

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

AUGUST 28, 2022

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful word.

- **Restrooms** are located down the hallway directly opposite the entrance to the sanctuary and to the left.
- **There is a live video feed** of the service in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Prayer requests** – If you would like to request a special prayer to be said during the prayer of the church, please fill out one of the blue prayer cards found in the hymnal racks and place it in the offering plate.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Staff

Clayton Welch, Pastor
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Little Stars of Bethlehem Early Learning Center

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Staff

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Laura Letiecq, Teacher
Holly Haley, Teacher

WORSHIP NOTES

THE SEASON OF PENTECOST

After reliving the great events of the life of Christ, the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. Following the red of Pentecost Sunday and the white of Trinity Sunday, the Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers. The appointed lessons teach us the characteristics of the Holy Ministry, the Christian, the Church, our God, and the Christian life.



OUR THEME FOR TODAY

True treasure is faith in the promises of God—no matter how difficult they seem to believe. The Verse of the Day defines that treasure well: sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not yet see.

BIBLE STUDY LESSON FOR TODAY

The End of Our Story: Revelation 21:1-8; 22:1-14

THANKS TO GOD FOR THOSE SERVING US TODAY

Music	MIDI
Hospitality	Lillian Boes
Ushers	Jeff Krueger and Ryan Krueger
Elders	Martin Schwenke
Altar	Aimee Krueger and Lynnette Hupman
Cleaners	Martin Schwenke and Schlevensky Family
Counters	Michele Krueger and Martin Schwenke

DIVINE SERVICE I¹

OPENING HYMN

CW HYMNAL #395, "SEEK WHERE YOU MAY TO FIND A WAY"

INVOCATION

M(inister): In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

C(ongregation): Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and Merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**



Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy
on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us. A - men.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

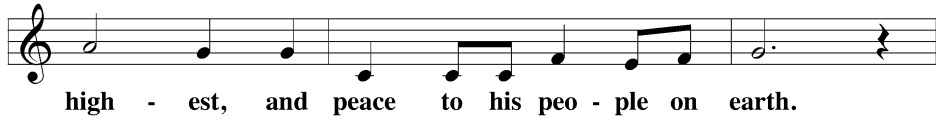
C: **Amen.**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

¹ **Divine Service I:** Texts revised from *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. OneLicense.net #761716.




Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



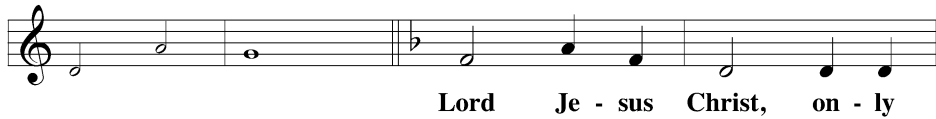
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



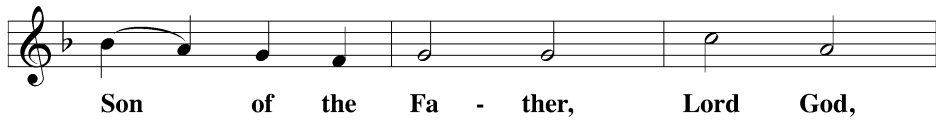
praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the



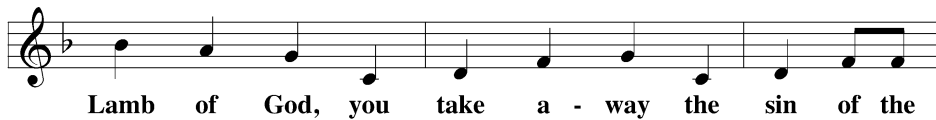
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



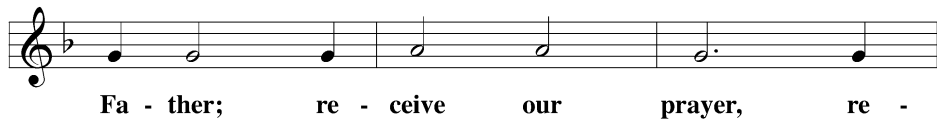
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



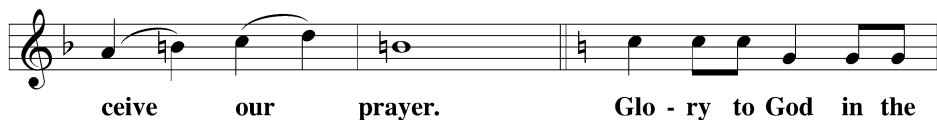
world; have mer - cy on us.



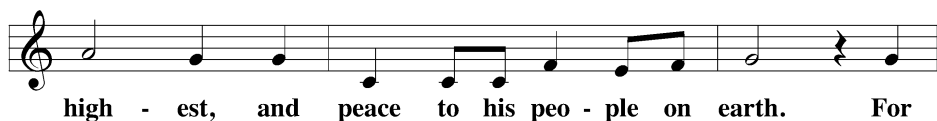
You are seated at the right hand of the



Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re -



ceive our prayer. Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. For



you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the



Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,



Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the



glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

GENESIS 15:1-6

¹After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.”

²But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

⁴Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” ⁵He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

⁶Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 33²

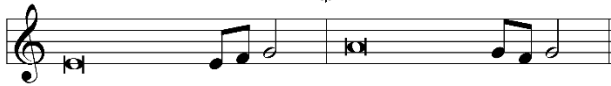


The earth is full of the good-ness of



God, the good-ness of our God.

Psalm tone



M(en): Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous;
W(omen): it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

M: For the Word of the LORD is right and true;
W: he is faithful in all he does.

M: By the word of the LORD were the heavens made,
W: their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

M: For he spoke, and it came to be;
W: he commanded, and it stood firm.

Refrain

M: The LORD foils the plans of the nations;
W: he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.

M: But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever,
W: the purposes of his heart through all generations.

M: The LORD loves righteousness and justice;
W: the earth is full of his unfailing love.

**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.**

Refrain

² **Refrain Tune:** Marty Haugen. © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission. OneLicense.net #761716.

SECOND LESSON

HEBREWS 11:1-3, 8-16

¹Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. ²This is what the ancients were commended for.

³By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

⁸By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. ¹²And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

¹³All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. ¹⁴People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

VERSE OF THE DAY

HEBREWS 11:1

M: Alleluia. Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Alleluia.

GOSPEL LESSON

LUKE 12:32-40

M: The Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 12, verses 32-40.



Glo-ry be to you, O Lord! Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ “Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. ³⁷It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. ³⁸It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. ³⁹But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

M: This is the gospel of our Lord.



Praise be to you, O Christ! Praise be to you, O Christ!

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HEBREWS 11:1-3

HYMN OF THE DAY

CW HYMNAL #472, "RISE, MY SOUL, TO WATCH AND PRAY"

THE SERMON

LUKE 12:32-40

"JESUS UPHOLDS THE 10TH COMMANDMENT"

CREATE IN ME

Cre - ate in me a
pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -
in me. Do not cast me a - way from your
pres - ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from
me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

THE OFFERING

Members of Bethlehem have joined together to spread God's message both in our community and around the world. Guests and visitors, you are welcome to give an offering, but please do not feel obligated to participate. You enrich us simply by being here, and we thank God for the chance to share God's Word with you.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord of our lives, by sending your Son to live and die as our perfect substitute, you provided forgiveness and salvation for a world of sinners. We praise you for your generous saving love. We thank you for reaching out to each of us personally with your Word and the water of Baptism. You have set us apart as people who belong to you, people whose purpose in life is to receive your love and live to your glory.

Gracious Father, remind us that you have called us to live for you and not for ourselves or according to the standards of the world. Help us devote our time, our talents, our energy, and whatever you have placed into our hands to those things that will be of value for eternity. Help us to love you and others and to use things as you desire, instead of loving things and trying to use you and others for our own selfish desires. May our hearts belong to you completely so that our lives can be devoted to things that really matter.

Bless all who are suffering or in need. Be with the lonely and the grief-stricken. Move us to use the unique gifts you have given each of us to bring comfort and help to those who need it. Bless the government and the Church, and make us blessings to both.

Special prayers.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Crush the selfishness that comes to us naturally, and fill us with joyful generosity. Grant that the gifts we bring to you may show that we are just as diligent and just as interested in carrying out your business as we are in carrying out our own. We dare to ask all this, Father, not because we deserve to ask it but because your Son has earned for us the right to approach you as your dear children. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

From Matthew 6:9-13, the prayer Jesus himself taught us to pray.

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.

HYMN

CW SUPPLEMENT #762, "CONSIDER HOW THE BIRDS ABOVE"

CLOSING PRAYER

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your Holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

CW HYMNAL #320, "ON MY HEART IMPRINT YOUR IMAGE"

Consider How the Birds Above



1 Con - si - der how the birds a - bove
 2 The li - lies grow; they do not toil.
 3 Set not your heart on food or drink,
 4 Be on your guard a - gainst all greed,
 5 Be not a - fraid to suf - fer loss
 6 Seek first God's reign, his bound - less grace,



Feed day by day with care - free ease—
 How fair is their fra - gil - i - ty—
 Nor be weighed down by world - ly care;
 For life is more than what we own.
 Of all the things for which you pray;
 His ho - ly name in all you do:



Does God not keep them in his love?
 If God clothes these, which quick - ly spoil,
 A - bout such things the god - less think,
 Our Fa - ther knows our ev - 'ry need
 For he who faced for you the cross
 Christ first and last in ev - 'ry place;



Are we not worth much more than these?
Will he not clothe both you and me?
Yet nev - er thank the Lord in prayer.
Be - fore our needs to us are known.
Will give you strength to live each day.
All else will then be giv - en you.

This paraphrase of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount reminds Christians of God's daily providence and encourages us to pursue his eternal treasures.

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Tune: NORTHCROFT (88 88) Daniel Zager, b. 1951 © 2004 Daniel Zager. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Prayer Corner

—for **our early childhood ministry, Little Stars of Bethlehem**, as another year of instruction began in Christ's name on August 24th.

Altar Flowers

The flowers this week are given to the glory of God by **Jeff, Aimee and Ryan Krueger** in celebration of **Collin's 16th** birthday and by **Lynnette Hupman** in thanksgiving for a new year of preschool.

In Ministry this Week

Sunday, August 28	9:30 am	Worship – in person and livestream
	11:00 am	Bible Study and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Voters Meeting
Saturday, August 31	9:30 am	Midweek Bible Study
	11:00 am	LSB Morning Praise

Offering

Last Sunday, thankful hearts offered **\$5322** to the LORD to carry out his ministry at Bethlehem and around the world. The average weekly donation so far in 2022 is **\$5327**. An average of **\$6560** is needed each week to meet the budget that we approved for 2022.

Upcoming Events

- Sunday, September 11 – Outdoor Worship with Installation of Teachers and Officers
Christian Education Sunday Kickoff Potluck to follow worship!
- Saturday, October 1 – LWMS Rally to be held here at Bethlehem
- Friday, October 7 to Sunday, October 9 – Women's Fall Retreat at Lake Anna, VA
- Saturday, October 22 – Bethlehem Trunk or Treat
- Friday, October 28 to Saturday, October 29 – Men's Fellowship Camping