

**✠ The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost ✠**  
**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
**August 22, 23 & 26, 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**

Almighty and everlasting God, of Your great mercy in Jesus Christ You have granted us forgiveness of sin and all things pertaining to life and godliness. Send us Your Holy Spirit that He may so rule our hearts that we, being ever mindful of Your fatherly mercy, may serve You in holiness and pureness of living and may give You continual thanks for all Your goodness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**WORSHIP NOTES**

Jesus asked His disciples: “But who do you say that I am?” (Matt. 16:15). The question is also put to us: Who do you say that He is? Flesh and blood do not reveal this to us, but by the ministry of the Gospel, the Father in heaven reveals His Son to us on earth, who has become flesh and suffered death for our salvation. Thus, we believe and confess that He is “the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matt. 16:16). As He died for our transgressions and was raised for our justification, He looses us from all our sins and preserves our life within His Church, against which even “the gates of hell shall not prevail” (Matt. 16:18–19). His salvation is forever, and His righteousness “will never be dismayed” (Is. 51:6). He comforts us with the Gospel in His Church, so that “joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song” (Is. 51:3). Therefore, “according to the measure of faith that God has assigned” (Rom. 12:3), we also offer ourselves “as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God” (Rom. 12:1) through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**912 Christ Is Our Cornerstone**

- 1 Christ is our cornerstone,  
On Him alone we build;  
With His true saints alone  
The courts of heav’n are filled.

On His great love  
Our hopes we place  
Of present grace  
And joys above.

- 2 Here may we gain from heav'n  
The grace which we implore,  
And may that grace, once giv'n,  
Be with us evermore  
Until that day  
When all the blest  
To endless rest  
Are called away.

Stand

- 3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise  
These hallowed courts shall ring;  
Our voices we will raise  
The Three in One to sing  
And thus proclaim  
In joyful song,  
Both loud and long,  
That glorious name.

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## **Baptism – Genevieve Evangeline Schils (10:30)**

*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 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in**

**thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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 2:6-7; 117; antiphon: Psalm 115:18*

**P** But we will bless the LORD  
from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!

**C** **As for me, I have set my King  
on Zion, my holy hill.**

**P** I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you."

**C** **Praise the LORD, all nations!  
Extol him, all peoples!**

**P** For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!

**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** **But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and  
forevermore. Praise the LORD!**

**Kyrie**

*LSB 152*

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

P 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.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C Amen.**

### **Gloria in Excelsis**

*LSB 154*

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

**C Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:  
We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for  
Your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God,  
Lamb of God:**

**You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive  
our prayer.**

**For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the  
Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*Sit*

### **Old Testament Reading**

*Isaiah 51:1–6*

<sup>1</sup>"Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,  
you who seek the LORD:

look to the rock from which you were hewn,  
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

<sup>2</sup>Look to Abraham your father

and to Sarah who bore you;  
 for he was but one when I called him,  
 that I might bless him and multiply him.  
<sup>3</sup>For the LORD comforts Zion;  
 he comforts all her waste places  
 and makes her wilderness like Eden,  
 her desert like the garden of the LORD;  
 joy and gladness will be found in her,  
 thanksgiving and the voice of song.  
<sup>4</sup>"Give attention to me, my people,  
 and give ear to me, my nation;  
 for a law will go out from me,  
 and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.  
<sup>5</sup>My righteousness draws near,  
 my salvation has gone out,  
 and my arms will judge the peoples;  
 the coastlands hope for me,  
 and for my arm they wait.  
<sup>6</sup>Lift up your eyes to the heavens,  
 and look at the earth beneath;  
 for the heavens vanish like smoke,  
 the earth will wear out like a garment,  
 and they who dwell in it will die in like manner;  
 but my salvation will be forever,  
 and my righteousness will never be dismayed."

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*Romans 11:33—12:8*

<sup>33</sup>Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

<sup>34</sup>"For who has known the mind of the Lord,  
 or who has been his counselor?"

<sup>35</sup>"Or who has given a gift to him  
 that he might be repaid?"

<sup>36</sup>For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup>Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup>if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup>the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Alleluia and Verse**

*LSB 156*

**C** **Alleluia.**

**Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Holy Gospel**

*Matthew 16:13–20*

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

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” <sup>14</sup>And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup>He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” <sup>20</sup>Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Offering (10:30)

### 645 Built on the Rock

- 1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand  
Even when steeples are falling.  
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land;  
Bells still are chiming and calling,  
Calling the young and old to rest,  
But above all the souls distressed,  
Longing for rest everlasting.
- 2 Surely in temples made with hands  
God, the Most High, is not dwelling;  
High above earth His temple stands,  
All earthly temples excelling.  
Yet He who dwells in heav'n above  
Chooses to live with us in love,  
Making our bodies His temple.
- 3 We are God's house of living stones,  
Built for His own habitation.  
He through baptismal grace us owns  
Heirs of His wondrous salvation.  
Were we but two His name to tell,  
Yet He would deign with us to dwell  
With all His grace and His favor.
- 4 Here stands the font before our eyes,  
Telling how God has received us.  
The altar recalls Christ's sacrifice  
And what His Supper here gives us.  
Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim  
Christ yesterday, today, the same,  
And evermore, our Redeemer.
- 5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done,  
That, when the church bells are ringing,  
Many in saving faith may come  
Where Christ His message is bringing:  
"I know My own; My own know Me.  
You, not the world, My face shall see.  
My peace I leave with you. Amen."

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## Sermon

### Offering (5:30 and 8:00)

*Stand*

#### 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 ✠ everlasting.  
Amen.**

#### Prayer of the Church

#### ✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

#### Preface

*LSB 160*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** It is truly good, 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 161*

- C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*LSB 161*

- P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.**

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

*LSB 162*

- P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:**  
**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**

- 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 163*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

### **Agnus Dei**

*LSB 163*

**C** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

*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)

**587 - I Know My Faith Is Founded**

**940 - Holy God, We Praise Thy Name**

**623 - Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray**

*Stand*

## Thank the Lord

LSB 164

- C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what  
He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His  
name.  
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in  
joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

## Post-Communion Collect

- 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.

## Benediction

LSB 166

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to  
you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✕ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

## 644 The Church's One Foundation

- 1 The Church's one foundation  
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
She is His new creation  
By water and the Word.  
From heav'n He came and sought her  
To be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her,  
And for her life He died.
- 2 Elect from ev'ry nation,  
Yet one o'er all the earth;  
Her charter of salvation:  
One Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses,  
Partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses  
With ev'ry grace endued.

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