

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Divine Service Three

August 23, 2026

Vol. 128-39

Opening Hymn

#549 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros-trate fall;
 2 Crown Him, ye mar-tyrs of our God, Who from His al - tar call;
 3 Ye seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race, Ye ran - somed from the fall,
 4 Hail Him, ye heirs of Da - vid's line, Whom Da - vid Lord did call,



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.
 Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown Him Lord of all.
 Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
 The God in - car-nate, man di - vine, And crown Him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.
 Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown Him Lord of all.
 Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
 The God in - car-nate, man di - vine, And crown Him Lord of all.

5 Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget

The wormwood and the gall,
 Go, spread your trophies at His feet
 And crown Him Lord of all.
 Go, spread your trophies at His feet
 And crown Him Lord of all.

6 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,

On this terrestrial ball
 To Him all majesty ascribe
 And crown Him Lord of all.
 To Him all majesty ascribe
 And crown Him Lord of all.

7 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng

We at His feet may fall!
 We'll join the everlasting song
 And crown Him Lord of all.
 We'll join the everlasting song
 And crown Him Lord of all.

Text (sts. 1-5): Edward Perronet, 1726-92, alt.; (sts. 6-7): A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt.
 Tune: Oliver Holden, 1765-1844
 Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

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

C Amen.

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

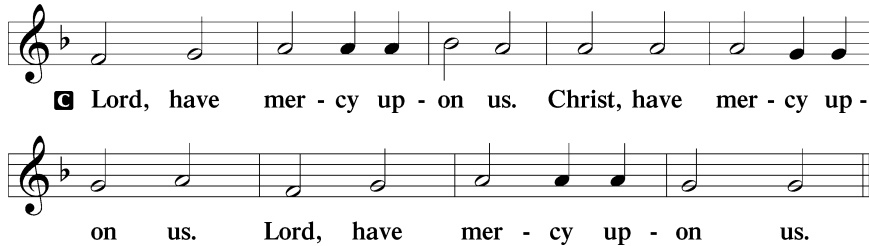
Make haste, O God, to de- | liver me!*

O LORD, make haste to | help me!

Let them be put to shame and con- | fusion*

who | seek my life!

Kyrie

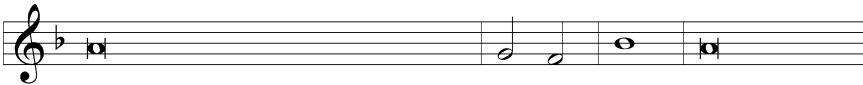


C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis



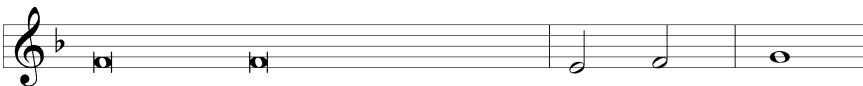
P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
O Lord 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.

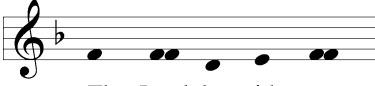


Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

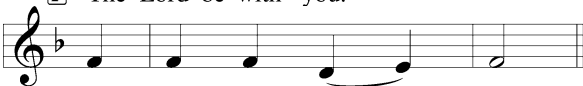


art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



G And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

- P** Almighty and merciful God, by Your gift alone Your faithful people render true and laudable service. Help us steadfastly to live in this life according to Your promises and finally attain Your heavenly glory; 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.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 29:17-24

- ¹⁷Is it not yet a very little while
until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field,
and the fruitful field shall be regarded as a forest?
¹⁸In that day the deaf shall hear

the words of a book,
and out of their gloom and darkness
the eyes of the blind shall see.

¹⁹The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD,
and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.

²⁰For the ruthless shall come to nothing
and the scoffer cease,

and all who watch to do evil shall be cut off,
²¹who by a word make a man out to be an offender,
and lay a snare for him who reproves in the gate,
and with an empty plea turn aside him who is in the right.

²²Therefore thus says the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob:

“Jacob shall no more be ashamed,
no more shall his face grow pale.

²³For when he sees his children,
the work of my hands, in his midst,
they will sanctify my name;
they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob
and will stand in awe of the God of Israel.

²⁴And those who go astray in spirit will come to understanding,
and those who murmur will accept instruction.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 34:1–2

I will bless the LORD at | all times;*
his praise shall continually be | in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast | in the LORD;*
let the humble hear | and be glad.

Epistle

Romans 10:9–17

⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ¹⁶But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” ¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

- C** Thanks be to God.

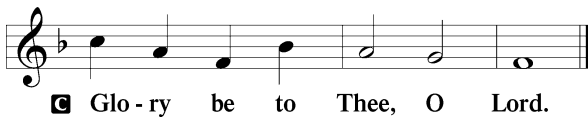
Alleluia



Holy Gospel

Mark 7:31–37

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



Jesus Heals a Deaf Man

³¹[Jesus] returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. ³⁴And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, **“Ephphatha,”** that is, **“Be opened.”** ³⁵And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, **“He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”**

- 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.**

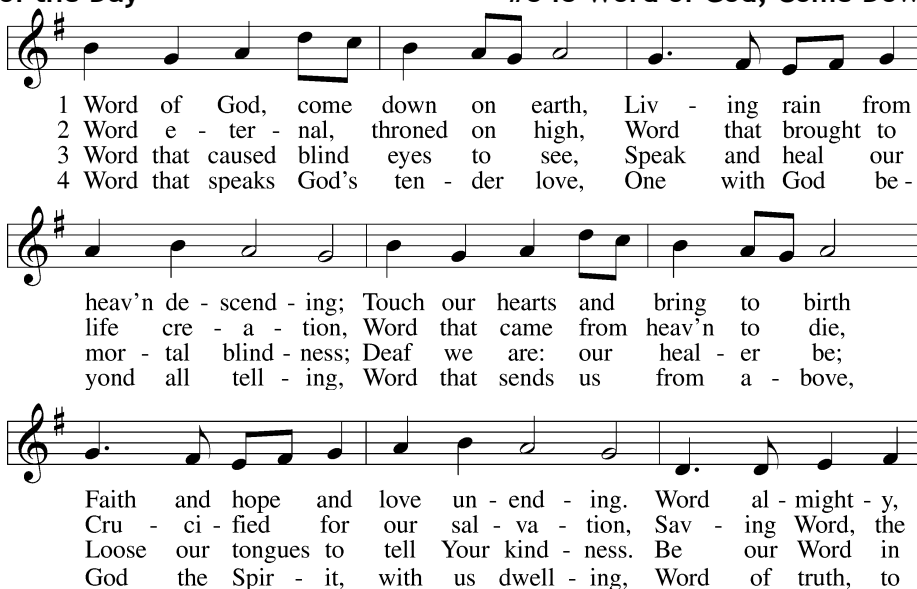
**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,**

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

#545 Word of God, Come Down on Earth



1 Word of God, come down on earth, Liv - ing rain from
 2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
 3 Word that caused blind eyes to see, Speak and heal our
 4 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, One with God be -
 heav'n de - scend - ing; Touch our hearts and bring to birth
 life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
 mor - tal blind - ness; Deaf we are: our heal - er be;
 yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove,
 Faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
 Cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, Sav - ing Word, the
 Loose our tongues to tell Your kind - ness. Be our Word in
 God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



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

Text: James Quinn, 1919–2010

Tune: Johann Rudolph Ahle, 1625–73, alt.

Text: © 1969 OCP Publications. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711

Tune: Public domain

Sermon

Offertory



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 of the Church

Those in need of strength and healing

Duane "Duey" Aman (cousin of Loren Dathe)

Linda Trammel (Ron Trammels mother)

Peter Meyer, Sharolyn Stoppenhagen (wife of Ian Stoppenhagen)

Gail Werling, Alie Newnum,

Denny Nabrvold, 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)

Wedding Anniversary blessing – *Nathan and Melissa Householder giving thanks for 7 years of marriage*

Marriage blessing: *Landon and Sierra Geiger were wed on Saturday in Demotte, Indiana*

We pray for our expectant mothers: *Marlee Kleppinger, Nicole Meyer, Sierra Patrick,
Abigail (Springer) Mayer*

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.

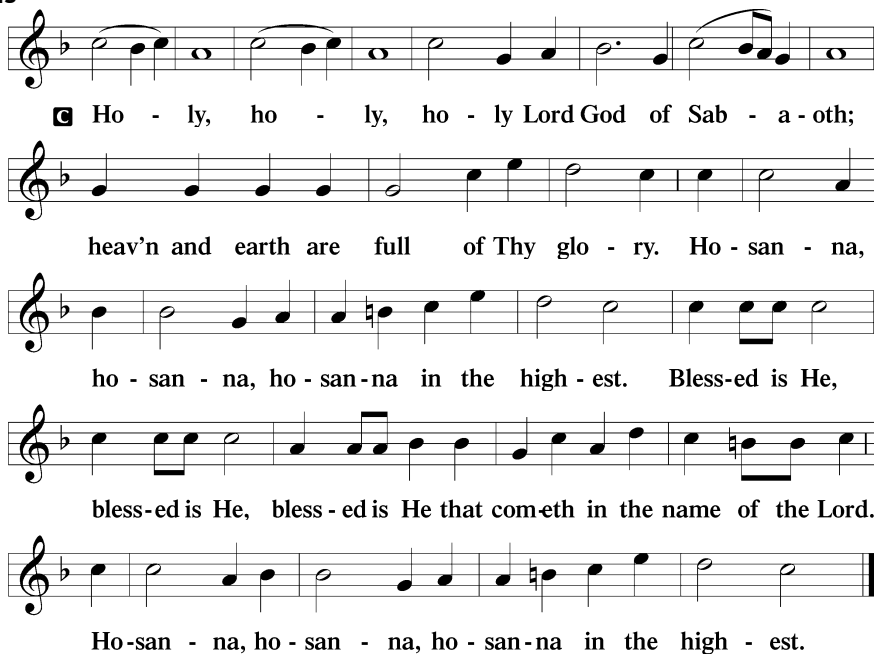
P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

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



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

#619 Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior



1 Thy bod - y, giv'n for me, O Sav - ior, Thy blood which
 2 With Thee, Lord, I am now u - nit - ed; I live in
 3 Who can con - demn me now? For sure - ly The Lord is
 4 Though death may threat - en with dis - as - ter, It can - not
 5 My heart has now be - come Thy dwell - ing, O bless - ed,



Thou for me didst shed, These are my life and
 Thee and Thou in me. No sor - row fills my
 nigh, who jus - ti - fies. No hell I fear, and
 rob me of my cheer; For He who is of
 ho - ly Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Thy



strength for - ev - er, By them my hun - gry soul is fed.
 soul, de - light - ed It finds its on - ly joy in Thee.
 thus se - cure - ly With Je - sus I to heav - en rise.
 death the mas - ter With aid and com - fort e'er is near.
 prais - es tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly.



Refrain

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

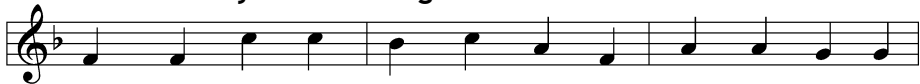
Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.

Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, 1756, Leipzig

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711

Tune: Public domain

#620 Jesus Comes Today with Healing



1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, Knock - ing at my
 2 Christ Him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, Yet in bread and
 3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the
 4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er, Gives Him - self to



door, ap - peal - ing, Of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.
 wine a - bid - ing In this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,
 Sav - ior ho - ly, Blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,
 me this hour In this or - di - nar - y sign.



He Him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, And I hear His
Gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, And the cup, the
Ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, Who to bit - ter
On my tongue His pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept His



in - vi - ta - tion: "Come and taste the bless - ed feast."
pre - cious to - ken Of His sa - cred cov - e - nant.
death was giv - en, Hung up - on the curs - ed tree.
grace, be - liev - ing That I taste His love di - vine.

- 5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,
Whose own feast of love I savor,
Bidden by His gracious call.
Wedding garments He provides me,
With a robe of white He hides me,
Fits me for the royal hall.

- 6 Now have I found consolation,
Comfort in my tribulation,
Balm to heal the troubled soul.
God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
Cleanses me from sin and error,
Makes my wounded spirit whole.

Text: Heinrich Puchta, 1808–58; tr. David W. Rogner, 1960
Tune: Johann Löhner, 1645–1705; adapt. Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758
Text: © David W. Rogner. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001711
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#524 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds



1 How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds In
2 It makes the wound - ed spir - it whole And
3 Dear name! The rock on which I build, My
4 O Je - sus, shep - herd, guard - ian, friend, My



a be - liev - er's ear! It soothes our sor - rows,
calms the heart's un - rest; 'Tis man - na to the
shield and hid - ing place; My nev - er - fail - ing
Proph - et, Priest, and King, My Lord, my life, my



heals our wounds, And drives a - way our fear.
 hun - gry soul And to the wea - ry, rest.
 trea - sury filled With bound - less stores of grace.
 way, my end, Ac - cept the praise I bring.

5 How weak the effort of my heart,
 How cold my warmest thought!
 But when I see Thee as Thou art,
 I'll praise Thee as I ought.

6 Till then I would Thy love proclaim
 With ev'ry fleeting breath;
 And may the music of Thy name
 Refresh my soul in death!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.
 Tune: Alexander R. Reinagle, 1799–1877
 Text and tune: Public domain

#421 Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing



1 Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing In Your ho - ly
 2 Should some lust or sharp temp - ta - tion Fas - ci - nate my
 3 If the world my heart en - tic - es With the broad and
 4 Ev - 'ry wound that pains or grieves me By Your wounds, Lord,
 5 O my God, my rock and tow - er, Grant that in Your



wounds I find, Ev - 'ry hour that I am feel - ing Pains of
 sin - ful mind, Draw me to Your cross and pas - sion, And new
 eas - y road, With se - duc - tive, sin - ful vi - ces, Let me
 is made whole; When I'm faint, Your cross re - vives me, Grant - ing
 death I trust, Know - ing death has lost its pow - er Since You



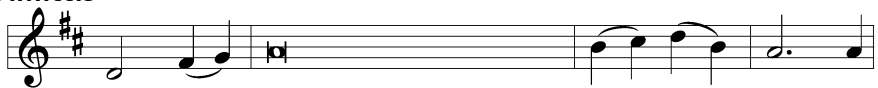
bod - y and of mind. Should some e - vil thought with - in
 cour - age I shall find. Or should Sa - tan press me hard,
 weigh the aw - ful load You were will - ing to en - dure.
 new life to my soul. Yes, Your com - fort ren - ders sweet
 crushed it in the dust. Sav - ior, let Your ag - o - ny



Tempt my treach-'rous heart to sin, Show the per - il, and from
 Let me then be on my guard, Say - ing, "Christ for me was
 Help me flee all thoughts im - pure And to mas - ter each temp-
 Ev - 'ry bit - ter cup I meet; For Your all - a - ton - ing
 Ev - er help and com - fort me; When I die be my pro -
 sin - ning Keep me from its first be - gin - ning.
 wound - ed," That the tempt - er flee con - found - ed.
 ta - tion, Calm in prayer and med - i - ta - tion.
 pas - sion Has pro - cured my soul's sal - va - tion.
 tec - tion, Light and life and res - ur - rec - tion.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. composite, alt.
 Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758
 Text and tune: Public domain

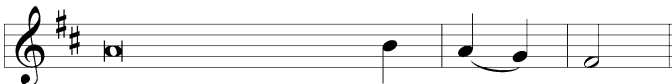
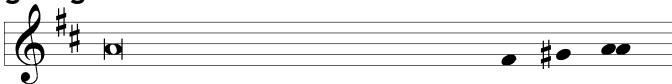
Nunc Dimittis



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
 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,



Thanksgiving



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.



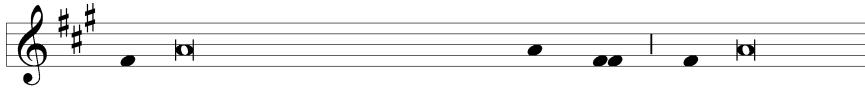
Salutation



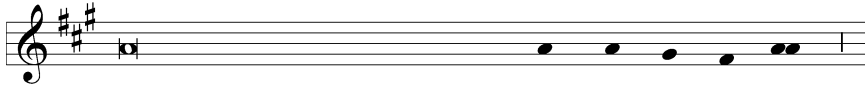
Benedicamus



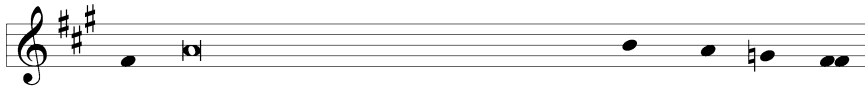
Benediction



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

#830 Spread the Reign of God the Lord



- 1 Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spo - ken, writ - ten, might - y Word;
- 2 Tell how God the Fa - ther's will Made the world, up - holds it still,
- 3 Tell of our Re-deem-er's grace, Who, to save our hu-man race
- 4 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n Now to guide us on to heav'n,



Ev - 'ry - where His crea-tures call To His heav'n-ly ban-quet hall.
How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.
And to pay re - bel-lion's price, Gave Him-self as sac - ri - fice.
Strong and ho - ly, just and true, Work-ing both to will and do.

- 5 Enter, mighty Word, the field;
Ripe the promise of its yield.
But the reapers, oh, how few
For the work there is to do!
- 6 Lord of harvest, great and kind,
Rouse to action heart and mind;
Let the gath'ring nations all
See Your light and heed Your call.

Text: Jonathan Friedrich Bahnmaier, 1774–1841; tr. composite
Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

IN HIS SERVICE

Preaching / Celebrant
Vicar
Fieldworker
Deaconess
Head Elder
Elders on Duty
Kantor
Organist
Acolytes
Altar Guild Chairman
Ushers

Rev. Samuel Wirgau
Sem. Erik Preus
Sem. Nolan Wolf
Wendy Boehm
Steve Conrad
Steve Conrad and Jeff Gresley
Richard Brinkley
Emilie Meyer
Volunteers
Deann Oliver and Denise Schumm
Travis Avey, Jeff Gresley, Dean Scheumann
Peyton Laley, Gavin Laley, Kyle Patrick, Aaron Anthony

Pastor: Rev. Samuel Wirgau (Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com)	260-273-7595
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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
	11:30 a.m.	Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)
MONDAY	6:00 p.m.	PTL Meeting
WEDNESDAY	10:00 a.m.	Chapel Service
	7:00 p.m.	Spoken Divine Service
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***

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!

FLOWERS ADORNING THE ALTAR this morning, have been given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving of 7 years of marriage to Nathan and Melissa Householder.

Middle & High School Youth Group Kick-Off - TODAY

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!

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!

Bethlehem Rally Day – Sunday School Kick-Off -Sunday, September 13 | 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.**

FALL LADIES BIBLE STUDY: APOLOGETICS - This 5 week 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. The first week's study will be held on September 14th at 2:00 p.m. or Thursday, September 17th at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in participating, contact Deaconess Wendy Boehm.

Visual Faith Workshops Return! Our Visual Faith Workshops begin again on **Tuesday, September 8 from 6–8 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. We'll meet on the **second Tuesday of each month** to explore a different Scripture-focused practice that helps us slow down, reflect, and enjoy meaningful time in God's Word. No artistic experience needed — just come as you are and enjoy a welcoming space to learn, create, and connect. Please register at blcsossian.org/visual-faith-ministry. Questions? Contact Deann Oliver at 616-894-0144.

WholyFit Begins September 14! Join us for WholyFit — a gentle, faith-based movement class focused on stretching, strengthening, and meditating on God's Word. Mondays & Tuesdays • 6:00–6:45 PM • Music Room (downstairs) All fitness levels welcome. Dress comfortably, bring water and an exercise mat. Questions? Contact Deann Oliver at 616-894-0144.

Book Club – The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows Join us for this year's book club & the book selection for **One Book One County** from the Wells County Public Library! The program encourages the community to read the same book and participate in related events. **Book Club Discussion:** November 7 at 8:00 a.m. at Crimson House in Ossian. **One Book One County events begin September 1!**

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

RIGHT TO LIFE BANQUET- October 12th, 2026. Doors open at 5:00 pm with the program starting at 6:30 pm. The guest speaker will be former White House Press Secretary and host of Saturday in America on Fox News, Kayleigh McEnany. Tickets include parking fee and dinner. Cash bar available. Individual tickets are \$50. Sponsors for half tables (\$200) and full tables (\$400) are so appreciated! A sign-up sheet will be available today after service. Don't hesitate to get in touch with Melissa Tolson by text ((260)417-4898) or email (mltolson2017@gmail.com) if you would like to sign up to attend or sponsor a half/full table. Payment is due when signing up. Last day to sign up will be Sunday, September 20, 2026.

Shrine of Christ's Passion- October 17th, day trip to St. John's, IN. Walk the way to the cross with life sized statues of Jesus and those who saw Him on that last journey. There are golf carts available to use there. We would leave in the morning, plan on bringing a lunch with you, and get dinner as a group on the way home. There is no cost of admission, just pitch in for gas and dinner. If you have any questions or would like to reserve a spot, please email Lynae.laley@gmail.com or call at (260) 413-4891. Please let us know by October 3rd so we can set up transportation and reserve golf carts if needed.

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!

Offering August 16, 2026**Average weekly need \$14,000**

Home Fund Env.	\$11,617.51
Synod	220.00
Loose	305.75
Scholarship Fund	
Sunday School	
Improvement Fund	220.00
Endowment Fund	
Organ Fund	59.47
Music Fund	
Memorials	<u>1,955.00</u>
Total	\$14,377.73

Financial Report**Home Fund Balance \$879.00**

Next week's bills due: \$30,000

Bills due two weeks: \$5,000

Savings Account Balance \$111,544.00

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 190/137

Wednesday 22/19

The House of Daily Bread

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



A man who was deaf and therefore also had an impediment in his speech was brought to Jesus (Mark 7:31–37). In the same way, all are by nature deaf toward God and therefore also unable to confess the faith rightly. For “faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” (Rom. 10:9–17). Jesus put His fingers into the man’s ears, and He spat and touched His tongue. Even so in Holy Baptism, water sanctified by the words of Jesus’ mouth is applied to us; and the finger of God, that is, the life-giving Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 3:4–11) is put into our ears in the hearing of the baptismal Gospel. Jesus’ sighing “Ephphatha” opened the man’s ears, and his tongue was loosed to speak plainly as Isaiah prophesied of the Messiah, “In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book” (Is. 29:18–24). So also, He who sighed and breathed His last on the cross for us has given us to hear and believe in Him and has opened our lips that our mouths may declare His praise.

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: "Word of God, Come Down on Earth" LSB #545

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

The Catechism:

What is the Third Commandment?

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

What is Romans 10:17?

Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Romans 10:17

What is the Fourth Commandment?

Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

What is Ephesians 6:1-3?

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." Ephesians 6:1-3

Psalm Ps. 146 and/or the appointed daily Psalms listen below.

Daily Psalm	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
A.M.	32	33	35	37	40	42, 43	45
P.M.	31	34	36	38	39, 41	44	46, 47

Daily Bible Reading

Mon.	Luke 2:40-52 - The Boy Jesus in the Temple 1 Kings 5:1-18
Tues.	Luke 10:38-42 - Mary Sits at Jesus' Feet 1 Kings 7:51-8:21
Wed.	Matthew 6:19-34 - Lay Up for Yourselfs Treasure in Heaven 1 Kings 8:22-30, 46-63
Thu.	Genesis 47:1-12 - Jacob's Family Settles in Goshen 1 Kings 9:1-9; 10:1-13
Fri.	Ruth 1:1-19a; 4-10 - Ruth and Her Kingsman Redeemer 1 Kings 11:1-26
Sat.	<i>Look ahead to Sunday's Readings</i>

Prayers

Collect of the Day

Almighty and merciful God, by Your gift alone Your faithful people render true and laudable service. Help us steadfastly to live in this life according to Your promises and finally attain Your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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:* Duane, 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: Thirteenth Sunday After Trinity

Old Testament: 2 Chronicles 28:8-15; Epistle: Galatians 3:15-22;

Gospel: Luke 10:23-37; Hymns: 851, 683, 621, 622, 845, 559, 685