

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Divine Service Three

August 16, 2026

Vol. 128-38

Opening Hymn

#608 Lord, to You I Make Confession

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

Invocation (please stand)

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word pg. 184

Introit (*sung responsively*)



God is in his holy habi- | tation;*

[he] settles the solitary | in a home.

The God of Israel—he | is the one*

who gives power and strength to his | people.

God shall arise, his enemies shall be | scattered;*

and those who hate him shall flee be- | fore him!

But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult be- | fore God;*

they shall be jubilant | with joy!

O God, when you went out before your | people,*

in your goodness, O God, you provided for the | needy.

Blessèd be the Lord, who daily | bears us up;*

God is our sal- | vation.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

God is in his holy habi- | tation;*

[he] settles the solitary | in a home.

The God of Israel—he | is the one*

who gives power and strength to his | people.

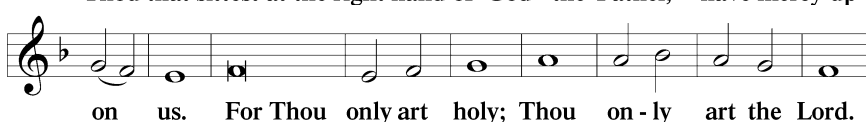
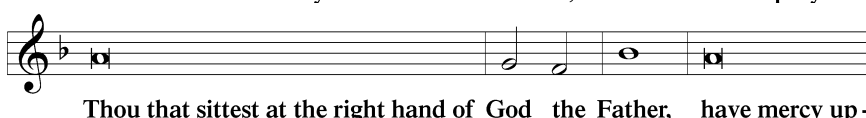
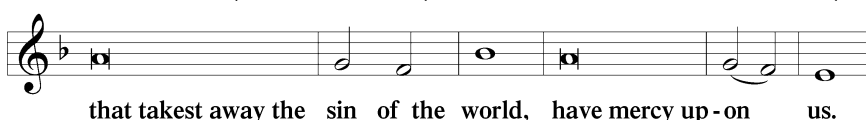
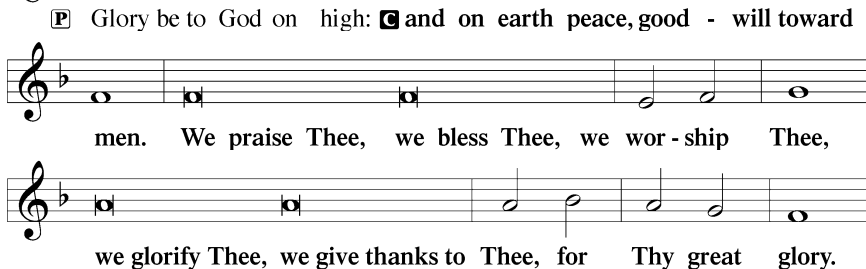
Kyrie

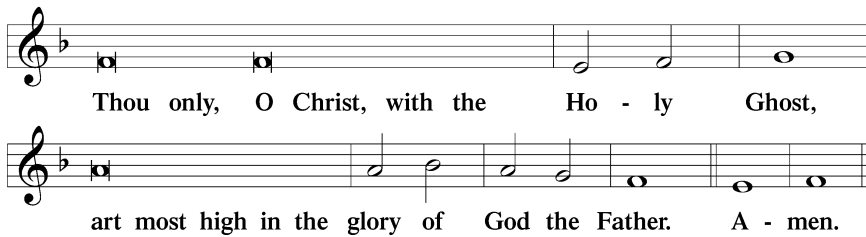


C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



Gloria in Excelsis





Salutation and Collect of the Day



P Almighty and everlasting God, always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than we either desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of Your mercy, forgiving those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things that we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading

Genesis 4:1–15

Cain and Abel

¹Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD.” ²And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.”

⁸Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I

do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. ¹¹And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹²When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." ¹³Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. ¹⁴Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

In [God] my heart trusts, and | I am helped;*
my heart exults, and with my song I give | thanks to him.
To you, O LORD, I call; my rock, be not | deaf to me,*
hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to | you for help.

Epistle

Ephesians 2:1–10

¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

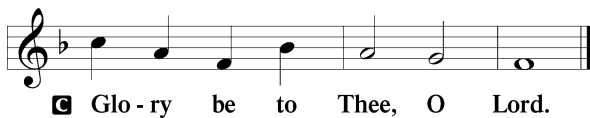
Alleluia



Holy Gospel

Luke 18:9–14

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



The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

⁹[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

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 ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day

#559 Oh, How Great Is Your Compassion



1 Oh, how great is Your com - pas - sion, Faith - ful Fa - ther,
2 Your great love for this has striv - en That we may, from
3 Firm - ly to our soul's sal - va - tion Wit - ness - es Your
4 Lord, Your mer - cy will not leave me; Ev - er will Your
5 I will praise Your great com - pas - sion, Faith - ful Fa - ther,



God of grace, That with all our fall - en race
sin made free, Live with You e - ter - nal - ly.
Spir - it, Lord, In Your Sac - ra - ments and Word.
truth a - bide. Then in You I will con - fide.
God of grace, That with all our fall - en race



In our depth of deg - ra - da - tion You had mer - cy
Your dear Son Him - self has giv - en And ex - tends His
There He sends true con - so - la - tion, Giv - ing us the
Since Your Word can - not de - ceive me, My sal - va - tion
In our depth of deg - ra - da - tion You had mer - cy



so that we Might be saved e - ter - nal - ly!
gra - cious call, To His sup - per leads us all.
gift of faith That we fear not hell nor death.
is to me Safe and sure e - ter - nal - ly.
so that we Might be saved e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: Schäffer-Belustigung . . . Hirthen-Lieder, 1653, Altdorf
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Offertory

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 of the Church

Linda Trammel (Ron Trammels mother)

Peter Meyer, Susan Stump (sister of Peggy Goede)

Sharolyn Stoppenhagen (wife of Ian Stoppenhagen)

Gail Werling, Alie Newnum,

Denny Nahrwold, Ralph Bauermeister

James DeFrain, Kenneth Werling

Jenny Peterson (friend of Cheryl Louison)

Dan Bush (stepfather of Chad Dunham)

Grace Anderson (friend of Macie Saalfrank)

Hazel Krenzke (granddaughter of Dan and Sue Buchinger)

Brandon Tomlinson (son in-law of the Brinkleys), Sandra Flum (Susan Graft's sister)

Installation blessing: *Joel Stoppenhagen as Assistant Kantor*

We pray for our expectant mothers: *Mariel Kleppinger, Nicole Meyer, Sierra Patrick*

We pray for our members shut-in:

Sandy Avey (Ossian Healthcare)

Marilyn Meyer (Kingston)

Marilyn Franke (Christian Care)

Rev. Donald Lutz (Lutheran Life Village)

Martha Bauermeister (*Astral in Auburn*)

We pray for our Church, School and all her workers

We pray for all military personnel

Service of the Sacrament pg. 194

Preface



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 un - to the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

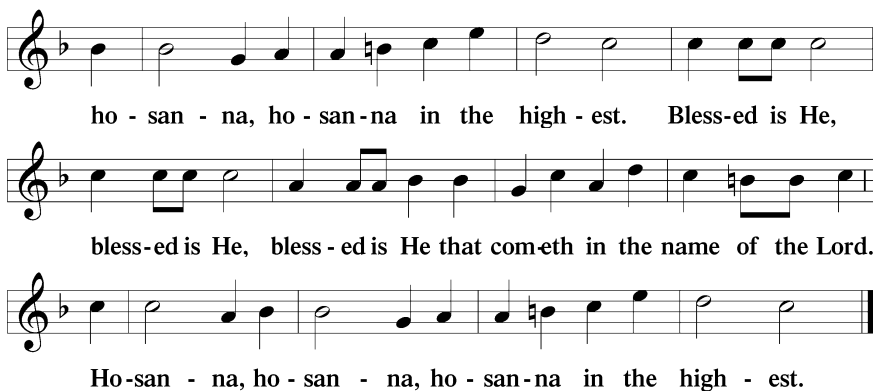
P It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



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.

Lord's Prayer

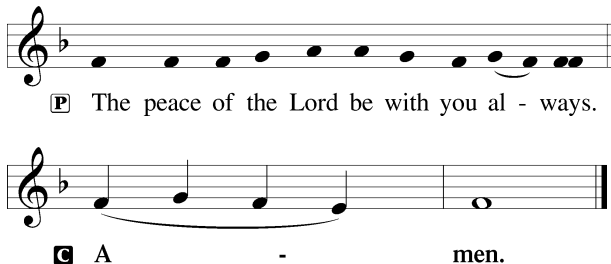
Our Father who art in heaven,
 hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
 give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

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



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.
G A - men.

Agnus Dei

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.

Distribution

Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper in our worship. Bethlehem Lutheran Church administers this Holy Supper in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive, along with the Bread and Wine, the very Body and Blood of Jesus through which we receive the forgiveness of sins. Furthermore, the communicants as a body of believers make a confession of the unity of their faith. **Those desiring to receive the Sacrament with us, who are not communicant members of Bethlehem or of a sister congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, are asked to please speak with the Pastor before the service.**

Distribution Hymns

#617 O Lord, We Praise Thee

1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and a - dore Thee,
2 Thy ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en,
3 May God be - stow on us His grace and fa - vor
In thanks - giv - ing bow be - fore Thee. Thou with Thy
Life to win for us in heav - en. No great - er
That we fol - low Christ our Sav - ior And live to -



bod - y and Thy blood didst nour - ish Our weak souls that
 love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast there -
 geth - er here in love and u - nion Nor de - spise this



they may flour - ish: O Lord, have mer - cy!
 of re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!
 blest Com - mu - nion! O Lord, have mer - cy!



May Thy bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, That our
 Lord, Thy kind - ness did so con - strain Thee That Thy
 Let not Thy good Spir - it for - sake us; Grant that



sins and sor - rows did car - ry, And Thy blood for us plead
 blood should bless and sus - tain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;
 heav'n - ly - mind - ed He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see



In all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!
 Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mer - cy!
 Days of peace and u - ni - ty: O Lord, have mer - cy!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 14th cent.; (sts. 2-3): Martin Luther, 1483-1546
 Tune: Geistliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter
 Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711
 Tune: Public domain

#618 I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table



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.



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. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711

Tune: Public domain

#565 Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ



1 Thy works, not mine, O Christ, Speak glad - ness to this heart;
 2 Thy wounds, not mine, O Christ, Can heal my bruise - ed soul;
 3 Thy cross, not mine, O Christ, Has borne the crush - ing load
 4 Thy death, not mine, O Christ, Has paid the ran - som due;
 5 Thy right - eous - ness, O Christ, A - lone can cov - er me;



They tell me all is done, They bid my fear de - part.
 Thy stripes, not mine, con - tain The balm that makes me whole.
 Of sins that none could bear But the in - car - nate God.
 Ten thou - sand deaths like mine Would have been all too few.
 No right - eous - ness a - vails Save that which is of Thee.



To whom save Thee, Who canst a - lone For sin a - tone, Lord, shall I flee?

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89, alt.

Tune: The Parish Choir, 1850, London

Text and tune: Public domain

#570 Just as I Am, without One Plea



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
 2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



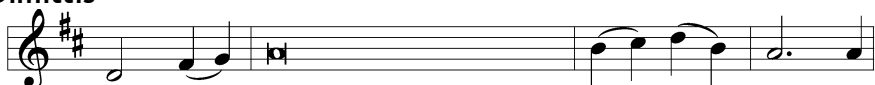
Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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

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

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

Nunc Dimittis



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



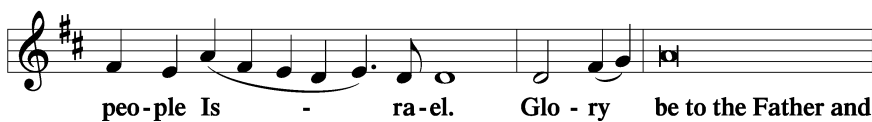
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



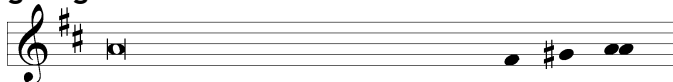
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



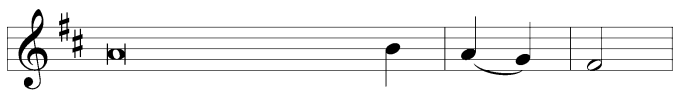
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



Thanksgiving



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



G and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

A 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 in 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.



G A - men.

Salutation



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

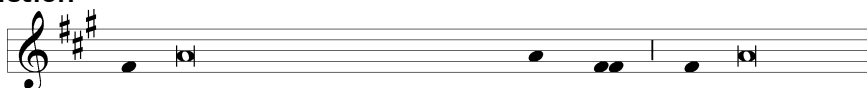


A Bless we the Lord.

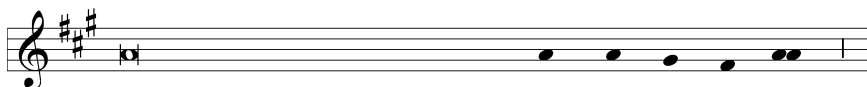


C Thanks be to God.

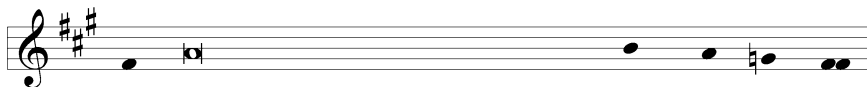
Benediction



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



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

Closing Hymn

#643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, Our true faith con - fess-ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing To God ev - er - liv - ing,



The peo - ple of God from His dwell - ing take leave.
The tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face.

The Sup - per is end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed
Our faith ev - er shar - ing, In love ev - er car - ing,
The fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
Em - brac - ing His chil - dren of each tribe and race.
The seed of His teach - ing, Re - cep - tive souls reach - ing,
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;
Shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
U - nite us as one in this life that we share.
His grace did in - vite us, His love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing With praise and thanks - giv - ing
To work for God's king - dom and an - swer His call.
Give hon - or to Christ and His name that we bear.

Text: Omer E. Westendorf, 1916–97, alt.

Tune: Welsh

Text: © 1964 World Library Publications. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711

Tune: Public domain

WE WELCOME ALL VISITORS this morning to our church and worship service in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please take a moment to sign one of the register books located in each of the church foyers. If you would like to be contacted by the pastor or an elder, then please take a moment to fill out one of the green cards on the narthex tables and give it to an elder or drop it in the offering collection plate. Please be sure to introduce yourself to the Pastor and to others in attendance and feel free to worship with us again. Thank you!

IN HIS SERVICE

Preaching	Rev. Samuel Wirgau
Celebrant	Rev. Anthony Dodgers
Vicar	Sem. Erik Preus
Fieldworker	Sem. Nolan Wolf
Deaconess	Wendy Boehm
Head Elder	Steve Conrad
Elders on Duty	Steve Conrad and Jeff Gresley
Kantor	Richard Brinkley
Acolytes	Volunteers
Altar Guild Chairman	Deann Oliver and Denise Schumm
Ushers	Jared Meyer, Cale Schumm, Nathan Meyer Grant Scheumann, Adam Lambert, Evan Springer

Pastor: Rev. Samuel Wirgau	260-273-7595
(Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com)	
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Office	260-597-7121
Bethlehem Lutheran School	260-597-7366
Assoc. Pastor, Headmaster: Rev. Anthony Dodgers	616-648-6489
Kantor: Mr. Richard Brinkley	260-705-4105
Deaconess: Wendy Boehm	260-415-8526
Website for Church and School: www.blcsossian.org	

TODAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service with Holy Communion
	10:30 a.m.	Family Bible Class
	11:15 a.m.	Church Council Meeting
	11:30 a.m.	Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)
WEDNESDAY	10:00 a.m.	Chapel Service
	7:00 p.m.	Spoken Divine Service
THURSDAY	6:00 p.m.	Girls Volleyball Game (Home)
SUNDAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service with Holy Communion
	10:30 a.m.	Family Bible Class
	11:30 a.m.	Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)

Announcements can be emailed to the church secretary at bethlehemossiansec@gmail.com or the church office at 597-7121.
<https://www.youtube.com/bethlehemplutheranchurchossian> 9:00 a.m. Livestream

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – TODAY - SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026

If interested in serving on the Bethlehem Long Term Planning Committee, please see Neil Stoppenhagen. We need 2 more volunteers to make up this committee. Thank you

Thanks be to God and blessings to Joel Stoppenhagen as he will be installed as the Assistant Kantor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Des Peres, MO.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Teachers will be installed on Sunday, September 13th with a Sunday School Student “Rally Day” event held after the church service. More details to come!

FALL LADIES BIBLE STUDY: APOLOGETICS - This study will help to equip participants with the knowledge they need to confidently defend their faith. Topics include: What Is Apologetics?; Jesus; Trusting God and His Word; Beginnings; and Christian Life. If you are interested in participating, contact Deaconess Wendy Boehm.

PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK THE FELLOWSHIP HALL KITCHEN FOR DISHES LEFT FROM PREVIOUS FUNERALS OR EVENTS.

PAVILION & SIDEWALK PROJECT – Bethlehem Church & School has been awarded a matching capital grant for \$42,554.00 from The Lutheran Foundation for the construction of a new pavilion adjacent to the playground area, a new sidewalk along the east side of the church, the replacement of existing sidewalk between the church & parsonage, and replacement of sidewalks at the parsonage. The work will occur during the summer and/or early fall timeframe.

DISCONTINUED - ALUMINUM CANS – The Washington DC Group has decided to temporarily discontinue the aluminum can collection as their fundraiser until a more suitable storing location is established. If you are willing to help this group with an area to store large amounts or have a hopper trailer that can be used, please contact Pastor Dodgers. Thank you

SCRIP – Please be sure to check out our new scrip certificate order sheet and ordering dates posted on the bulletin board. **For questions or for placing an order, please contact Jill Holtzclaw 260-301-1965 our current PTL representative.**

SAVE THE DATE! A Red Cross Blood Drive has been scheduled for **Sunday, September 20**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Family Life Center at Zion, Friedheim. Do you want to schedule a time for you to give blood? If you have any questions, please contact Wava Lichtle (260-701-4360) or Dale Heckman (260-437-4424). The Red Cross is looking forward to having another blood drive at our facilities. It's a life-saving event!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Bethlehem Rally Day – Sunday School Kick-Off

Sunday, September 7 | Rally Day

Join us as we kick off a new year of Sunday School with **Sunday School Trivia and a potluck!**

Bring a dish to share. **Pulled pork, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided.**

Sunday School teachers will be installed—come meet your teacher!

New this year: Our Nursery Class (birth–age 2) will be a **parent/child class.**

Middle & High School Youth Group Kick-Off

Sunday, August 23 | 1:00 PM

Wyneken House • 11730 Winchester Road, Decatur

Join us for games, light refreshments, and a look at the year ahead in youth group! We'll share upcoming events and opportunities and answer any questions.

Family event—bring the whole family! We hope to see you there!

Offering August 9, 2026

Average weekly need \$14,000

Home Fund Env.	\$9,433.36
Synod	200.00
Loose	520.35
Scholarship Fund	150.00
Sunday School	
Improvement Fund	265.00
Endowment Fund	240.00
Organ Fund	
Music Fund	
Roembke Endowment	
Music Fund	306.17
School Library/Tech	918.50
Door Offering	40.00
Total	\$12,073.38

Financial Report

Home Fund Balance \$5,675.17

Next week's bills due: \$5,000

Bills due two weeks: \$30,000

Savings Account Balance \$111,094.00

Borrowed from Savings: \$18,741.02

Special Project Fund \$49,821.16

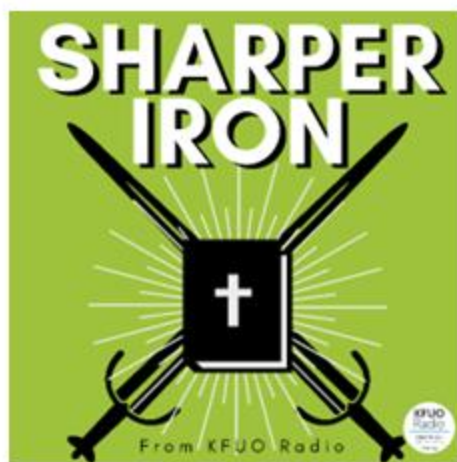
Operating Loan Balance \$30,000

Borrowed from Op Loan \$0.00

Church Attendance

Sunday 164/118

Wednesday 21/16



Hosted by Pastor Timothy Appel

with guest

Rev. Samuel Wirgau

Thursday, August 20, at 8:00 a.m. CT

for a segment on

"The Reign of Heaven Stands Near"

Matthew 18:1-9

Listen Live or On-demand at:

kfjo.org/sharperiron



The House of Daily Bread

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer following
The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity



"And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard" (Gen. 4:1–15). For unlike Abel, Cain's offering did not proceed from a heart that revered and trusted in the Lord. Thus, the lowly tax collector who prayed, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" was the one who went down to his house justified before God, not the respectable, outwardly righteous Pharisee who trusted in himself and his own good living (Luke 18:9–14). "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Eph. 2:1–10). The one who penitently despairs of his own righteousness and relies completely on the atoning mercy of God in Christ is the one who is declared righteous. For Christ died for our sins and rose again the third day (1 Cor. 15:1–10). Therefore, "everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer
you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.

Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of Baptism.

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

Amen.

Hymn of the Week: "Oh, How Great Is Your Compassion" LSB #559

Recite the Ten Commandments and the Apostles' Creed (LSB pg. 264)

The Catechism:

What is the First Commandment?

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

What is Deuteronomy 6:4-5?

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. Deuteronomy 6:4-5

What is the Second Commandment?

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

What is Isaiah 12:4

**"Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is
exalted." -Isaiah 12:4**

Psalm Ps. 50:7-23 and/or the appointed daily Psalms listen below.

Daily Psalm	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
A.M.	10	14, 15	18	19, 20	22	26, 27	30
P.M.	11, 12	13	16, 17	21	23, 24	25	28, 29

Daily Bible Reading

Mon.	Daniel 3:1-30 - The Three Men in the Fiery Furnace 2 Samuel 7:1-17
Tues.	Daniel 6:1-23 - Daniel and the Lion's Den 2 Samuel 7:18-29
Wed.	Mark 10:17-27 - Jesus and the Rich Young Man 2 Samuel 11:1-27
Thu.	Matthew 26:36-46 - Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane 2 Samuel 12:1-25
Fri.	Matthew 26:69-75 - Peter Denies Jesus 1 Kings 1:1-4, 15-35
Sat.	<i>Look ahead to Sunday's Readings</i>

Prayers

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than we either desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of Your mercy, forgiving those things which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things that we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Daily Themes For Prayer

Sunday: For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and the Sacraments.

Monday: For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.

Tuesday: For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.

Wednesday: For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

Thursday: For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

Friday: For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

Saturday: For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.

In our Prayers this week: Strength and healing: Linda, Peter, Susan, Sharolyn, Gail, Alie, Denny, Ralph, James, Kenneth, Jenny, Dan, Grace, Hazel, Brandon, Sandra; Expectant mothers: Mariel, Nicole, Sierra; Homebound: Marilyn, Marilyn, Donald, Martha, and Sandy.

Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism
(LSB pg. 266)

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Looking forward to Sunday Morning: Twelfth Sunday After Trinity

Old Testament: Isaiah 29:17-24; Epistle: Romans 10:9-17;

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37; Hymns: 549, 545, 619, 620, 524, 421, 830