

Twentieth Sunday

after Pentecost

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
October 11, 2026
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 in your name, address, etc in the guest book near the entrance to the sanctuary.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 4, page 147

Bell Ringing/Welcome/Announcements

Prelude

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Compassionate God,

C: ...we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

(continued on next page)

P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
C: Amen

Gathering Hymn Gather Us In ELW 532

Greeting

P: 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



S 147

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



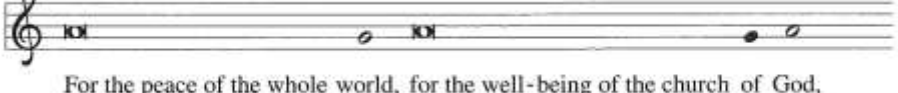
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



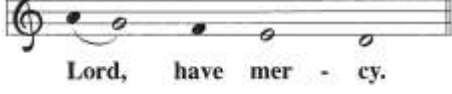
Lord, have mer - cy.



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.



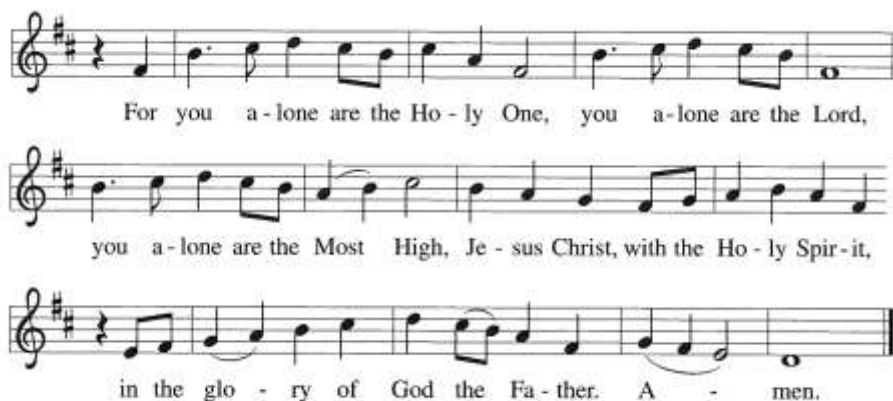
Lord, have mer - cy.

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

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.



Prayer of the Day

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

A: Let us pray together... C: **Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

First Lesson

Isaiah 25:1-9

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

1 O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. 2 For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of foreigners is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt. 3 Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. 4 For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, 5 the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. 6 On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. 7 And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all nations;

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8 he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. 9 It will be said on that day, "See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

2 The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

3 You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Second Lesson

Philippians 4:1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

1 My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. 2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3 Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life. 4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia



Gospel

Matthew 22:1-10

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

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

1 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 2 “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. 4 Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ 5 But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, 6 while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. 7 The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. 8 Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9 Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ 10 Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Ruth Overdier

Hymn of the Day

Let Us Go Now to the Banquet

ELW 523

Apostle's Creed

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

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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 Intercession: response after each petition: **“Your mercy is great.”** (*Before prayer*) A: Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world... (*Conclusion*) P: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

MEAL

Offering Song

Zeke Clemons

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

A: Let us pray together.

C: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

S 152

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

This musical score is for a four-part setting of the Great Thanksgiving. It is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The score is divided into four staves, each with a treble clef. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. 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

S 153

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

This musical score is for a three-part setting of 'Holy, Holy, Holy'. It is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The score is divided into three staves, each with a treble clef. The lyrics are: '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'

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Words of Institution

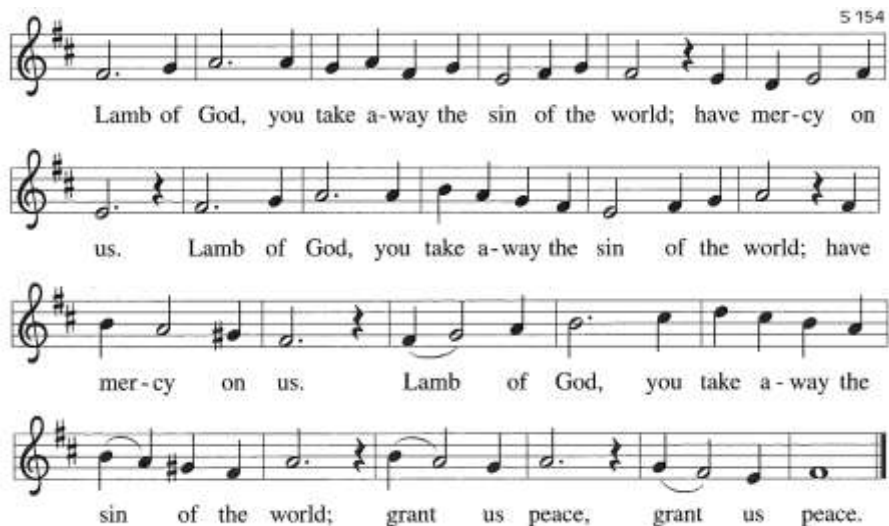
The Lord's Prayer

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



Communion Hymns

*Come, Let Us Eat
Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup
Here Is Bread*

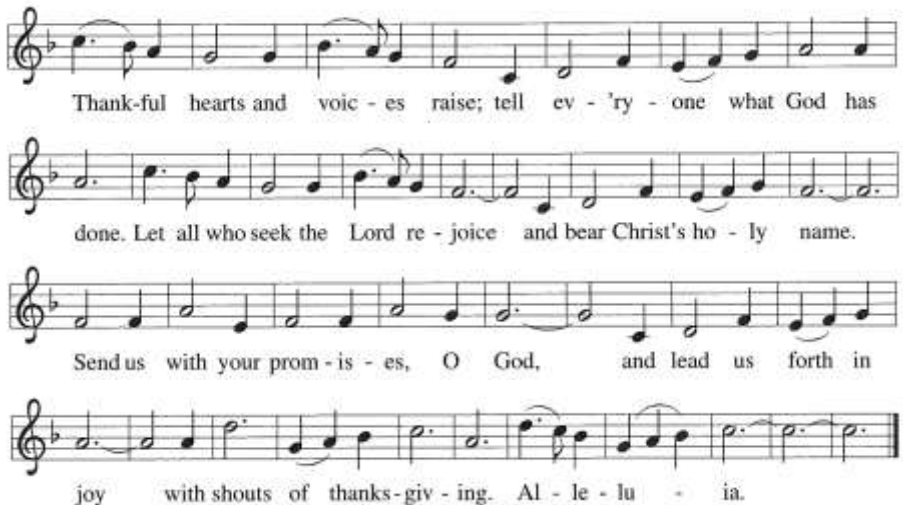
**ELW 491
ELW 492
ELW 483**

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



Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **C: Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Song

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

ELW 547

Dismissal

A: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem October 11, 2026
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1050 Peninsula Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 947-9880
www.bethlehemtc.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

10/12—Kay Asiala

10/13—Tom Cole

10/15—Meredith Busekist

10/15—Sally Ton

Worship Servants for October 11

Preaching & Presiding – Pastor Ruth Overdier

Assisting Minister—Barbara Oster

Lector—Tim Goebel

Musicians: David Husser, Zeke

Clemons, Phil & Denice Bossardet

Today's altar flowers are donated: By

Bill & Sue Allen in Honor of the

Shepherd Family

Hospitality—Tim & Peggy Goebel

A/V—Paul Ton / Jim Hinds;

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Front Door Monitor: Tom Rockne

Altar Guild—Barbara Oster / Mary

Ann Tanis

Tech Support—Brian Acker

Counters—Kate Holtfreter / Cindy

Cuba

Wine Down Wednesday: Ladies, join us for a chance to wind down mid-week and socialize at Women's Wine Down Wednesday! We will be meeting at Reflect Bistro inside Cambria Hotel & Suites (225 Munson Avenue) at 5pm on October 14th.

Reflect Bistro has an extensive wine list as well as a full dinner menu. You can view the menus on their website traversecitylodging.com/reflect-bistro/ If you have questions, reach out to Amy Haara at (708) 989-8124.

Grief Group meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month from 3:30-4:30 in the Gathering Space. The next meeting will be October 19th. Any questions contact Peggy Burns 232-392-6913.

Bethlehem is hosting a Trunk or Treat for community families on Sunday, October 25th from 3:00-4:30pm! We are looking for people to sign up to hand out treats from the trunk of their car. Decorating is optional but very welcomed - as simple or elaborate as you like, just nothing scary! The type of treats you hand out is up to you as well. Sign up in the narthex if you are able to participate, and even if you can't, we hope you'll come just to join in the fun! Reach out to Alanna at alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org if you have any questions

The impact of Norm Fred continues... His tireless attention to a host of projects around Bethlehem continues via the Tuesday Work Group. Our can collection to benefit a man and woman in subsidized housing continues with Tom Rockne taking our cans to them and them to Meijer bi-weekly to return them for needed cash to buy food. Yes, turn around...and Norm is still at work. Reminder- Place plastic bags filled with cans in the two garbage cans outside our garage... The Tuesday Work Group and others will put them in the garage for safe-keeping. Thank you!

Today's Prayer Recipients: Please send any changes or additions by email to admin@bethlehemtc.org

Harper Wiemerslage,	Judy Fenton,	Ron & Marilyn Dork
Jerry Hill,	Cindy Hitesman,	Sharon,
John Block,	Richard Fernholz,	Kyle,
Roy DuMond,	Julie Lapeer,	Christine,
Mary Woodring,	Lee,	Janet,
Lynn,	Chris,	Cheryl
Steve,	Cheryl,	Pat,
Sherry,	Julie Barrett,	Jacque
Bob,	Pat & Bob	Carmen Svalstad
John Stretlien,	Patti,	Scott Schlagel

BETHLEHEM CALENDAR

Sunday, October 11

9:15am—Sunday School
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
10:00am—Traditional Worship
Service (S)

Monday, October 12

9:00am—Mission Endowment
(Zoom)
11:00am—Finance Committee
(Zoom)
2:30pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)
3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

Tuesday, October 13

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group
9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
1:00pm—Friendship Bible Study
(Offsite)
6:00pm—Y2A/Christian Ed Meeting
(YR)
6:30pm—Executive Committee
Meeting (ZOOM)

Wednesday, October 14

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
1:30pm—Zoom Book & Bible Study
(Zoom/YR)
5:00pm—Women's Wine Down
Wednesday (Offsite)

Thursday, October 15

1:00pm—Rebecca Anna/Sarah Circle
(FH)
5:30pm—ACA (Library)
5:45pm—Third Thursday Meal (FH)
7:00pm—Third Thursday/Behold Our
Light (S)

Friday, October 16

12:00pm—MI Partner Health (FH)
1:00pm—Lehto SG (GS)

Saturday, October 17

8:00pm—AA (FH)

Sunday, October 18

9:15am—Sunday School
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
10:00am—Traditional Worship
Service (S)
12:30pm—Youth Discipleship Class
(YR)

**Chair Yoga has been
cancelled for
October 19th**