Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
November 8, 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 3, page 138

Pre-Worship Music/Announcements

Prelude

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.
C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: … we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

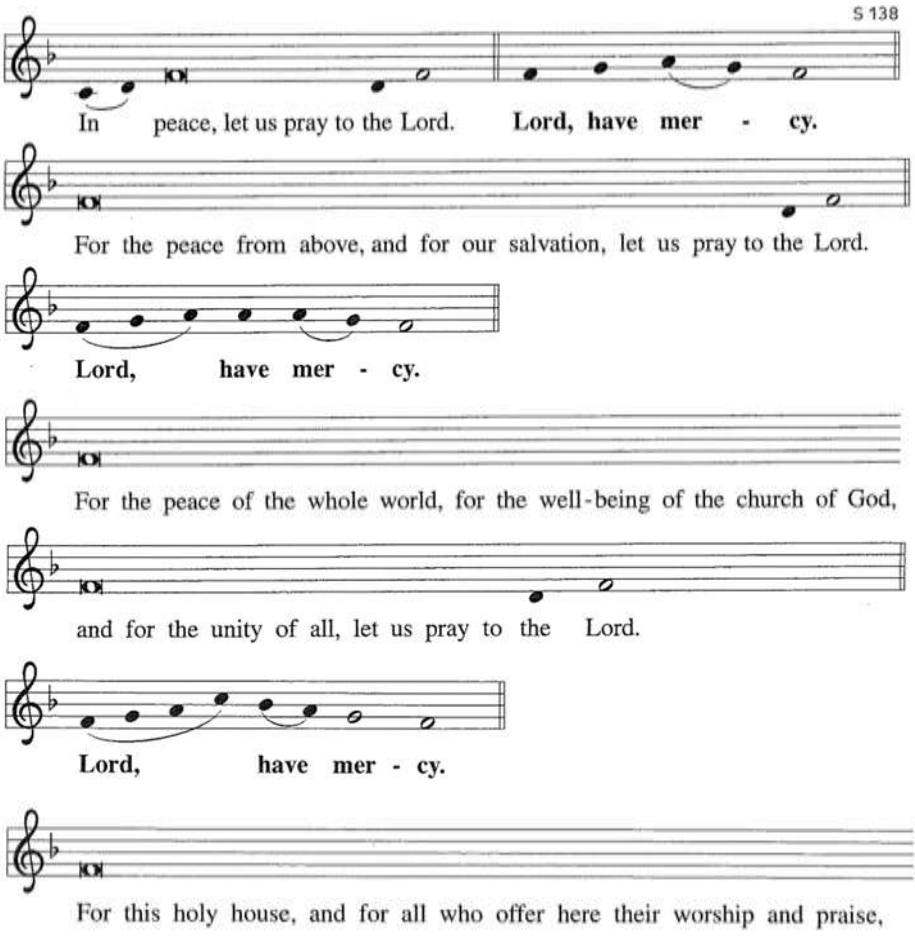
P: Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.
C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn ***My Lord, What a Morning*** ***ELW 438***

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 (*lead by Pastor Paul***)**



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Hymn of Praise ***Glory to God***





Prayer of the Day

A: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**
A: Let us pray together… **C: O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Children's Message **Pr. Paul**

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 Woe to 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
water 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!"

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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***



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 young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.

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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 young women 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 young women 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 **Pastor Paul Busekist**

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 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: **"Hear our prayer."** *(Before prayer)* A: United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation. *(Conclusion)* P: Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **C: Amen.**

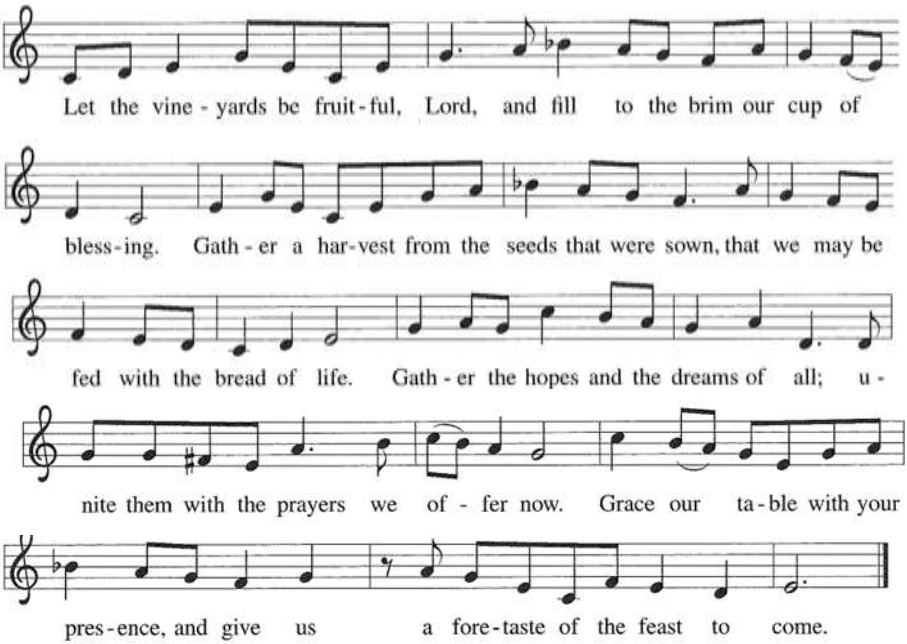
Sharing of the Peace
P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
C: And also with you.

MEAL

Offering (*Please be seated.)*

Offering Song: **David Husser**

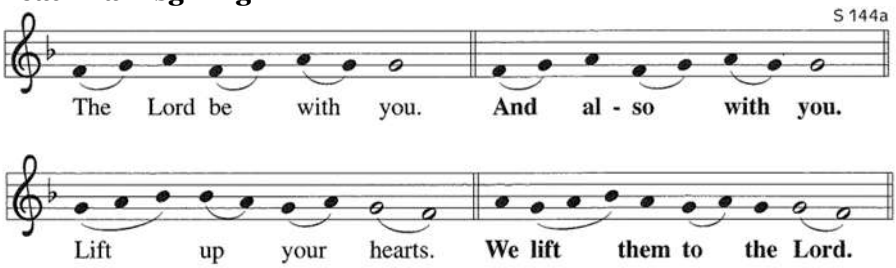
Offertory (*Please stand, as able.*) ***Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful***



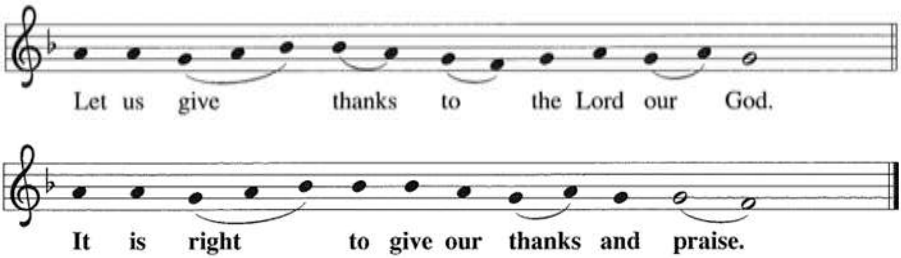
Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray together.
C: Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

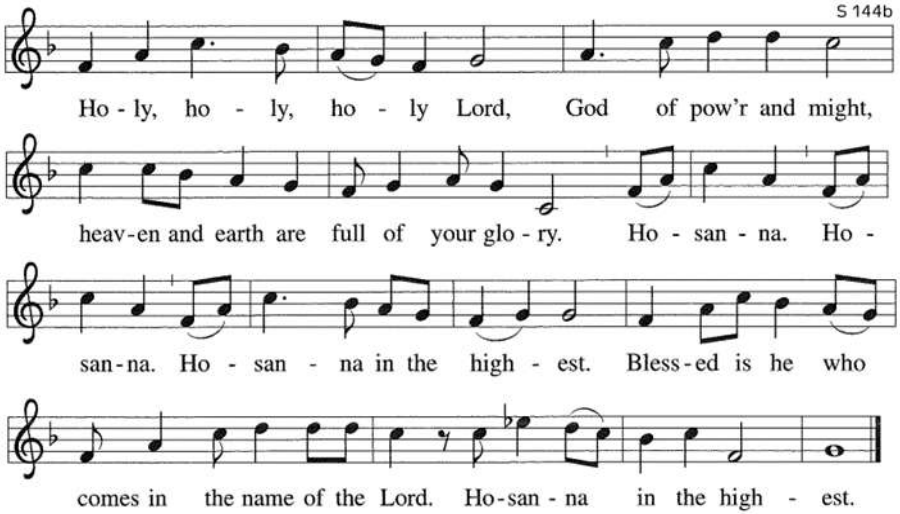


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Great Thanksgiving (*continued***)**
P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy…we praise your name and join their unending hymn…

Holy, Holy, Holy



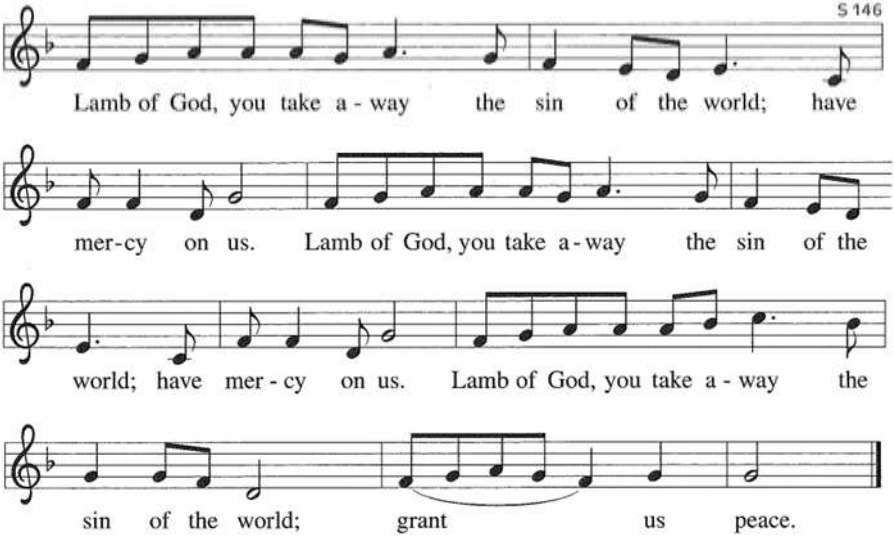
Words of Institution

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.
***Please note: Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.*

Communion ***Lamb of God***



Communion Hymns

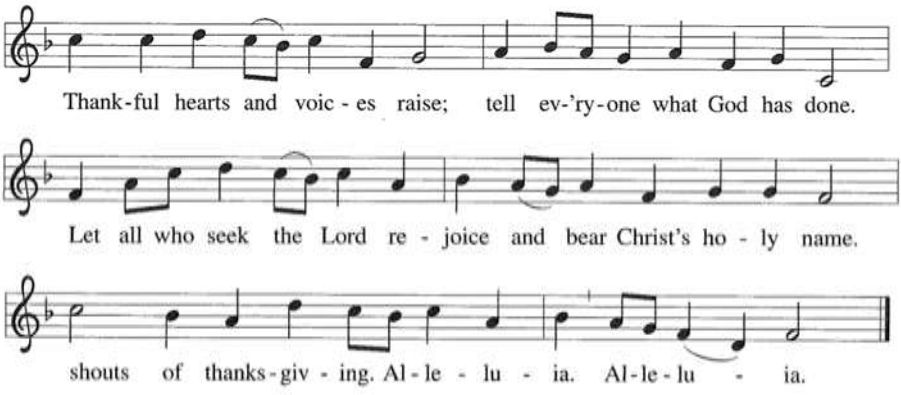
When Peace like a River	***ELW 785***
Just As I Am, without One Plea	***ELW 592***
One Bread, One Body	***ELW 496***

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. Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.
C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

P: The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.
C: Amen.

Sending Song ***Blessed Assurance*** ***ELW 638***

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Encourage one another.
C: Thanks be to God.

Bethlehem LUTHERAN CHURCH November 8, 2026

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

11/9—Suzanne Lehto 11/9—Diane Cunningham 11/15—Marilyn Halstead

Worship Servants for November 8
Preaching& Presiding – Pastor Paul Busekist
Assisting Minister—Barbara Wright
Lector—Scott Sorenson
Musicians: David Husser, Phil & Denice Bossardet, Pr. Paul
Today's altar flowers are donated: *By Jane Fred in Celebration of Evelyn Aubrey Martel's 19th Birthday*
Hospitality—Tim & Peggy Goebel
A/V—Paul Ton / Barbara Oster
Welcome Table— VOLUNTEER
Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel
Front Door Monitor: John Halstead
Altar Guild—Barbara Oster / Mary Ann Tanis
Tech Support—Brian Acker
Flower Delivery: Lindsay Susalski
Counters—Forest Bowling / John Halstead

SPIRITUAL GIFTS: Would you like to know what your Spiritual Gifts are or see if your gifts have changed since you took a class awhile ago? This is a common sense approach. Starting this Wednesday, November 11th and continuing November 18th, December 2nd and December 9th, we will meet from 6:00 to 7:00 in the Gathering Space. Materials will be provided. Any Questions please contact Peggy Burns 231-392-6913. Please sign up in the Gathering Space.

XYZ (EXtra Years of Zest) potluck & presentation will be on Friday, November 13th. Join us for a delicious potluck lunch at noon, followed by a wonderful presentation by our own Tom Rockne. Tom traveled to Ukraine in November 2025 to support the Ukrainian war effort, and will have stories to share with us about his time there. Remember, XYZ is predominantly geared toward seniors but is enjoyed to adults of any age - all are welcome!

Tapas Time! Tapas is a Spanish word for small plate appetizers. If you are looking for an opportunity to make new friends, engage in conversation, enjoy food and drink, and have an all-around good time, this is your opportunity. Please join us on Friday, November 13th at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Betsy Morley, 3695 Oxford Drive, Traverse City. Bring an appetizer to share and join in the fun and fellowship. All are welcome!

New Members: The next gathering for potential new members to Bethlehem will be Sunday November 15 after the service. Grab your coffee and treat and bring them to the library so you can meet some others and learn a little more about Bethlehem. If you are interested in membership, please contact the office or membership co-chairs Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net or John Halstead at marilynjohntc@hotmail.com

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 November 16th. Any questions contact Peggy Burns 232-392-6913.

Handbell rehearsals will return in November: Practice for ringing handbells will resume on Monday, November 16th at 3:30pm and continue through December. If you have thought this is something you want to try please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net

November's Third Thursday service will be Taize 1 beginning at 7:00pm on November 19th. Come early at 5:45pm for a delicious "Harvest" meal focusing on fall foods.

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

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

Sunday, November 8
9:15am—Sunday School
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
10:00am—Traditional Worship Service (S)

Monday, November 9
11:00am—Finance Committee (CR)
3:00pm—Chair Yoga (GS)

Tuesday, November 10
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 (Zoom)



Wednesday, November 11
11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
1:30pm—Zoom Book & Bible Study (Zoom/YR)
5:00pm—Women's Wine Down Wednesday (Offsite)
6:00pm—Spiritual Gifts (GS)

Thursday, November 12
9:00am—Baby Pantry Set-Up (FH)
10:00am—Baby Pantry (FH)
5:30pm—ACA (FH)

Friday, November 13
STAR ARTICLES DUE
12:00pm—XYZ (FH)
6:00pm—Tapas Time (Offsite)

Saturday, November 14
7:00pm—Contra Dance by Bayside Travellers (FH)

Sunday, November 15
9:15am—Sunday School
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:15am—New Member Meeting (Library)
12:30pm—Youth Discipleship (YR)