



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

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 5, 2026

10:15 AM



Pastor

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Ushers

Craig Kankel
Caleb Kettler
Matt Kettler
JR Kettler

Acolyte

Dillion Nowicki

Greeter

Pauline Kettler

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 5, 2026 – 10:15 AM

Divine Service: Setting III with Holy Communion

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

Pre-Service Music



July Bible Verse

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.

1 John 4:18

Our Mission Statement

Representing God's Love to Our Congregation, Community, and the World!



COMMUNION STATEMENT

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.

Ringling of the Church Bell

OPENING HYMN

Come unto Me, Ye Weary

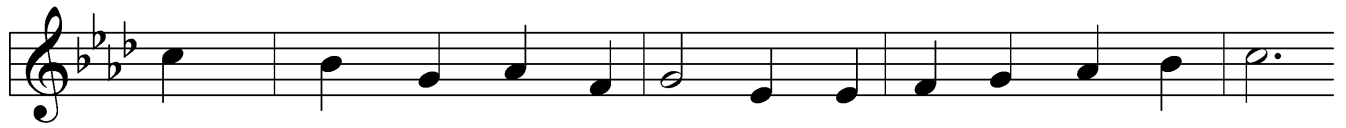
LSB 684



- 1 “Come un - to Me, ye wea - ry, And I will give you rest.”
- 2 “Come un - to Me, ye wan - d’rers, And I will give you light.”
- 3 “Come un - to Me, ye faint - ing, And I will give you life.”
- 4 “And who - so - ev - er com - eth, I will not cast him out.”



O bless - ed voice of Je - sus, Which comes to hearts op-pressed!
O lov - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to cheer the night!
O cheer-ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to aid our strife!
O pa - tient love of Je - sus, Which drives a - way our doubt,



It tells of ben - e - dic - tion, Of par-don, grace, and peace,
Our hearts were filled with sad - ness, And we had lost our way;
The foe is stern and ea - ger, The fight is fierce and long;
Which, though we be un - wor - thy Of love so great and free,



Of joy that hath no end - ing, Of love that can - not cease.
But Thou hast brought us glad - ness And songs at break of day.
But Thou hast made us might - y And strong - er than the strong.
In - vites us ver - y sin - ners To come, dear Lord, to Thee!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt. Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–after 1857. Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the ✠ Cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

INVOCATION

LSB 184

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ 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.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 91:2, 9-10; antiphon: v.1

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.”

Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—
the Most High, who is my refuge—
no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.

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.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

GLORIA PATRI

LSB 186

Two staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

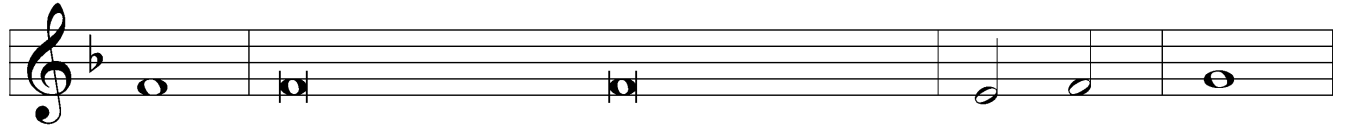
Two staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

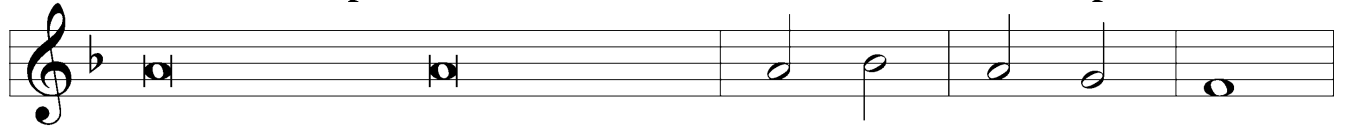
P Glory be to God on High,



C and on earth peace, good - will toward



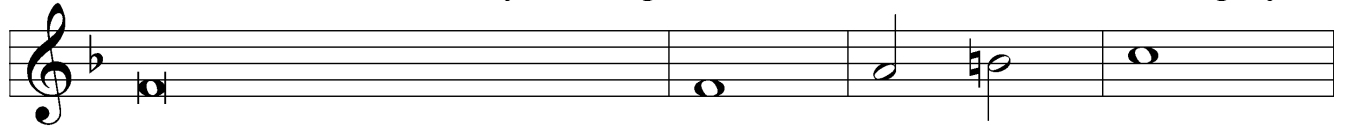
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



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



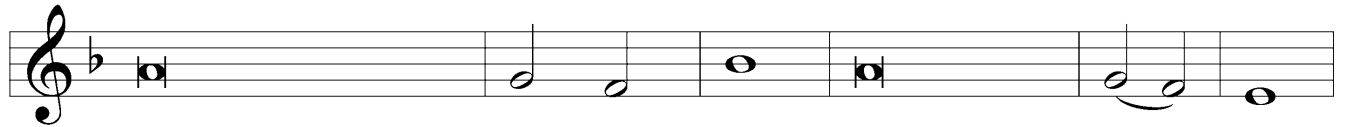
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



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



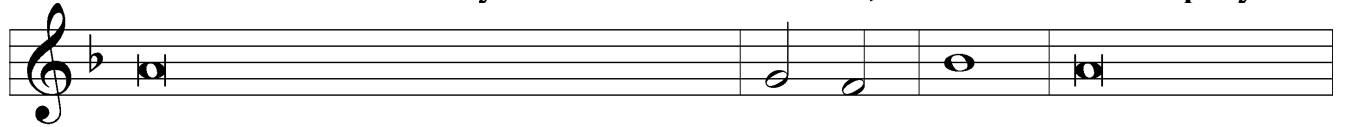
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



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.



SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

C Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall speak peace to the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

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

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
 How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!
 For from him and through him and to him are all things.
 To him be glory forever. Amen.

EPISTLE

Romans 7:14-25a

¹⁴We know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

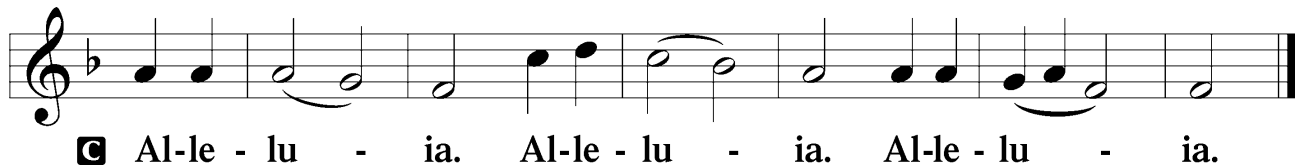
²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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

Stand

COMMON ALLELUIA

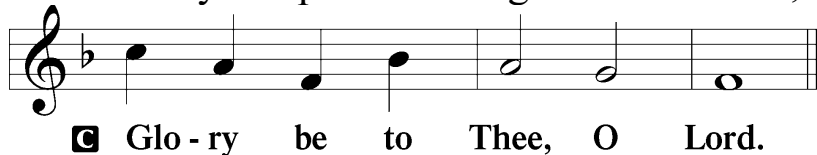
LSB 190



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:25-30

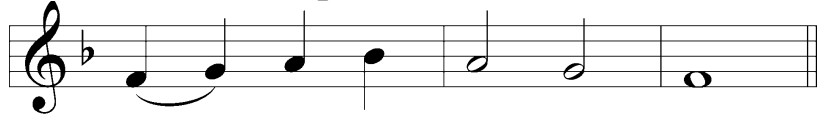
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.



²⁵At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the

Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

LSB 192

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

LSB 699



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to Me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light.



Lay down, thou wea - ry one, lay down Thy head up - on My breast."
The liv - ing wa - ter; thirst - y one, Stoop down and drink and live."
Look un - to Me; thy morn shall rise And all thy day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, So wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank Of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found In Him my star, my sun;



I found in Him a rest - ing place, And He has made me glad.
My thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, And now I live in Him.
And in that light of life I'll walk Till trav - ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-89, alt. Tune: Amanda Husberg, 1940. Text: Public domain Tune: © 1996 Amanda Husberg. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013

SERMON

After the Fireworks Fade

Matthew 11:25-30

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.



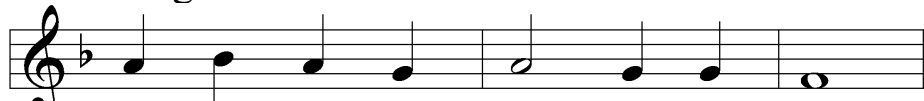
C And with thy spir - it.

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. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

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

LSB 196

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 ✠ 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 ✠ 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



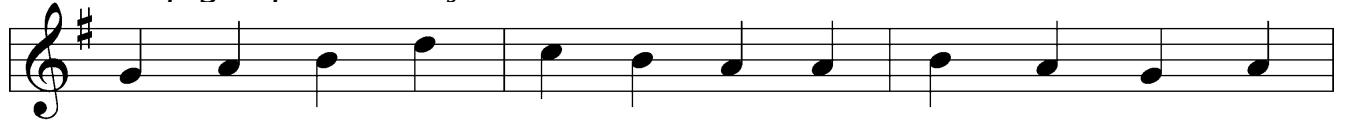
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

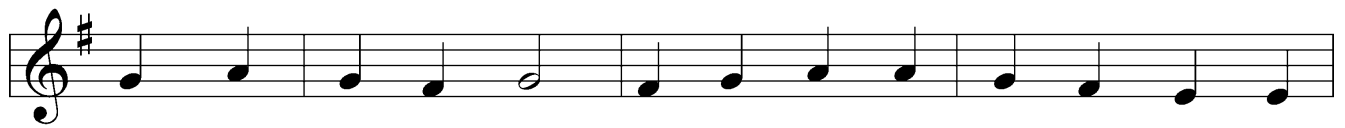
LSB 423



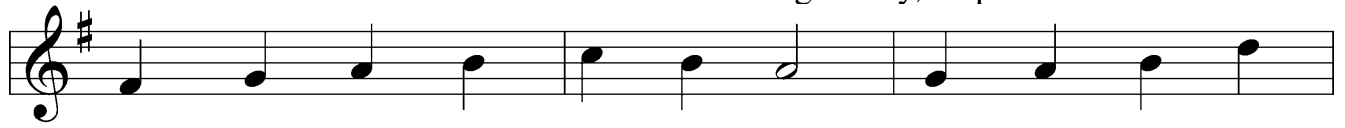
1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,
2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent



whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior
pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound-ed, bleed - ing, See Your
love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -



from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,
thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us
hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the
Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your
From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our

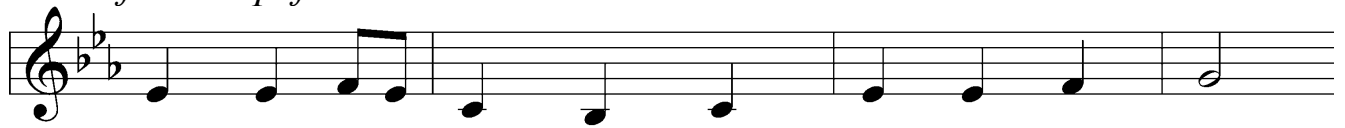


cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.
grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: Girolamo Savonarola, 1452–98; tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826–96, alt.. Tune: Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz, 1745, Basel. Text and tune: Public domain

Lord of All Hopefulness

LSB 738



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Your hands swift to wel - come, Your arms to em - brace:
Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–53. Tune: Irish. Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013. Tune: Public domain

I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

LSB 618

1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and
 2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners
 3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I
 4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my
 5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's

wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
 may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in
 have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt
 soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -
 bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of

lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
 faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.
 ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:
 ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
 heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.

Refrain

Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high-est good!

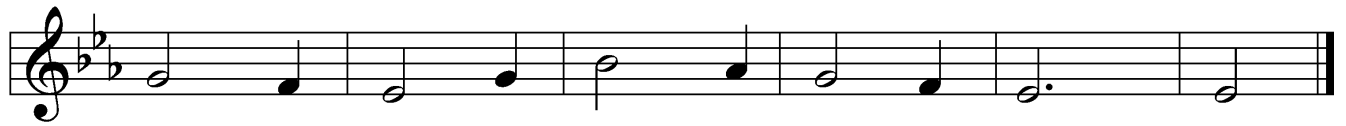
Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr. Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, 1756, Leipzig. Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House.
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The King of Love My Shepherd Is

LSB 709

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul He lead - eth And, where the ver - dant
 love He sought me And on His shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, Thy rod and staff my



I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid And home re - joic - ing brought me.
com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth!

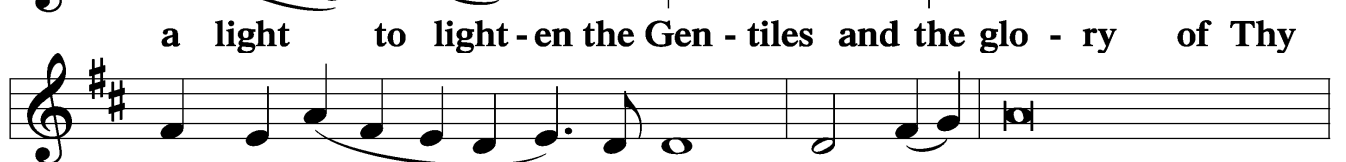
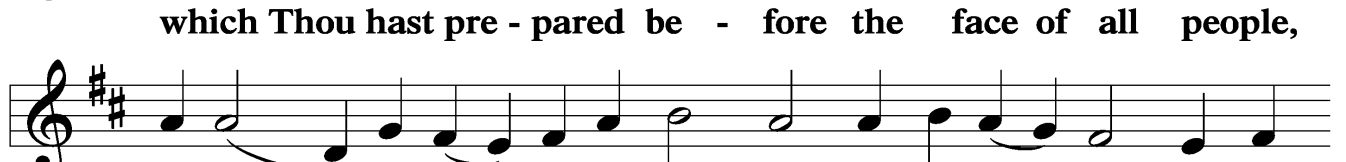
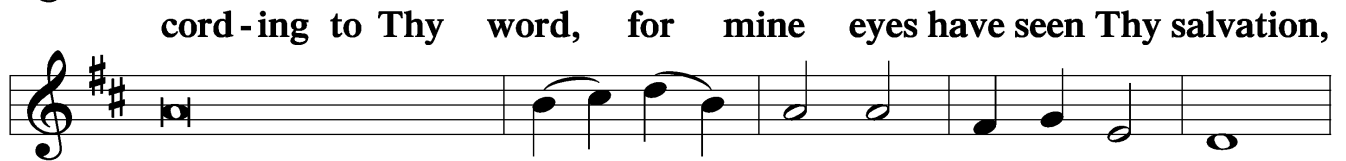
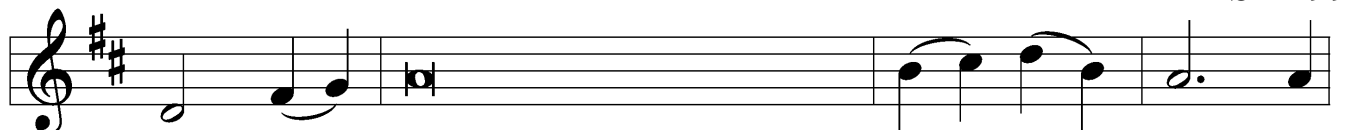
6 And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever!

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-77. Tune: Irish, c. 18th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 199

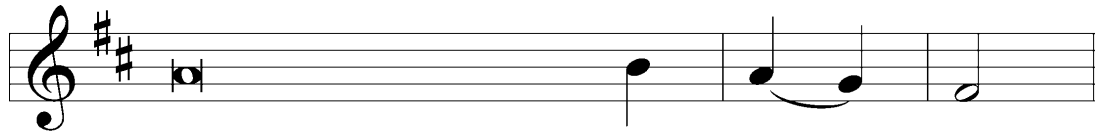


is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

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 A - men.

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

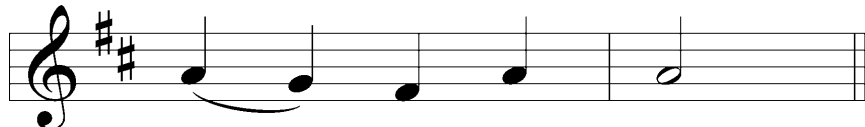
LSB 201

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.

CLOSING HYMN

Before You, Lord, We Bow

LSB 966



1 Be - fore You, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns a - bove
2 The na - tion You have blest May well Your love de - clare,
3 May ev - 'ry moun - tain height, Each vale and for - est green,
4 Earth, hear your Mak - er's voice; Your great Re - deem - er own;
5 And when in pow'r He comes, Oh, may our na - tive land



And rules the world be - low, Bound-less in pow'r and love. Our thanks
From foes and fears at rest, Pro - tect - ed by Your care. For this
Shine in Your Word's pure light, And its rich fruits be seen! May ev -
Be - lieve, o - bey, re - joice, And wor-ship Him a - lone. Cast down
From all its rend - ing tombs Send forth a glo - rious band, A count -



we bring In joy and praise, Our hearts we raise To You, our King!
bright day, For this fair land—Gifts of Your hand—Our thanks we pay.
'ry tongue Be tuned to praise And join to raise A grate - ful song.
your pride, Your sin de - plores, And bow be - fore The Cru - ci - fied.
less throng, With joy to sing To heav'n's high King Sal - va - tion's song!

Tune and text: 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.



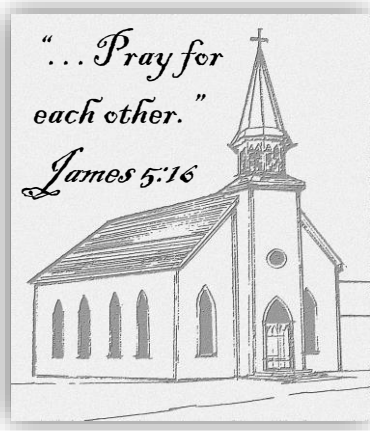
Congregation: strength and healing for Geraldine Pohlmeier; strength and healing for Donna Hinze as she goes through cancer treatment; health and healing for David Boenker, healing for Terry and Becky

Lueckemeyer; healing for Lillian Hayden from knee surgery; for Tom Hayden's recovery after surgery and continued healing; for Adeline Platt's health; and Deloris Griffin; for our shut-in members: Renee Brinkmann, Mildred Holle, Elvera Schroeder, and others who are unable to come to church.

Community: blessings on William and Skylar Killinger as he prepares for his Holy Ministry; for Grace Lutheran School, that they may continue to be a place for the children of our community and congregation to learn and grow in their faith and knowledge of God's world; may our Lord continue to deliver to us favorable weather; for Brenham Pregnancy Center and those whose lives they touched; Faith Mission; families and individuals cared for by Child Protective Services.

World: for all those suffering through war, 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.

Bethlehem at Prayer



Prayer is a vital part of our life together in Christ. To that end, *Bethlehem at Prayer* is a means to encourage more intentional prayer for one another. This is an opportunity for us to support one another in faith, lifting up each household by name before our gracious God. While members can always request prayers at any time, this effort ensures that every family at Bethlehem is prayed for regularly. We invite you to join us in encouragement and intercession, praying for our brothers and sisters in Christ each week.

Please remember these families in your prayers this week:

- Ashorn – Melvin, Shirley
- Ashorn – Brian, Heather, Blane, Westin
- Hinze – Lester
- Hodge – David, Cathy
- Molitor – Kathy
- Molitor – Brad, Tricia, Amber, Maddison

May the Lord bless and strengthen them in faith and life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week's Schedule

July 5 – July 12



Today: *Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*

9:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
9:00 AM Youth League Meeting
10:15 AM Divine Worship: Setting III with Holy Communion
Acolyte: Dillion Nowicki
Greeter: Pauline Kettler
Ushers: Craig Kankel Caleb Kettler
Matt Kettler JR Kettler



Tuesday:

7:00 PM LWML Social
7:30 PM LWML Meeting



Wednesday:

8:30 AM Sonshine



7:00 PM Church Council meeting



Thursday:

6:30 PM Ladies Bible Study



Saturday:

7:30 AM Men's Club Breakfast, Bible Study & Meeting

Next Sunday: *Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*

9:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
10:15 AM Divine Worship: Setting III with Holy Communion
11:30 AM Shekel Store
Acolyte: Winston Krieg
Greeter: Theresa Kettler
Ushers: Michael Kettler Robert Kettler
Wayne Klussmann Don Koester



Serving in July: Elder – Clinton Kettler / Trustee – Doyle Dahmann

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 in celebration of Don and Ann Koester's 25th anniversary.



The **July** newsletters are available in the Narthex for those members who do not receive them by email.



The LWML social and meeting for **July** will be held **this Tuesday the 7th starting at 7:00 PM**. All the ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.



There is a Church Council meeting this **Wednesday, July 8th at 7:00 PM**.



The **Ladies Bible Study** will resume **this Thursday, July 9th at 6:30 PM**. The new study will be of Ruth: More Than a Love Story.



The Men's Club monthly breakfast will be **this Saturday, July 11th at 7:30 AM** in the Parish Hall. **Men of the congregation, this is your opportunity to bond as brothers in Christ, and be fed, both in body and Spirit.** All men of the congregation are invited to attend. Breakfast will be served, with fellowship and Bible study to follow.



There will be a **Voters' Meeting on Wednesday, July 22, at 7:30pm.**

Lutheran Education Scholarship Announcement



The Board of Missions is pleased to announce the establishment of a Lutheran Education Scholarship for the members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. This scholarship is available to all members who attend an LCMS daycare, parochial school, university, or seminary. Funds will be distributed at the beginning of the 2026–2027 school year.

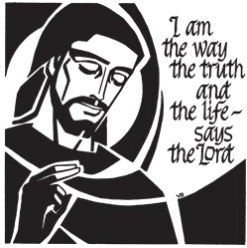
If you would like to support this mission and help encourage faithful Lutheran education, you may contribute by placing your gift in the offering plate and designating it for the *Lutheran Education Scholarship Fund*. For more information, please see Pastor Krieg.



Through our congregation's participation in the Adopt-a-Seminarian program, we have been blessed to be paired with seminarian William Killinger and his wife, Skylar. We will continue to collect gifts all year long, sending them each quarter.

Simply place your gift in the offering plate and designate it for "Seminarian William Killinger". A thank-you letter received from William and Skylar is posted in the Parish hall along with current photos. Please keep them in your prayers.

Sunday School Corner



Today, the kids studied the lesson, “To a New Generation – Paul Writes to Timothy.” Paul writes this instructive letter to his spiritual son, Timothy. As the pastor of the Church in Ephesus, young Timothy relies on Paul’s experience and advice. Paul’s words to Timothy encourage all believers in Christ: “The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost” (1 Timothy 1:15). To reinforce this lesson with your kids, as a family, discuss: Paul is writing this letter from prison. He has many reasons to complain, but instead he praises God. How does thanking God for His blessings, even in difficult times, change our attitude? In this section, Paul does a lot of remembering. Old Testament people often remembered or told of how God helped them in the past. What’s the point of all that remembering? How does it help you to remember the people who have shared Jesus with you? Why would it be a bad thing to forget? Notice that Paul talks about Timothy having been taught in the faith since childhood, just like you. Why is it so important for us to learn about Jesus from very early in our lives, even as children? Note that Paul starts his letter with the greeting “Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.” Many pastors also use this as they open their sermons. Why include such a greeting?

High School Lesson

Our High School Sunday School class is beginning a new study series using Not-So-Nice Bible Stories: Master Criminals. In this engaging and thought-provoking study, students will explore the stories of some of Scripture’s most notorious wrongdoers, and discover how God’s mercy and grace still shine through even the darkest human deeds. Each lesson points us to Christ, who took the punishment for all sin upon Himself and gives us forgiveness, life, and salvation. Join us as we dig into God’s Word, wrestle with tough questions, and see how even “master criminals” reveal our need for the one true Savior, Jesus Christ.

Lesson 18 – The Jail Breaks Without a Jailbreak (Acts 16)

In this week’s lesson, our High School Sunday School class studied Paul and Silas in prison and the remarkable events that followed. Students explored how the apostles remained faithful even while suffering unjustly for the sake of Christ. When God sent an earthquake to open the prison doors, Paul and Silas did not flee. Instead, they stayed and proclaimed the Gospel to the terrified jailer, who asked the most important question of all: “What must I do to be saved?” We discussed how salvation comes not through our works, but through faith in Jesus Christ, who died and rose again for sinners. This account reminds us that God often works through trials and hardships

to bring His saving Word to those who need to hear it, transforming lives through the power of the Gospel.

Adult Sunday School Lesson



Join us as we begin a new Adult Sunday School study on the Means of Grace, the wonderful gifts through which Christ delivers forgiveness, life, and salvation to His people. Together, we will study the Word of God, Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and the Lord's Supper from Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.

What makes Lutherans speak so strongly about Baptism? Why do we believe Christ is truly present in the Lord's Supper? Why is it proper to commune every Sunday? What is Absolution, and why is hearing forgiveness spoken aloud such a comfort? How does God actually create and strengthen faith?

These are not merely academic questions. The Means of Grace are at the very heart of the Christian life because they are the very ways Christ comes to serve sinners with His mercy and forgiveness. Even if you have not attended Sunday School recently, now is a wonderful time to begin. Whether you are a lifelong Lutheran or newer to the faith, this study will help deepen your understanding of Christ's gifts and strengthen your confidence in His promises.

Come and receive the comfort and certainty Christ gives through His Means of Grace!



July 5 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost – Sin dwells in each one of us so that even when we desire to do what is right, we are seldom able to do it without stain (Romans

7:18). Therefore, even Christians fall into sins which dehumanize our neighbors. We treat others differently or harbor hatred toward them because of their race, political views, past sins, etc. Thanks be to God that He is pleased to reveal His salvation to us in His Son, Jesus Christ, forgiving our sins, delivering us from the power of sin, and considering us as His own beloved children (Matthew 11:25-27; Romans 7:25).



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

DATE	SERVICE	ATTENDANCE	GIFTS IN RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL
June 28	Sunday School	12	\$354.26
	Youth Bible Class	3	
	Adult Bible Class	21	
June 28	Worship Service	109	General Fund: \$3,120.00

