

✠ The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost ✠
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
September 13, 14 & 17, 2025

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

Merciful God, we humbly implore You to cast the bright beams of Your light upon Your Church that we, being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles, may walk in the light of Your truth and finally attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

WORSHIP NOTES

“The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Tim. 1:15). As He had mercy on Paul, in order to *“display his perfect patience”* (1 Tim. 1:16), so also does He seek out His sheep *“from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness”* (Ezek. 34:12). To deliver His flock, He *“will seek the lost, ... bring back the strayed, ... bind up the injured, and ... strengthen the weak”* (Ezek. 34:16), and *“they shall no longer be a prey”* (Ezek. 34:22). He sets over them one great Good Shepherd, the Son of David, who *“shall feed them and be their shepherd”* (Ezek. 34:23). For Christ Jesus is the one man who, *“having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them,”* would *“leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it”* (Luke 15:4). When He finds the lost one and brings it home rejoicing, *“the angels of God”* and all the company of heaven rejoice with Him, with great joy (Luke 15:7, 10).

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

710 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

- 1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

- 2 My soul He doth restore again
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake.
- 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.
- 4 My table Thou hast furnishèd
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.
- 5 Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling place shall be.

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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 30:2-5; antiphon: vv. 11a, 12b

P You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

**C O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.**

P O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;
you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

**C Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,
and give thanks to his holy name.**

P For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

**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 You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!**

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.

Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd, without whom
nothing is secure. Rescue and preserve us that we may not
be lost forever but follow You, rejoicing in the way that leads
to eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 34:11–24

¹¹For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search
for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹²As a shepherd seeks out
his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered,
so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all
places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and
thick darkness. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and
gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own
land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the
ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴I will feed
them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel
shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good
grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the

mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

¹⁷"As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats.

¹⁸Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? ¹⁹And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

²⁰"Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep.

²¹Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, ²²I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Timothy 1:5–17

⁵The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, ⁷desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

⁸Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, ⁹understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, ¹¹in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

¹²I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, ¹³though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted

ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190

C **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 15:1–10

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

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

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ⁴“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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.

Sit

Offering (10:30)

611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

- 1 Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His, and He is mine.
- 2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love,
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity!

Love that found me—wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.

- 3 Only Jesus can impart
Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God
In the way that Enoch trod.
- 4 Chief of sinners though I be,
Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known,
All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life
Safe with Him from earthly strife.
- 5 O my Savior, help afford
By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.

Text: Public domain

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 on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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)

610 - Lord Jesus, Think on Me

686 - Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

740 - I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

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.

895 Now Thank We All Our God

- 1 Now thank we all our God
 With hearts and hands and voices,
 Who wondrous things has done,
 In whom His world rejoices;
 Who from our mothers' arms
 Has blest us on our way
 With countless gifts of love
 And still is ours today.

- 2 Oh, may this bounteous God
 Through all our life be near us,
 With ever joyful hearts
 And blessed peace to cheer us
 And keep us in His grace
 And guide us when perplexed
 And free us from all ills
 In this world and the next!

Stand

- 3 All praise and thanks to God
 The Father now be given,
 The Son, and Him who reigns
 With them in highest heaven,
 The one eternal God,
 Whom earth and heav'n adore;
 For thus it was, is now,
 And shall be evermore.

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Acknowledgments

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ASSISTING AT WORSHIP

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

Organists **Sandy Kasten**
 Susan Wachter

Lay Readers **Barb Nitsch (5:30)**
 Luke Timm (8:00)
 Paula Siech (10:30)
 Bill Lang (6:00)

Communion Assistants
 Richard Zimbal Sr. & Jim Schmidt (5:30)
 Jon Krueger (8:00)
 Luther Bajus (10:30)
 Bill Lang (6:00)

Student Assistants
 (A) Griffin Cyr (5:30)
 (U) Zac Sines & Logan Stelter (5:30)
 (A) Charlotte Wheelan & Amelia Flores (8:00)
 (U) Austin Gries & Lauren Markevitch (8:00)
 (A) Kaleb Allen & Aubrey Schallock (10:30)
 (U) Juliet Calkins & Jax Fehlhaber (10:30)