

✠ The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost ✠
✠ LWIM Weekend ✠
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
October 17, 18 & 21, 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 God, heavenly Father, You have called us to be Your children and heirs of Your gracious promises in Christ Jesus. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may forsake all idolatrous desires and the inordinate love of riches. Deliver us from the pursuit of passing things that we may seek the kingdom of Your Son and trust in His righteousness and so find blessedness and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

WORSHIP NOTES

Plotting against Jesus, the Pharisees attempted *“to entangle him in his words”* by asking about the payment of taxes to Caesar (Matt. 22:15). The Lord pointed to coins required for the tax, and He answered that we should *“render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s”* (Matt. 22:21). But if coins bearing the image of Caesar should be rendered to him, then man — who is made in the image of God — must be rendered to the Lord. That tax is paid for us by the Lord Jesus, the image of God in the flesh, by His self-offering on the cross. And from His cross, as the Lord’s anointed, He reigns as the true Caesar over all nations *“from the rising of the sun and from the west”* (Is. 45:6). The Lord once called and anointed Cyrus *“to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings”* (Is. 45:1). Now by the preaching of the Gospel, *“in power and in the Holy Spirit”* (1 Thess. 1:5), foreigners from all over the world are *“turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God”* (1 Thess. 1:9–10).

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

739 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

- 1 Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.

Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

2 When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call;
Hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

3 When the darkness appears
And the night draws near
And the day is almost gone,
At the river I stand;
Guide my feet, hold my hand,
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

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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 121:1–4, 7–8; antiphon: v. 5

P The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

**C I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?**

P My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

**C He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.**

P Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

**C The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.**

P The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.

**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 The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade on your right hand.**

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, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on
us that with You as our ruler and guide we may so pass
through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal;
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 45:1–7

¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped,
to subdue nations before him
and to loose the belts of kings,
to open doors before him
that gates may not be closed:

²"I will go before you
and level the exalted places,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,

³I will give you the treasures of darkness

and the hoards in secret places,
 that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
 the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob,
 and Israel my chosen,
 I call you by your name,
 I name you, though you do not know me.
⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other,
 besides me there is no God;
 I equip you, though you do not know me,
⁶that people may know, from the rising of the sun
 and from the west, that there is none besides me;
 I am the LORD, and there is no other.
⁷I form light and create darkness,
 I make well-being and create calamity,
 I am the LORD, who does all these things.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem – Adult Choir, “*For the Beauty of the Earth*”, with
 flautist: Cathy Perronne (5:30)**

Anthem – Grades 1-4 Choir (8:00)

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 1:1–10

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
 To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the
 Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

²We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly
 mentioning you in our prayers, ³remembering before our God
 and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness
 of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers loved
 by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our gospel came to
 you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and
 with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be
 among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and
 of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the
 joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the
 believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For not only has the word
 of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but
 your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not
 say anything. ⁹For they themselves report concerning us the kind
 of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God
 from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his

Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190

C **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:15–22

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

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

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle [Jesus] in his talk. ¹⁶And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” ²¹They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²²When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

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 ☩ everlasting.
Amen.**

Offering (10:30)

Sit

709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

- 1 The King of love my shepherd is,
 Whose goodness faileth never;
 I nothing lack if I am His
 And He is mine forever.
- 2 Where streams of living water flow,
 My ransomed soul He leadeth
 And, where the verdant pastures grow,
 With food celestial feedeth.
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
 But yet in love He sought me
 And on His shoulder gently laid
 And home rejoicing brought me.
- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill
 With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,
 Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
 Thy cross before to guide me.
- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
 Thine unction grace bestoweth;
 And, oh, what transport of delight
 From Thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so through all the length of days
 Thy goodness faileth never;
 Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
 Within Thy house forever!

Text: Public domain

Sermon

Rite of First Communion (5:30)

Offering (5:30 and 8:00)

Anthem – Grades 1-4 Choir (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. 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)

549 - All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

819 - Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good

623 - Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray

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.

Celebrating LWIM Weekend

Serve the Lord with Gladness (Tune: *LSB 662*)

- 1 Serve the Lord with gladness!
It is He alone
Who redeemed us sinners,
Guides us as His own
To enjoy the blessings
Of His love and grace,
Will at last in glory
Meet us face to face.
Onward, then, for Jesus!
Let this be our aim:
Serve the Lord with gladness!
Glorify His name.
- 2 Serve the Lord with gladness!
He gave us command
To proclaim His Gospel
Now in every land
So that fellow sinners
May, like us, be blest.
Leading them to Jesus,
We can serve Him best.
Onward, then, for Jesus!
Let this be our aim:
Serve the Lord with gladness!
Glorify His name!
- 3 Serve the Lord with gladness!
There's no greater joy
Than to serve the Master,
Work in His employ.
As we build His kingdom
Angels, too, rejoice
Over every sinner
Brought to hear His voice.

Onward, then, for Jesus!
Let this be our aim:
Serve the Lord with gladness!
Glorify His name!

Written by Prof. Ernest Lewerenz

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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Lutheran Women
in Mission

ASSISTING AT WORSHIP

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

Organists **Sandy Kasten**
 Susan Wachter

Lay Readers **Erika Brown (5:30)**
 Dave Derus (8:00)
 Mindy Stopar (10:30)
 Randy Holler (6:00)

Communion Assistants
 Paul Hammann (5:30)
 Chad Grasse (8:00)
 Andy Littmann (10:30)
 Randy Holler (6:00)

Student Assistants
 (A) Mitchel Siech & Adalyn Ursprung (5:30)
 (U) Addie Rouse & Natalee Siech (5:30)
 (A) Paisley Cornelius & Austin Gries (8:00)
 (U) Olivia Ostermann & Avelyn Hess (8:00)
 (A) Kendall Schleicher & Audrey Schallock (10:30)
 (U) Zach Hackbarth & Emmett Littmann (10:30)



The faculty at Bethlehem Lutheran School faithfully prays for the students entrusted to their care, along with their families.

As Bethlehem congregation members, please add these students and families to your prayer list.

For the month of October:

- **Anastasia & Veronica Backus**
- **Annaliese Barts**
- **Marsha Anderson**
- **Theodore Timber**
- **Skye Verstegen**
- **Isabella Bhowmick**
- **Persephony Burgard**
- **Caleb, Joseph & Judah Tschudy**
- **Adalyn, William & Zander Ursprung**
- **Sadie, Jaylie & Kylie Usadel**
- **Jacob & Isabella Bult**
- **Juliet Calkins**