future Offspring—the Savior, Jesus. To reinforce this lesson for your kids, as a family, discuss, “Usually, we think of laughing at something funny, but this lesson isn’t funny. Why did Sarah laugh? Do we ever “laugh” at God like Sarah did? What are some things that cause you to doubt God? We sin, too, when we don’t trust God or believe in His Word. God forgives us as He did with Sarah, and the Holy Spirit gives us faith to believe God’s promises. What are some ways that you visit others with God’s message of love and forgiveness?” And don’t miss out on next week’s exciting lesson as we continue our Fall quarter lessons with “A Merciful Substitute – Abram and Isaac.” Also, parents, you can join Pastor Krieg in the adult Sunday School class. See you next week!

## *New Adult Sunday School Lesson*



Genesis lays the foundation for all the events and doctrines of Holy Scripture. Studying its characters and events will prepare you for a much broader understanding of God’s ways with humankind. Throughout Genesis, Moses emphasizes that these records apply not simply to Israel but to all nations and families of the earth. See in the patriarchs’ weaknesses, struggles, and joys a mirror of families today. The Lord, through promise and faith, makes all the difference for the patriarchs, and He will likewise bless and lead you. So join us as we begin our study of the book of Genesis. If you could not attend today, please join us next Sunday during the Adult Bible Study hour before church, starting at 9 a.m. Now is the time to commit yourself to a deeper and more meaningful understanding of God’s Word and your relationship with Him. I hope to see you all next Sunday as we continue our studies.



### *Online Giving*

You may give tithes and offerings online by clicking the “Give” tab on our website (<https://www.bethlehemwmpenn.org/>), or just scan the QR code to the left.

### **Last Week at Bethlehem—September 8**

SERVICE	ATTENDANCE	GIFTS IN RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL
Sunday School	12	\$74.75
Youth Bible Class	1	
Adult Bible Class	31	
Sunday Worship Service	119	General Fund: \$5,415.00