

✠ **The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost** ✠
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
July 18, 19 & 22, 2026

WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME

WELCOME to our guests and members as we gather for worship today! **Please place your names in our red “Record of Fellowship” books.** Also, please give attention to the written “News and Notes”.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

O God, by the patient endurance of Your only begotten Son You beat down the pride of the old enemy. Help us to treasure rightly in our hearts what our Lord has borne for our sakes that, after His example, we may bear with patience those things that are adverse to us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

WORSHIP NOTES

The good Seed, which is *“the Son of Man,”* Jesus Himself (Matt. 13:37), brings forth a harvest of faith and bears good fruits in *“the sons of the kingdom”* (Matt. 13:38). Whatever is sown apart from His Word is of the devil, who plants the weeds of unbelief and sin, even among the people of God. Thankfully, the Lord is patient and He does not uproot the weeds, lest the plants also be destroyed. He lets *“both grow together until the harvest”* (Matt. 13:30), while He continues to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins. Thus, He preserves His Church in righteousness, because He alone is *“the King of Israel and his Redeemer”* (Is. 44:6). Since all things are in His gracious care and keeping, *“fear not, nor be afraid”* (Is. 44:8). For *“the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God”* (Rom. 8:19), and in this hope we also wait with patience. Though we do not yet see it, *“the Spirit helps us in our weakness”* (Rom. 8:26) and, in truth, *“the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us”* (Rom. 8:18).

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

525 Crown Him with Many Crowns

- 1 Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav’nly anthem drowns
All music but its own.

Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king
Through all eternity.

- 2 Crown Him the virgin's Son,
The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won
Which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic rose,
Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows,
The babe of Bethlehem.
- 3 Crown Him the Lord of love.
Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes
At mysteries so bright.
- 4 Crown Him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die.
- 5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n,
Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n
The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns
As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,
For He is king of all.

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Stand

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their
Baptism.*

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

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

✠ Service of the Word ✠

Introit

Psalm 86:11-15; antiphon: v.6

P Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;
listen to my plea for grace.

C Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.

P I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name forever.

**C For great is your steadfast love toward me;
you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.**

**P O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of
ruthless men seek my life, and they do not set you before
them.**

**C But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and
faithfulness.**

**ALL Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**ALL Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;
listen to my plea for grace.**

Kyrie

LSB 186

**C Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187

P Glory be to God on high:

C and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.

**We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great
glory.**

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

**that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon
us.**

**Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our
prayer.**

**Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.**

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 44:6–8

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

"I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.

Let him declare and set it before me,
since I appointed an ancient people.

Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.

⁸Fear not, nor be afraid;

have I not told you from of old and declared it?

And you are my witnesses!

Is there a God besides me?

There is no Rock; I know not any."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 8:18–27

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself

intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190

C **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

²⁴[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ ²⁸He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” . . .

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

- C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of
God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to
judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life æ everlasting.
Amen.**

Offering (10:30)

Sit

663 Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray

- 1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray;
From your sleep awaken!
Be not by the evil day
Unawares o'ertaken;
For the foe,
Well we know,
Is a harvest reaping
While the saints are sleeping.
- 2 Watch against the devil's snares
Lest asleep he find you;
For indeed no pains he spares
To deceive and blind you.
Satan's prey
Oft are they
Who secure are sleeping
And no watch are keeping.

- 3 Watch! Let not the wicked world
With its lies defeat you
Lest with bold deceptions hurled
It betray and cheat you.
Watch and see
Lest there be
Faithless friends to charm you,
Who but seek to harm you.
- 4 Watch against yourself, my soul,
Lest with grace you trifle;
Let not self your thoughts control
Nor God's mercy stifle.
Pride and sin
Lurk within,
All your hopes to shatter;
Heed not when they flatter.
- 5 But while watching, also pray
To the Lord unceasing.
God protects you day by day,
Strength and faith increasing,
So that still
Mind and will
Shall unite to serve Him
And forever love Him.

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Sermon

Offering (5:30 and 8:00)

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192

- C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

✕ Service of the Sacrament ✕

Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C **It is meet and right so to do.**

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

C **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

LSB 197

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

LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Sit

Distribution

If you desire to commune, please speak to one of the pastors before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are members of our congregation or sister congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and are not under church discipline in another congregation.

Please note that "gluten free" communion wafers are available for those who need them. Please tell the Communion Assistant "gluten free" when he approaches you at the Communion Rail. Also, for those who desire, highly diluted wine is available in individual cups (one drop of wine in the cup of water). Please tell the Communion Assistant "clear" when he approaches you at the Communion Rail.

Distribution Hymns (please refer to the hymnal)

735 - Have No Fear, Little Flock

794 - The Lord, My God, Be Praised

761 - Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,

for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C **and His mercy endureth forever.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

Benedicamus

LSB 202

P Bless we the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✕ give you peace.

C **Amen, amen, amen.**

575 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

1 My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim
But wholly lean on Jesus' name. Refrain

ref On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

- 2 When darkness veils His lovely face,
 I rest on His unchanging grace;
 In ev'ry high and stormy gale
 My anchor holds within the veil. Refrain

 - 3 His oath, His covenant and blood
 Support me in the raging flood;
 When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,
 He then is all my hope and stay. Refrain

 - 4 When He shall come with trumpet sound,
 Oh, may I then in Him be found,
 Clothed in His righteousness alone,
 Redeemed to stand before His throne! Refrain
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Acknowledgments

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ASSISTING AT WORSHIP

Preacher **Rev. Patrick Niles**
Presiding Minister **Rev. Patrick Niles**

Organists **Sandy Kasten**
 Susan Wachter

Lay Readers **Matt Tschudy (8:00)**
 Mindy Stopar (10:30)
 Randy Holler (6:00)

Communion Assistants

Richard Zimbal Sr. & Jim Schmidt (5:30)
Josh Klug & Matt Tschudy (8:00)
Brian Hasenstein & Luther Bajus (10:30)
Randy Holler (6:00)