

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

November 12, 2023

Sunday 10:00 a.m.



Welcome to All! We are glad that you are able to worship with us today. **Please fill out a connection card in the pews if you like.** During the service, we will sit or stand in reverence to our Lord. Please do what is physically comfortable and reverent for you. For those who are unable to receive Communion near the altar and wish to have the Pastor administer it at your seat, please obtain a red and white card from one of the ushers and hold it up at Communion time to alert the Pastor. If you or a little one would like to receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion, we invite you to come forward and cross your arms at the time of Communion. Please feel free to introduce yourself to our Pastor and fill out one of the Visitor cards available at our Welcome Table in the Gathering Place.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 4, page 147

Pre-Worship Music/Welcome/Announcements

Prelude

We Are the Church
(see insert)

Avery and Marsh

GATHERING

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Blessed be the triune + God, who pours out love, justice, and mercy in abundance.

C: Amen.

P: Joined by water to Christ and to creation, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

P: For all gifts of water,

C: we give you thanks, O God.

P: For rivers and lakes, for streams and oceans, for healing rains and clean water to drink:

C: we give you thanks, O God.

P: For Miriam's song of liberation on the far bank of the sea,
For Isaiah's invitation to "come and drink, without money and without price,"
For Jesus's baptism and commissioning in the waters of the Jordan,
For the Samaritan woman, revived by living water,
For your holy river that waters the tree of life:

C: we give you thanks, O God.

P: For the outpouring of the Holy Spirit,
For baptismal waters,
For the cleansing of our hearts,
For the refreshment of our spirits,
For waves of mercy,
For justice, rolling like rivers:
C: we give you thanks, O God.

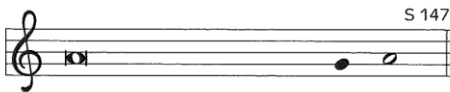
P: Blessing, honor, and glory be to you, O God, and eternal gratitude for all your good gifts.
C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn *Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God* **ELW #458**

Greeting

A: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God

Assisting minister S 148

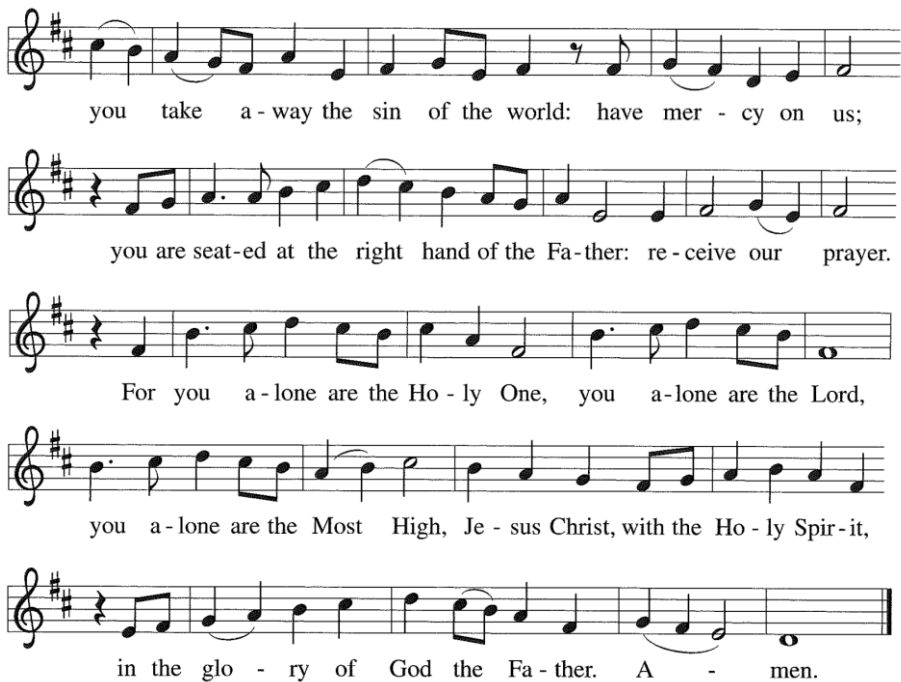
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we

wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

A: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

A: Let us pray together... **C: God of abundance, We give thanks every time we remember your goodness. Teach us to respond to your love with faithfulness and generosity. Keep us mindful of your blessings, and especially the blessing of wholeness and salvation that you offer us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our savior. Amen.**

Temple Talk – WELCA Thank Offering

WORD

First Lesson

Amos 5:18-24

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

18 Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; 19 as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. 20 Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom

with no brightness in it? 21 I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. 22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. 23 Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. 24 But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 70

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O Lord, make haste to help me.

2 Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.

3 Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me turn back because of their shame.

4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great is the Lord!”

5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry.

Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation**Alleluia**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel**Matthew 25:1-13**

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

C: ...Glory to you, O Lord...

Jesus said to the disciples: 1 “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ 7 Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 9 But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. 11 Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ 12 But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ 13 Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon**Suzanne Lehto****Hymn of the Day*****Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers******ELW #244*****Apostle’s Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

The 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.

P: The gifts of God for the people of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Communion

Lamb of God

S 154



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymns

Blessed Assurance

ELW #638

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

ELW #674

Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. C: **Amen.**

Post-Communion Canticle

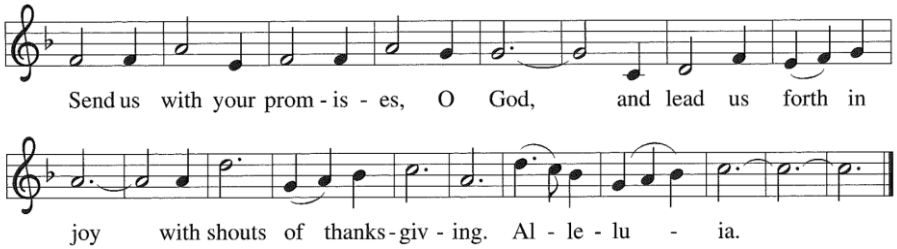
Thankful Hearts



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has



done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Holy God, You have provided for us a feast of life. We are nourished and we are grateful. Strengthen us through this meal and send us out to provide for others, following the example of Jesus Christ, our savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

P: God has filled the hungry and thirsty with good things:

C: Let us give thanks to God, for God's mercy endures forever!

P: God has done wonderful works for all people:

C: Let us rejoice in God's steadfast love!

P: God has looked upon us with grace and favor:

C: Let us remember God's mercy!

P: God has put into our hearts a song of thanksgiving and freedom:

C: Let us join our voices in singing our praise!

P: The God of abundance, Creator, + Redeemer, and Spirit, bless you and keep you, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Song *Now Thank We All Our God*

ELW #840

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Live with gratitude.

C: Thanks be to God.

**“We journey with God
to serve with love.”**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

11/15—Marilyn Halstead 11/16—Patty Leibenguth 11/19—Art Newhouse

This is WELCA THANK OFFERING SUNDAY and Pledge Sunday

Worship Servants for November 12

Assisting Minister—Barbara Wright

Lector—Jan Stretlein

Musicians: David Husser, Phil & Denice Bossardet, Pr Paul

Today's altar flowers are donated by:

Norm and Jane Fred in Celebration of the sixteenth birthday of our granddaughter Evelyn Aubrey Martel

WELCA in Thanksgiving for the women of Bethlehem for their support of Bethlehem and the wider church.

A/V—Acker Family and Jim Hinds

Hospitality—Jacque Rossfeld, Betty Rutila, and Nancy Ammann

Cookies—Kathy Ancinec, Sally Ton, Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—Barb Graf

Bell Ringer—Nancy Ammann

Altar Guild—Patty Leibenguth and Erin Word

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Jane Passmore and Sherryl Hellenga

Worship Prep—Pat Wall and Sherryl Hellenga

The next Third Thursday service will be a Taize 2 service on November 16th at 7:00pm. The service will be livestreamed. The BLC Fellowship Committee will be providing a light meal at 5:45 p.m. There will be sandwiches, salad and drinks. Please come early and share in fellowship and stay for the service.

BABY PANTRY PROJECT: Parents visiting the baby pantry really appreciate all the items you have been donating. They especially need laundry soap, cleaning products and toilet tissue. The next Baby Pantry date is Thursday, December 14th. Thank you one and all!

FOR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS: The book for **Nov 28** discussion is *The Christmas Train* by David Baldacci which has been a New York Times Bestseller. This is a more light-hearted book to get a jump on the holiday spirit. **If you want to join the BLC discussion it will be at 5:30 that Tues with a pizza meal.** If you want to join but cannot be there in person please send a ZOOM request to Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net.

Dear Members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church,

It's that time of year; the leaves start to turn color and fall to the ground. It is also the time of year when we like to take some time and gratefully thank the congregation for your continued support of our wonderful church.

We are all grateful to have such abundant blessings with our location and our faithful members. It's important to remain dedicated to our Christian faith and do our best to follow through on our commitments. With love & kindness we ask that if you are able and willing to help the church in a financial way, we really need your help. Contributions are behind where we should be for the start of the fourth quarter. This is primarily because of pledged money that has not yet been received.

We respectfully ask that if you can do what you have pledged or even a little bit more, the church will put those dollars to good work. Thank you for prayerfully considering this appeal.

We appreciate your support and are grateful for all you do to make Bethlehem Lutheran Church a thriving community of believers.

Jim Monroe
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Financial Secretary

Phil Anderson
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Bookkeeper

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New member orientation: Arrangements are in the works for a gathering in November or December. Please contact membership chair, Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net or the office at 947-9880 if you are interested in joining Bethlehem.

Did You Know: In the past year, the Tuesday morning quilters have sent 226 quilts to Lutheran World Relief. What a blessing these ladies are!

Food Pantry: We will NOT be closing our outdoor pantry for winter this year. We have a new member who ran an outdoor pantry downstate and she has given us lots of ideas of foods that can be stored there during the cold months including: hamburger helper, stuffing mix, dry milk, instant potatoes, cookies, and rice. Also, there is always room for dry goods such as toilet paper, paper towels etc. Please start looking for some of these items when they are on sale and bring your extras to the coat room. Your generosity is so appreciated.