

✠ The Third Sunday after Pentecost ✠
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
June 28, 29 & July 2, 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

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us perfectly to know Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the way, the truth, and the life, that following His steps we may steadfastly walk in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

WORSHIP NOTES

When the prophet Elijah became discouraged and despaired of his life, *“the word of the Lord came to him”* (1 Kings 19:9b) and stood him *“on the mount before the Lord”* (1 Kings 19:11). The Lord made Himself known to the prophet — not in the impressive power of gale force winds, or in an earthquake, or in the fire, but in *“the sound of a low whisper”* (1 Kings 19:12). Today God reveals Himself to us through the frail preaching of the Gospel. The Son of Man sends *“messengers ahead of him ... to make preparations for him”* (Luke 9:52). Putting their hand to that plow of preaching, they *“go and proclaim the kingdom of God,”* and they do not look back (Luke 9:60, 62). What they preach is not the power of the Law with its *“yoke of slavery,”* but the power of God unto salvation through the Gospel of forgiveness, by which *“Christ has set us free”* (Gal. 5:1).

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

430 My Song Is Love Unknown

- 1 My song is love unknown,
My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?

- 2 He came from His blest throne
 Salvation to bestow;
 But men made strange, and none
 The longed-for Christ would know.
 But, oh, my friend,
 My friend indeed,
 Who at my need
 His life did spend!
- 3 Sometimes they strew His way
 And His sweet praises sing;
 Resounding all the day
 Hosannas to their King.
 Then "Crucify!"
 Is all their breath,
 And for His death
 They thirst and cry.
- 4 Why, what hath my Lord done?
 What makes this rage and spite?
 He made the lame to run,
 He gave the blind their sight.
 Sweet injuries!
 Yet they at these
 Themselves displease
 And 'gainst Him rise.
- 5 They rise and needs will have
 My dear Lord made away;
 A murderer they save,
 The Prince of Life they slay.
 Yet cheerful He
 To suff'ring goes
 That He His foes
 From thence might free.
- 6 In life no house, no home
 My Lord on earth might have;
 In death no friendly tomb
 But what a stranger gave.
 What may I say?
 Heav'n was His home
 But mine the tomb
 Wherein He lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend!

Text: Public domain

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

Psalms 85:8-10, 13; antiphon: v.7

P Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

C **Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but
let them not turn back to folly.**

P Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

C **Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

P Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.

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 **Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.**

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 of all power and might, author and giver of all good things, graft into our hearts the love of Your name and nourish us with all goodness that we may love and serve our neighbor; 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

1 Kings 19:9b–21

Behold, the word of the LORD came to [Elijah], and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." ¹¹And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹²And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. ¹³And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." ¹⁵And the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. ¹⁶And Jehu the son of

Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. ¹⁷And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death. ¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

¹⁹So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him. ²⁰And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, “Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.” And he said to him, “Go back again, for what have I done to you?” ²¹And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Galatians 5:1, 13–25

¹For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. . . .

¹³For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190

C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 9:51–62

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

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

⁵¹When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. ⁵³But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶And they went on to another village.

⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." ⁶⁰And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶²Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

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.**

Sit

Offering (10:30)

688 “Come, Follow Me,” the Savior Spake

- 1 “Come, follow Me,” the Savior spake,
“All in My way abiding;
Deny yourselves, the world forsake,
Obey My call and guiding.
O bear the cross, whate’er betide,
Take My example for your guide.
- 2 “I am the light, I light the way,
A godly life displaying;
I bid you walk as in the day;
I keep your feet from straying.
I am the way, and well I show
How you must sojourn here below.
- 3 “My heart abounds in lowliness,
My soul with love is glowing;
And gracious words My lips express,
With meekness overflowing.
My heart, My mind, My strength, My all,
To God I yield, on Him I call.
- 4 “I teach you how to shun and flee
What harms your soul’s salvation,
Your heart from ev’ry guile to free,
From sin and its temptation.
I am the refuge of the soul
And lead you to your heav’nly goal.”

- 5 Then let us follow Christ, our Lord,
And take the cross appointed
And, firmly clinging to His Word,
In suffering be undaunted.
For those who bear the battle's strain
The crown of heav'nly life obtain.

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, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by
taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto
death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He
has freed us from eternal death and given us life
everlasting. 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)

685 - Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

818 - In Thee Is Gladness

728 - How Firm a Foundation

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.

853 How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

1 How clear is our vocation, Lord,
When once we heed Your call:
To live according to Your Word
And daily learn, refreshed, restored,
That You are Lord of all
And will not let us fall.

2 But if, forgetful, we should find
Your yoke is hard to bear;
If worldly pressures fray the mind,
And love itself cannot unwind
Its tangled skein of care:
Our inward life repair.

3 We marvel how Your saints become
In hindrances more sure;
Whose joyful virtues put to shame
The casual way we wear Your name
And by our faults obscure
Your pow'r to cleanse and cure.

4 In what You give us, Lord, to do,
Together or alone,
In old routines or ventures new,
May we not cease to look to You,
The cross You hung upon—
All You endeavored done.

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Acknowledgments

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ASSISTING AT WORSHIP

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

Organists **Sandy Kasten**
 Susan Wachter

Lay Readers **Barb Nitsch (5:30)**
 Erika Brown (8:00)
 David Ames (10:30)
 Bill Lang (6:00)

Communion Assistants
 Richard Zimbal Sr. & Mark Cyr (5:30)
 Jon Krueger & Bill Lang (8:00)
 David Ames & Luther Bajus (10:30)
 Bill Lang (6:00)