

✠ The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost ✠
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
July 25, 26 & 29, 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

Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts what we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

WORSHIP NOTES

The Lord our God has chosen us to be *“his treasured possession,”* not because of any strength in us, but solely *“because the Lord loves”* us (Deut. 7:6–8). He is faithful, and He *“keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments”* (Deut. 7:9). He has searched for us and found us in love, and He has bestowed on us *“great value”* by the great price that He has paid on the cross (Matt. 13:45–46). In His joy, He has redeemed us by His cross and gathered us into His kingdom by the Gospel. Now we are *“hidden in a field,”* covered by the cross and subject to the persecution of the world (Matt. 13:44), not for destruction, but *“to be conformed to the image of his Son”* (Rom. 8:29). Since we *“are called according to his purpose”* (Rom. 8:28), and because Christ Jesus died, rose again and lives to intercede for us *“at the right hand of God”* (Rom. 8:34), there is nothing in all creation that can separate us from *“the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Rom. 8:39).

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

719 I Leave All Things to God's Direction

- 1 I leave all things to God's direction;
He loves me both in joy and woe.
His will is good, sure His affection;
His tender love is true, I know.
My fortress and my rock is He:
What pleases God, that pleases me.

2 God knows what must be done to save me;
 His love for me will never cease.
 Upon His hands He did engrave me
 With purest gold of loving grace.
 His will supreme must ever be:
 What pleases God, that pleases me.

3 My God desires the soul's salvation;
 My soul He, too, desires to save.
 Therefore with Christian resignation
 All earthly troubles I will brave.
 His will be done eternally:
 What pleases God, that pleases me.

4 My God has all things in His keeping;
 He is the ever faithful friend.
 He gives me laughter after weeping,
 And all His ways in blessings end.
 His love endures eternally:
 What pleases God, that pleases me.

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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 105:2-6; antiphon: v.1

- P** Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!
- C** **Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!**
- P** Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!
- C** **Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually!**
- P** Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered, O offspring of Abraham, his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!
- 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** **Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!**

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.

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith,
hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we
may love what You have commanded; 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

Deuteronomy 7:6–9

⁶“You are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your
God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured
possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the
earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any
other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you,
for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the
LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your
fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand
and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of
Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹Know therefore that the LORD your God
is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love

with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 8:28–39

²⁸We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190

C **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:44–52

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

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

⁴⁴[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

Offering (10:30)

Sit

752 Be Still, My Soul

- 1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.
- 2 Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
To guide the future as He has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.
- 3 Be still, my soul; though dearest friends depart
And all is darkened in this vale of tears;
Then you will better know His love, His heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
From His own fullness all He takes away.
- 4 Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

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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, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. 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)

684 - Come unto Me, Ye Weary

743 - Jesus, Priceless Treasure

645 - Built on the Rock

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.

- 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.**

573 Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee

- 1 Lord, 'tis not that I did choose Thee;
That, I know, could never be;
For this heart would still refuse Thee
Had Thy grace not chosen me.
Thou hast from the sin that stained me
Washed and cleansed and set me free
And unto this end ordained me,
That I ever live to Thee.
- 2 It was grace in Christ that called me,
Taught my darkened heart and mind;
Else the world had yet enthralled me,
To Thy heav'nly glories blind.
Now I worship none above Thee;
For Thy grace alone I thirst,
Knowing well that, if I love Thee,
Thou, O Lord, didst love me first.

Stand

- 3 Praise the God of all creation;
Praise the Father's boundless love.
Praise the Lamb, our expiation,
Priest and King enthroned above.
Praise the Spirit of salvation,
Him by whom our spirits live.
Undivided adoration
To the great Jehovah give.

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Acknowledgments

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ASSISTING AT WORSHIP

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

Organists **Sandy Kasten**
 Susan Wachter

Lay Readers **Jan Wagner (5:30)**
 Bill Lang (8:00)
 David Ames (10:30)
 Randy Holler (6:00)

Communion Assistants
 Phil Ditter & Mark Cyr (5:30)
 Bill Lang (8:00)
 David Ames (10:30)
 Randy Holler (6:00)