

✠ The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost ✠
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
September 12, 13 & 16, 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, all that we possess is from Your loving hand. Give us grace that we may honor You with all we own, always remembering the account we must one day give to Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

WORSHIP NOTES

In settling His accounts with us, our Lord acts not with anger, but with compassion. He does not imprison us as we deserve, but He forgives all our debts and releases us (Matt. 18:23–27). Therefore, our Lord bids each of us to have *“mercy on your fellow servant”* and *“forgive your brother from your heart”* (Matt. 18:33, 35). By the Lord’s forgiveness of our sins, we are free to forgive those who sin against us, because He has been handed over to the jailers in our stead and He has paid our entire debt with His lifeblood. Whether we live or die, we *“are the Lord’s”* (Rom. 14:8). Since we all will *“stand before the judgment seat of God,”* we are not to despise our brother (Rom. 14:10), but gladly forgive him. By the grace of God, our brother also *“will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand”* (Rom. 14:4). Though we daily sin against each other, the Lord intends *“to bring it about that many people should be kept alive”* (Gen. 50:20). Jesus speaks kindly by His Gospel and promises: *“I will provide for you and your little ones”* (Gen. 50:21).

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

851 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

- 1 Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given
Blessings countless as the sand

To the_unthankful and the evil
With Your own unsparing hand.

2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You
Gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
'Tis to give than to receive.

3 Wondrous honor You have given
To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence,
"You have done it all to Me."
Can it be, O gracious Master,
That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy,
"Give as I have giv'n to you"?

4 Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly,
Hope, to stay our souls on You;
But, oh, best of all Your graces,
With Your love our love renew.

Text: Public domain

Baptism – Levi Kenneth Becker (5:30), LSB 268

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 Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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 143:1–2; antiphon: v. 9

P Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!
I have fled to you for refuge!

**C Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!**

P Enter not into judgment with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you.

**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 Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!
I have fled to you for refuge!**

C Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

Gloria in Excelsis

C To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—

For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness,
hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times
of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may
obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns
with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 50:15–21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 14:1–12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God."

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**These things are written that you may believe that
Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21–35

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

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

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to You, 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)

727 On Eagles' Wings

1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord: "My refuge,
My rock in whom I trust!" Refrain

ref And He will raise you up on eagles' wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His hand.

2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
And famine will bring you no fear;
Under His wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield. Refrain

3 You need not fear the terror of the night,
Nor the arrow that flies by day;
Though thousands fall about you,
Near you it shall not come. Refrain

4 For to His angels He's given a command
To guard you in all of your ways;
Upon their hands they will bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone. Refrain

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Sermon

Offering (5:30 and 8:00)

Stand

Prayer of the Church

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

Preface

LSB 208

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, O Lord, holy Father,
almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings

You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new 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 208

- C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of
Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for
You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten
Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but
have eternal life.**

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

- 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

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

C **O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

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)

613 - To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All

818 - In Thee Is Gladness

685 - Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

C O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.

**All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.**

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.**

Benedicamus

LSB 212

P Let us bless the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

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.

849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness
With a liberating light;
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the Gospel,
Healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms, and feeding thousands
With the very Bread of peace.
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children
With a strong, yet gentle, word;
Praise the One who drove out demons
With the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
To the desert's burning sand;
From this Well comes living water,
Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.
- 3 Let us praise the Word Incarnate,
Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose victorious
That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
Seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer,
Praise the One who makes us one.

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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ASSISTING AT WORSHIP

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

Organists **Sandy Kasten**
 Susan Wachter

Lay Readers **Erika Brown (5:30)**
 Dan Blackburn (8:00)
 Tricia Roeh (10:30)
 Randy Holler (6:00)

Communion Assistants
 Mark Cyr (5:30)
 Josh Klug (8:00)
 Doug Hasenstein (10:30)
 Randy Holler (6:00)

Student Assistants
 (A) Sebastian Taylor & Natalee Siech (5:30)
 (U) Madelyn Sines & Juliet Calkins (5:30)
 (A) Charlotte Wheelan & Hailey Boenisch (8:00)
 (U) Jacob Krautkramer & Paisley Cornelius (8:00)
 (A) Jaxon Virant & Ottis Leibham (10:30)
 (U) Hayley Haas & Kaleb Allen (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 September:

- **Victor Albertin**
- **Gabe Zuniga**
- **Atlas Adams**
- **Kaleb Allen**
- **Amaya Contreras**
- **Tyler Eddie**
- **Oliver, Lincoln & Everly Yurk**
- **Miguel & Larelei Yinko**
- **Jack & Mia Woodliff**
- **Xavier Webster**
- **Edith Thao**
- **Emaline Backhaus**
- **Anastacia Perez & Chace Nowak**