

# Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 22, 2023 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 3



## Prelude Music

## Announcements

## Confession and Forgiveness

WL: Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.  
**C: Amen.**

WL: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

WL: Steadfast and faithful God,

**C: ... you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

WL: Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

**C: Amen.**

## Gathering Song:

*Take My Life, That I May Be*

**ELW #583**

## Greeting

WL: 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

WL: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

WL: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

WL: 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. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

WL: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

WL: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **C: Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

WL: Let us pray together,

**C: Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

*The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.*

1 Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: 2 I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, 3 I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. 4 For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. 5 I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, 6 so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. 7 I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

## Psalm: Psalm 96:1-13

1 Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**2 Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

3 Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

**4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**

5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

**6 Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

**8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**

9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

**10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."**

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

**12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O Lord, for you come to judge the earth.**

13 You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

## 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. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

P: A reading from... **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. 16 So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20 Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" 21 They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." 22 When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

Peggy Burns SAM

## Song of the Day:

*Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good*

ELW #871

## Apostles 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 the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

**Prayers of the Church / Sign of the Peace** *(Let us give one another a sign of peace according to your comfort level.)*

## Offering

## Offertory:

**Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful**

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
 we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
 all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble  
 with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**Offering Prayer**

WL: Let us pray.

C: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

**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.

**Final Blessing**

WL: The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

(continued on next page)

## Sending Song:

## Sing, Sing, Sing

(We will) sing sing sing  
And make music with the heavens  
We will sing sing sing  
Grateful that You hear us  
When we shout Your praise  
Lift high the name of Jesus

What's not to love about You  
Heaven and earth adore you  
Kings and kingdoms bow down  
Son of God You are the One  
You are the One we're living for

You are the love that frees us  
You are the light that leads us  
Like a fire burning  
Son of God You are the One  
You are the One we're living for

## Dismissal

WL: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



**Bethlehem** *October 22, 2023*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

1050 Peninsula Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
(231) 947-9880  
[www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)

10/23—Inge Thomas  
10/23—Isaac Woolcott

10/27—Amanda Wegener  
10/27—Gerald Hill

10/29—Nancy Lautner  
10/29—Paul Wiemerslage

10/29—John Block

**Join us next week for our Reformation Service which will be a Traditional service**

**We welcome Cindy Monroe as Worship Leader (WL) for today's service.**

**We welcome Peggy Burns (SAM) as Guest Preacher for today's service.** Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM), in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, who has served various congregations including Feast of Victory, Acme and with Samaritas as Director of Pastoral Care.

**Building and Office Hours are: 9:00am – 2:30pm, Monday – Thursday.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** We often find the front door and/or the kitchen door unlocked when there is no one in the building. Please be sure that the doors are locked when you leave.

### **Please Note:**

Barbara Oster/Administrative Assistant works 9:00am-2:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

Phil Anderson/Bookkeeper works 8:30am-12:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Alanna Steffunick/Ministry Coordinator works 9:00am-2:30pm – in the office on Tuesday and Thursday and from home on Wednesday

### **Worship Servants for October 22**

Assisting Minister—Cindy Monroe

Lector—Jan Stretlien

Musicians: David Husser, Zeke Clemons, Denice Bossardet

Today's altar flowers are donated by: *Tom & Julie Cole In Memory of Our Parents.*

A/V—Jim Monroe and Acker Family

Hospitality—Tom Fink and Deb Hissong

Cookies—Sherryl Hellenga

Welcome Table—Volunteer

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Altar Guild—No Communion today

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Kate Holtfreter and Cindy Cuba

**Offerings:** The offering plates are now passed during the service. The vase in the back of the Sanctuary is still available for those who prefer not to touch the offering plate.

**The October issue of the STAR is now available.** The November issue will be distributed next Sunday, October 29th. For current issues of the Star, feel free to check online at [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org) < About Us > “The Online Bethlehem Star” or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>.

**The October/November/December Christ In Our Home is now available.** Please take a copy for yourself and also for friends and family.

### **Adult Education in the Youth Room plus Sunday School - every Sunday at 9:15am**

**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 6:00 p.m.** There will be sandwiches, salad and drinks. Please come early and share in fellowship and stay for the service.

**Looking for a link to last month's full Council minutes?** Type this address/url into your web browser to get the latest approved minutes from Council: [bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes](http://bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes) OR you may call the office to request a copy.

**Giving Statements Available** Your individual giving statements will be available in your mailbox in the Narthex beginning Sunday October 15, 2023. The statement covers giving from January 1st through September 30, 2023. Please pick them up at your convenience. To save on postage, I will mail out the ones not picked up by the end of November 2023. Thank you for your generous support for the programs and ministries of your church. We are all blessed by your faithful giving. Your Bookkeeper

### **Prayer Requests:**

- **Prayer Chain:** Please contact Jan Stretlien at [jstretlien@gmail.com](mailto:jstretlien@gmail.com) or 231-947-3265
- **Prayers read from the altar:** Please call Administrative Assistant in the church office 231-947-9880

### **Due Dates for STAR/Bulletin/Screen Announcements:**

- **STAR:** The third Friday of the month sent to [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) (Please note STAR in subject line)
- **Bulletin/Verbal Announcements:** Tuesday of the week sent to [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) (Bulletin/Worship Folder is prepared on Tuesday and printed on Thursday morning.) (Please note Bulletin or Announcement in subject line)
- **Screen Announcements/Weekly BLC Emails:** Tuesday of the week sent to [alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org)

**Celebrate a new child in your life with a rose on the baptismal font!** Cost \$10.00 per rose. Contact Barbara Oster at [beo6475@yahoo.com](mailto:beo6475@yahoo.com) or 231.668.7038.

**Norm Fred has helped a previously homeless couple for a few years.** They are proud people and do not like to be given charity but they will accept help in the form of donated cans that they can recycle for money. Please bring in your recyclables in for them. Leave them by the garage. These are nice people. There, but for the Grace of our God, go we.

**Counters are needed!** Jim Monroe is looking for offering counters for the calendar year of 2024. Counters will be assigned for a month at a time. Depending on the number of volunteers, it could only be a couple of times per year. To volunteer, please contact Jim at 231-941-0788 or by email at [xcski@chartermi.net](mailto:xcski@chartermi.net)

**Spotlight on Zeke:** So many of us enjoy Zeke's talents with religious music, but did you know that he plays other kinds of music at various locations in the Traverse City area? Here is a list of his engagements in the next month that are close to TC:

**Wed 10/25**—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour at 4:00

**Wed 11/1**—Park Place, Minerva's Happy Hour at 4:00

**Sun 10/29**—TCGC Student recital at Thirsty Fish in TC at 1:00

**Fri 11/3**—Middle Coast Traverse City at 6:00

**FOR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS AND ANY WHO LOVE TO READ:** The book for **Oct 24** discussion is *Firekeeper's Daughter* which has been a New York Times Bestseller. This book was named the Great Michigan Read book for the year!!!! Thousands in Michigan will be reading the book at the same time. Even if there are no books left in the book club box in front of church if you live in Michigan you will be able to download an audio or print version of the book FREE by going to ReadMichigan.org. There will also be many extra books available at the library. This book is a mystery centered in Sault Ste Marie and tells the tale of a biracial female Ojibwe member who helps in an undercover investigation. If you want to join the BLC discussion it will be at 5:30 on that Tues. If you want to join but cannot be there in person, please send a ZOOM request to Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net.

**Our Care Giving Committee has put up a "Communitas" Board** on the wall of our Coat Room! This "BOARD" is needed and helpful for ALL of us! Following is a suggestion of some things YOU and our YOUTH can do to "interact" with the board and other members of our congregation. The purpose of our "Auxilium Communitas" BOARD (Latin for "Community/Congregation Assistance") is to SHARE our gifts, talents, or skills to others that might be in NEED of something like: Gardening, Organizing, Painting, Raking leaves, Shoveling, Household tasks, Carpentry, Manicures, Pedicures, Companionship, Care giving, etc. - This list is Endless! You never know when YOU will be in need of some extra help personally, in your home or yard - let's make this "reciprocal" - All ages are Welcome to Help Service our Congregation!

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH ART & CRAFT SHOW - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023 9:00am to 3:00pm**

Featuring over 40 local artists and crafters with original, handmade goods! Please sign up in the Narthex hallway to volunteer for our fundraiser. Your help would be greatly appreciated. "Many hands make work light".

**You can pre-order your Christmas poinsettias now.** Please use the gold insert received with your worship folder today. The deadline for ordering is November 1st.

**Adult Bible Study:** meets on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30am in the Youth Room, with a study of the Gospel of John.

**The Zoom Book and Bible Study:** meets on Wednesdays from 1:30-3:00pm. The group will study the Mitch Albom book, *Have a Little Faith* on November 1, 8 & 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in obtaining this book, please contact Barbara Oster or Pr Paul.

**BUGs for Christmas:** "BUG" otherwise known as the Bethlehem Ukulele Group may be playing during the Christmas season. Details are still being arranged. Could you attend class right after the Sunday service on the last Sunday of Nov. and first 2 Sundays of Dec? The group could play on Dec 17 and/or Christmas eve. Please check your schedule and let Denice Bossardet know as soon as you can. Even if you could not play this summer you can still join this fun group. Denice's contact info: 231-499-7523 or denice.bossardet@gmail.com

**Copies of the Living Lutheran magazine** can be picked up at the welcome table on Sunday mornings or from the Shooting STAR box below the outside mailbox.

**Are you looking for the Caring Table for your donations?** It has been moved inside the coat room to the right. Also, the area for the Oleson and Family Fair receipts is in the lower cabinets below the mailboxes (under the A-B-Cs...). The cabinet door is marked with the receptacle inside.

**Coffee and Cookies:** You are welcome to stay after the Sunday service for coffee, cookies and conversation. This will be done as many Sundays as there are volunteers to make the coffee and/or bring cookies, etc. There is a sign-up sheet available near the cookies. There are open dates, so please sign up!

**Name tags:** Your name tags are in your mailboxes. Please retrieve them so you can proudly wear them on Sunday mornings. We often have visitors and with so many recent new members it helps them if they can see a friendly face and attach a name to it.

**Food Pantry: HELP!!!** Please take some time and buy some extra staple items when you go shopping. The shelves in the pantry are labeled. You can place your items right in the cupboard or you can bring them inside church and leave them on the CARE table in the coat room.

**A big thank you to all who turned in Olesons' receipts.** We just received a check from Olesons for \$268.15 for a total of \$593.03 this calendar year. Please continue to drop off your Olesons' receipts at Bethlehem. Please note they do not expire. Thank you.

**Hoop's Pet Food Pantry:** This is the only pet food pantry in NW lower Michigan. They primarily provide dry food, wet food, treats, cat litter and toys for mostly dogs and cats but they will support any type of pet to the best of their ability. Please visit them at the Square Deal Country Store, 900 Woodmere Ave, TC from 11:00am – 2:00pm on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month with your donations OR you may leave donations in the tub on our "donations" table in the coat room. The volunteers have expressed their appreciation when receiving our donations.

**Have something important going on at Bethlehem that you'd like others to know about?** Maybe a Small Group? A Club Event? Feature it on the Screen Announcements, weekly emails and on our Facebook Events Page! If there is something you'd like featured or included in any of these, please reach out to [alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org) If you are not getting the weekly emails for any reason, please contact Alanna.

**Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers for a Sunday service.** Please use the sign-up poster in the Narthex by signing on the date you request. Then fill out a pink slip with the necessary information and place it and a check for \$40 (payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church or BLC) in the offering plate on Sunday morning (Preferable) or during the week, in the Administrative Assistant's mailbox near the church office entrance. You may select either "in honor" or "in memory" or "to celebrate". If someone has already signed on the date you would like, feel free to add your name – we welcome more than one on a Sunday.

**The church calendar is below. Please be sure to notify the office ([admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) or 231.947.9880) to be sure that your group is of the calendar.**

**Sunday, October 22**

9:15am—Sunday School  
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)  
10:00am—Worship Service (S)  
12:30pm—Confirmation Class at Advent

**Monday, October 23**

3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

**Tuesday, October 24**

**Bulletin articles due today**

9:00am—Property Work Group  
9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)  
5:30pm—Book/Supper Club (CR/Zoom)

**Wednesday, October 25**

9:30am—Adult Bible Study (YR)  
11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)  
1:00pm—Johnson SG (Offsite)

**Thursday, October 26**

1:00pm—Inside Out (Library)  
5:30pm—ACA  
7:00pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)

**Friday, October 27**

6:30pm—All Star DE (FH)

**Sunday, October 29**

**REFORMATION SUNDAY**

9:15am—Sunday School  
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)  
9:30am—Youth Discipleship Kick-off at Advent  
10:00am—Traditional Worship Service (S)

