



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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

10:15 AM



Pastor

Rev. Kelly Dean Krieg
(214) 208-1364

PastorKrieg@BethlehemWmPenn.org

Secretary

Janice Pazderny
(979) 836-7303

Office@BethlehemWmPenn.org

Organist

Ann Sommer

Ushers

Billy Ashorn
Blane Ashorn
Brian Ashorn
Westin Ashorn

Acolyte

Norman Krieg

Greeter

Dorcas Schroeder

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2026 – 10:15 AM

Divine Service: Setting III with Holy Communion

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

Pre-Service Music



September Bible Verse

“The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble;
He knows those who take refuge in Him.”

Nahum 1:7

Our Mission Statement

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



COMMUNION STATEMENT

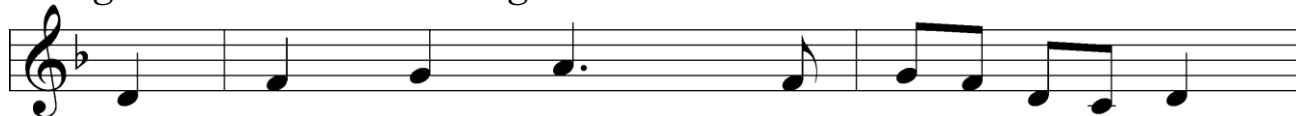
In Light of 1 Cor. 11:23-26, Bethlehem Lutheran Church maintains the historical practice of “closed” communion in the belief that the Sacrament requires faith in Christ’s words that His body and blood are truly present. Furthermore, participation in the Sacrament is a sign of our unity in the faith with 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

“Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”

LSB 843



1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,”
2 How can Your par - don reach and bless
3 In blaz - ing light Your cross re - veals
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls



You taught us, Lord, to pray; But You a - lone can
The un - for - giv - ing heart That broods on wrongs and
The truth we dim - ly knew: What triv - ial debts are
And bid re - sent - ment cease; Then, bound to all in



grant us grace To live the words we say.
will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?
owed to us, How great our debt to You!
bonds of love, Our lives will spread Your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–87, alt. Tune: A Supplement to the Kentucky Harmony, 1820, Harrisonburg. Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013. 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

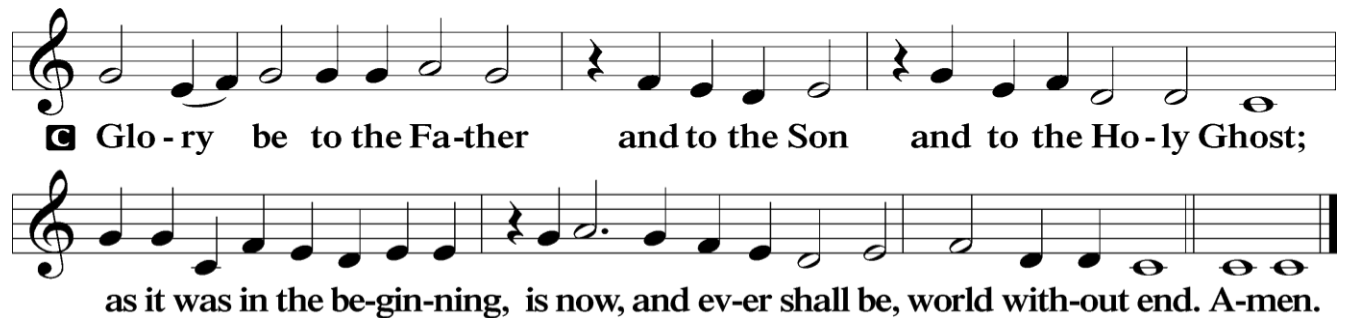
INTROIT

Psalm 92:1-4; antiphon: v.5

How great are your works, O LORD!
Your thoughts are very deep!
It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night,
to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.
For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.
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.
How great are your works, O LORD!
Your thoughts are very deep!

GLORIA PATRI

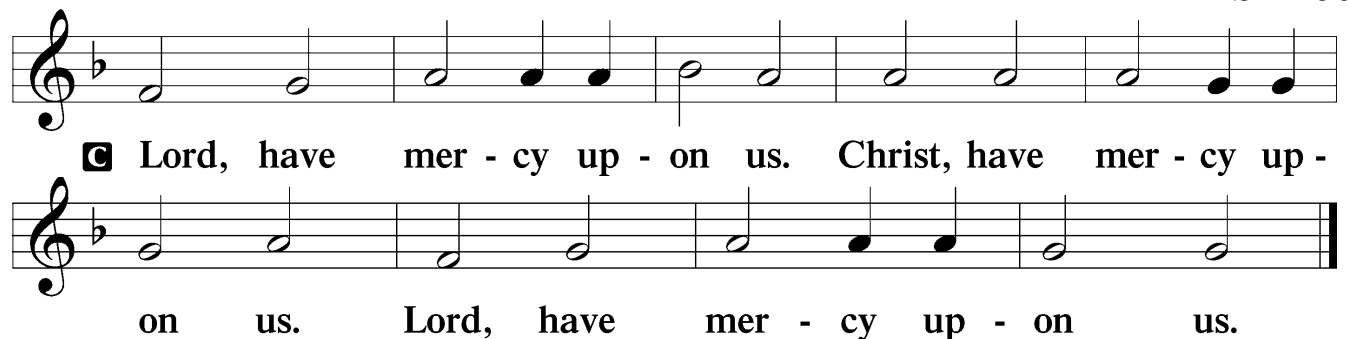
LSB 186



☐ 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

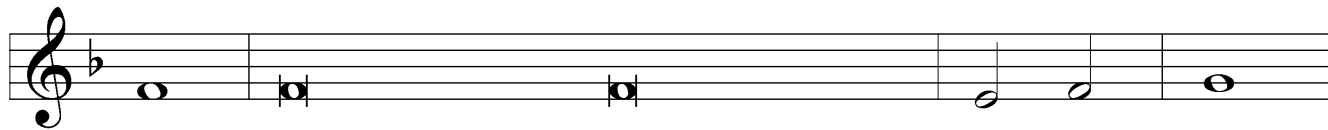


☐ Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

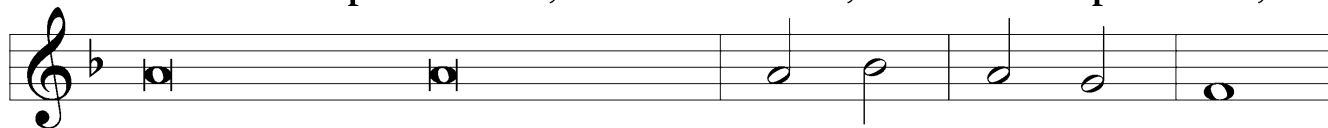
P Glory be to God on High,



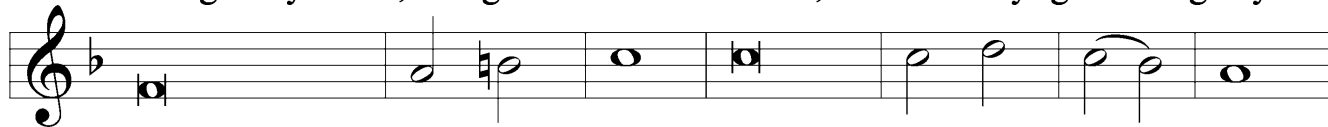
C and on earth peace, good - will toward



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



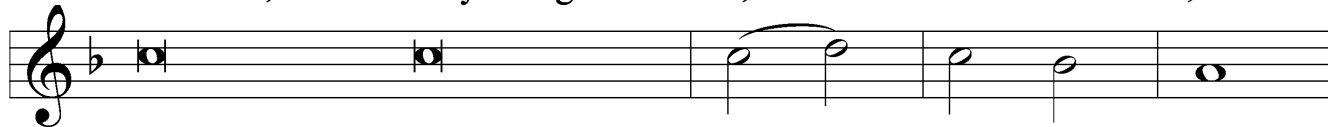
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



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



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



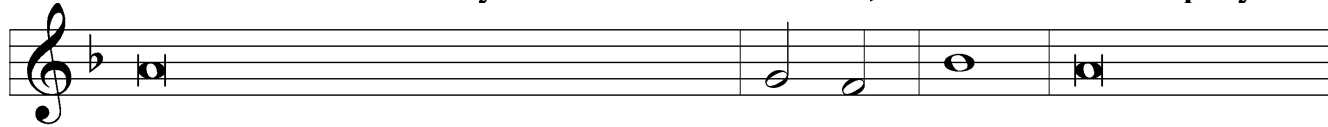
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



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 O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; 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

Ezekiel 33:7-9

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

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

GRADUAL

Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

Fear the LORD, you his saints,
for those who fear him lack nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

EPISTLE

Romans 13:1-10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

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

Stand

COMMON ALLELUIA

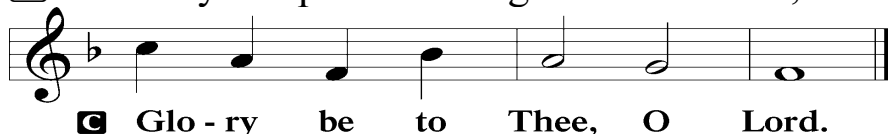
LSB 190



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:1-20

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



¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

¹⁰“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹¹For the Son of Man came to save the lost. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

**☐ 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.**

Sit

*Praise
to the Lord*

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker

LSB 820



1 My soul, now praise your Mak - er! Let all with - in me
2 He of - fers all His trea - sure Of jus - tice, truth, and
3 For as a ten - der fa - ther Has pit - y on his
4 His grace re - mains for - ev - er, And chil - dren's chil - dren



bless His name Who makes you full par - tak - er Of
righ - teous - ness, His love be - yond all mea - sure, His
chil - dren here, God in His arms will gath - er All
yet shall prove That God for - sakes them nev - er Who



mer - cies more than you dare claim. For - get Him not whose
yearn - ing pit - y o'er dis - tress; Nor treats us as we
who are His in child - like fear. He knows how frail our
in true fear shall seek His love. In heav'n is fixed His



meek - ness Still bears with all your sin, Who heals your ev - 'ry
mer - it But sets His an - ger by. The poor and con - trite
pow - ers, Who but from dust are made. We flour - ish like the
dwell - ing, His rule is o - ver all; O hosts with might ex -



weak - ness, Re - news your life with - in; Whose grace and
spir - it Finds His com - pas - sion nigh; And high as
flow - ers, And e - ven so we fade; The wind but
cel - ling, With praise be - fore Him fall. Praise Him for -



care are end - less And saved you through the past; Who
heav'n a - bove us, As dawn from close of day, So
through them pass - es, And all their bloom is o'er. We
ev - er reign - ing, All you who hear His Word— Our



leaves no suf - f'rer friend - less But rights the wronged at last.
far, since He has loved us, He puts our sins a - way.
with - er like the grass - es; Our place knows us no more.
life and all sus - tain - ing. My soul, O praise the Lord!

SERMON
When the Pew Goes Empty
Matthew 18:1-20

Stand

OFFERTORY

LSB 192

C 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 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.



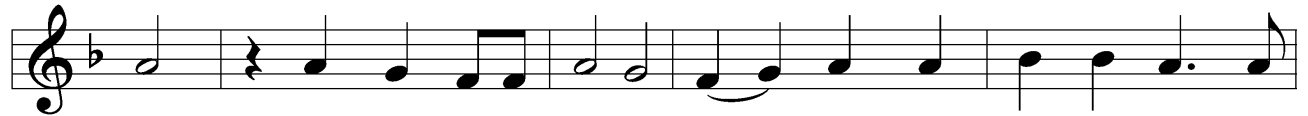
C A - men.

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.

Lord to You I Make Confession

LSB 608



1 Lord, to You I make con - fes - sion: I have sinned and
 2 Yet, though con - science' voice ap - pall me, Fa - ther, I will
 3 For Your Son has suf - fered for me, Giv'n Him - self to
 4 Lord, on You I cast my bur - den— Sink it in the



gone a - stray, I have mul - ti - plied trans - gres - sion,
 seek Your face; Though Your child I dare not call me,
 res - cue me, Died to save me and re - store me,
 deep - est sea! Let me know Your gra - cious par - don,



Cho - sen for my - self my way. Led by You to
 Yet re - ceive me in Your grace. Do not for my
 Rec - on - ciled and set me free. Je - sus' cross a -
 Cleanse me from in - iq - ui - ty. Let Your Spir - it

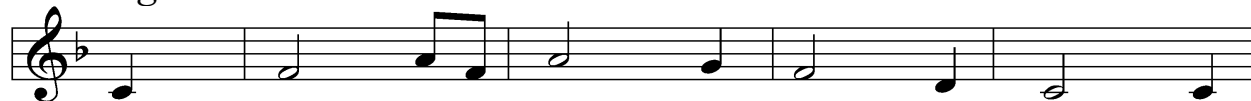


see my er - rors, Lord, I trem - ble at Your ter - rors.
 sins for - sake me; Let Your wrath not o - ver - take me.
 lone can van - quish These dark fears and soothe this an - guish.
 leave me nev - er; Make me on - ly Yours for - ev - er.

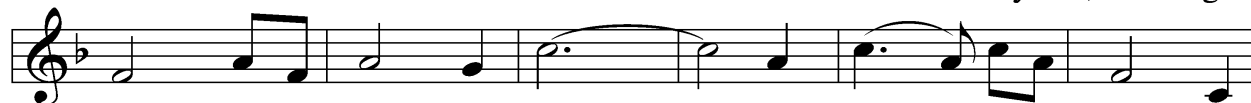
Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662 Text and tune: Public domain

Amazing Grace

LSB 744



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
 have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
 mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
 safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
 then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.
 sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Tune and text: Public domain

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

LSB 851



1 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Glad - ly,
 3 Won - drous hon - or You have giv - en To our
 4 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your
 life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the
 free - ly of Your own. With the sun - shine of Your
 hum - blest char - i - ty. In Your own mys - te - rious
 life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the
 lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;
 good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone
 sen - tence, "You have done it all to Me."
 lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.
 And with that have free - ly giv - en Bless - ings
 Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by
 Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, That You
 Give us faith to trust You bold - ly, Hope, to
 count - less as the sand To the un - thank - ful
 You, at length be - lieve That more hap - py
 deign for alms to sue, Say - ing by Your
 stay our souls on You; But, oh, best of
 and the e - vil With Your own un - spar - ing hand.
 and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you?"
 all Your grac - es, With Your love our love re - new.

Text and tune: Public domain

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

LSB 803



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,
 △ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.
 Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.
 Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap-py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun-tain - head of love di-vine:



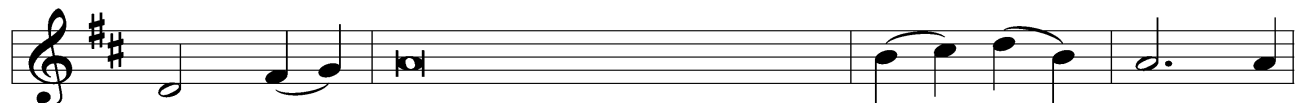
Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.
 Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.
 Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy-ful, we by grace are Thine!

Tune and text: Public domain

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 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.

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

Christ, Our Human Likeness Sharing

LSB 847



1 Christ, our hu - man like - ness shar - ing, Heav - en's love on
2 Hear the word that Christ has spo - ken, Help the weak, the
3 Christ, in ev - 'ry con - gre - ga - tion Build Your tem - ple,
4 Come, O liv - ing Christ, re - new us, As of old in



earth por - trayed; Christ the Shep - herd, tend - ing, car - ing,
hun - gry feed; See the pow'rs of dark - ness bro - ken,
stone by stone, With Your word as firm foun - da - tion
wind and flame; With the Spir - it's pow'r en - due us,



In His death our ran - som paid: Christ the Sav - ior,
Sin - ners par - doned, cap - tives freed: Christ the Sav - ior,
For a faith ma - tured and grown: Christ the Sav - ior,
Ser - vants of Your sav - ing name: Christ the Sav - ior,



Christ the Ser - vant, Be Your life in us dis - played.
Christ the Ser - vant, Help us meet our neigh - bor's need.
Christ the Ser - vant, Make in us Your Gos - pel known.
Christ the Ser - vant, Christ whose king - dom we pro - claim.



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.



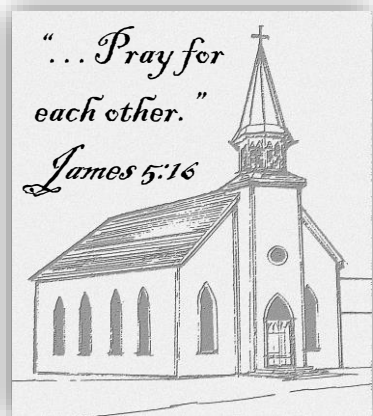
Congregation: for the family of Mildred Holle as they mourn her loss; strength and healing for Mr. Thomas Scholz (Amy Schroeder's uncle) as he recovers from a broken vertebrae; strength for David

Husfeld; 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, 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:

- Dahmann – Don
- Dahmann – Doyle, Karin
- Kettler – Clinton, Diane, Ruth Ann
- Kettler – Douglas, Theresa
- Schroeder – Dale, Cheryl, Ian
- Schroeder – Collin, Amy, Henry, Ruth

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS
This Week's Schedule
September 6 – September 13



Today: *Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

9:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
10:15 AM Divine Service: Setting III with Holy Communion
Acolyte: Amelia Kettler
Greeter: Destry Pohlmeier
Ushers: Tyler Gandy Glenn Foster
Delwin Gaskamp Kevin Harrington



Wednesday:

9:00 AM Sonshine



Confirmation

4:30 PM Confirmation Class 7th/8th Grades



Thursday:

6:30 PM Ladies Bible Study



Next Sunday: *Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

9:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
10:15 AM Divine Service: Setting III with Holy Communion
11:30 AM Shekel Store
Acolyte: Wyatt Schramme
Greeter: Sandra Schwartz
Ushers: Jason Ashorn Kaisen Ashorn
Melvin Ashorn Eric Berglund

Serving in September: Elder – Chris Smitherman / Trustee – Michael Schroeder

*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 David and Cathy Hodge
in honor of Pastor Krieg's birthday.*



Texas Confessional Lutherans Free Conference: "Why Be Lutheran?"

Texas Confessional Lutherans will host a **free conference**, "Why Be Lutheran?", this **Saturday, September 11–12**, at **Grace Lutheran Church in Brenham, Texas**.

The conference will explore **what distinguishes Lutheranism and why a Lutheran confession still matters today**, especially in a time of increasing secularism, relativism, and religious disaffiliation.

Presentations will include:

- The History of Lutheranism
- The Benefit of Lutheran Catechesis
- The Benefit of Lutheran Worship
- **The Benefit of Lutheran Unity**, presented by **Rev. Kelly Krieg**
- A panel discussion and opportunities for fellowship

Schedule: Friday, 6:00 - 9:00 PM; Saturday, 8:00 AM - Noon.

There is no charge to attend. An offering will be collected to help cover expenses.

For questions, contact Pastor Kory Boster at kboster@sbcglobal.net. More information is available at **TXConfessionalLutherans.com**.



Sunday School Teachers Needed for 2026–2027

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." (*Proverbs 22:6*)

As we prepare for the upcoming Sunday School year, we are seeking faithful volunteers to help teach our children God's Word. There are few greater privileges than sharing the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ with the next generation and helping our children grow in the faith from an early age. The lessons they learn today will serve as a firm foundation for a lifetime of hearing, believing, and confessing God's Word.

To make this ministry both manageable and enjoyable, we are looking for **two teachers to share the responsibility of each class**, allowing teachers to alternate and support one another throughout the year.

If you are willing to serve in this important ministry, please **sign up in the Parish Hall** or **speak with one of the members of the Board of Education**. Please prayerfully consider how the Lord might use your gifts to help nurture the faith of the children He has entrusted to our congregation.



The Sonshine ladies' meeting is **this Wednesday at 9:00 AM**.

JOIN US TODAY!

HAYAL
HOUSTON AREA
YOUNG ADULT
LUTHERANS



Houston Area Young Adult Lutherans, "HAYAL," seeks to support friendships, marriages, and family formation, connecting young people of the greater Houston area in Christ for service to each other and the community.

- Open to confessional Lutheran young adults ages 18+
- Come join us for fun fellowship events!

MORE INFO



St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Houston is hosting “HAYAL:” a new LCMS group for Houston Area Young Adult Lutherans. They will be promoting multiple activities over the next two months and invite all 18+ confessional Lutheran young adults to join them for fun fellowship events. For more information, please visit the websites listed.



St. Paul Lutheran Church in Austin is hosting a Young Adult Conference October 2nd – 4th for ages 18-35. Tickets are \$10.00. Join fellow Lutheran young adults for a weekend of fellowship. For more information and/or to register, scan the QR code.



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".



Lutheran Education Scholarship Announcement

If you would like to support the LESF 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.

Sunday School Corner



Our Fall unit begins a deeper study of the Old Testament. The unit begins with creation, and the last lesson falls during the reign of King David. Today in Sunday School, the kids studied the lesson "The Fall and a Promise – Fall into Sin." The slithery serpent causes Eve to doubt God's Word with one simple question, "Did God actually say . . . ?" (Genesis 3:1). Seeking to gain wisdom, both Eve and Adam rebel against their Creator. Suddenly aware of their condition before God, they vainly attempt to hide their sinful exposure. With sin comes just punishment, yet our heavenly Father does not leave humankind without hope. Instead, He promises One who will come to rescue His people from the jaws of death and Satan. To reinforce this lesson for your kids, as a family, discuss: The devil loves to twist God's Word, plant doubts, and tell lies. What lie did he tell in the garden? What lies does he tell you? How does he make you doubt? God gives us boundaries to protect us, not because He doesn't love us—in fact, it's just the opposite. It's because God loves us that He gives us these boundaries. Adam and Eve didn't know evil until they ate of that tree. What are some boundaries in your life that keep you safe? Adam didn't eat the apple first, so why is he still in trouble? Also, parents, you can join Pastor Krieg in the adult Sunday School class. See you next week!

Adult Sunday School Lesson



Join us as we begin a new Adult Sunday School study: One Truth, Many Lies

New Adult Bible Study — Join Us!

We invite you to join us as we begin our new Adult Bible Study exploring some of the ancient heresies that challenged the Christian Church in its earliest centuries, and why those same errors still matter today. We'll examine what the Church confessed in response to false teaching and learn how to recognize similar distortions of God's Word today.

Come strengthen your understanding of the truth of Holy Scripture and grow in your ability to recognize and confess the faith once delivered to the saints.



September 6 – Pentecost 15 – In faith, as God's watchmen, we humbly proclaim His Word. The faithful Word gives a true warning to the wicked (Ezekiel 33:7-8). We are called to speak boldly when lives are heartlessly ended and when God's gifts are

mocked. We also rejoice as we teach about forgiveness. In Psalm 32 we read that the Lord forgives those who acknowledge their sin before Him. In God's plan, He allows us to be watchmen, proclaiming warnings so that all may confess their sins and have a clear conscience. Many have guilty consciences because they have rejected the truth concerning God's gift of life. May God's mercy lead them to rely completely on the grace of God.



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
August 30	Sunday School	14	\$72.31
	Youth Bible Class	0	
	Adult Bible Class	28	
August 30	Worship Service	112	\$5,584.44 Scholarship Fund \$5,050.00 Youth League \$167.00 William Killinger \$50.00