

BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Serving, accepting, and loving all.

Bulletin

September 8, 2024

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Sunday, September 8, 2024

Lectionary 23, Year B

Introduction

James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophoenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sins,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

A: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
(The assembly may kneel as able)

A: Gracious God,

Have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

**The cravings at war within us
cause conflicts and disputes.**

In our desire to be first

we make distinctions among ourselves.

**We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.
In your great mercy, forgive our sins.
Draw near to us with grace in time of need,
And turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

P: God promises to forgive our iniquity
and to remember our sin no more.
By grace you have been saved.

In the name of † Jesus Christ,
the source of eternal healing,
Your sins are forgiven.

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG

God's Work, Our Hands

- 1 God's work, our hands: working together,
building a future, repairing the world,
raising up homes, planting new gardens,
feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
sharing the good news of your gospel.
- 2 God's work, our feet: trav'ling together,
following Jesus to places unknown,
walking as friends, marching for freedom,
running the race with God's future the goal.
Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way,
sharing the good news of your gospel.
- 3 God's work, our voice: singing together,
praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,
praying for peace, shouting for justice,

claiming God's love for the lost and the least.

Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
sharing the good news of your gospel.

4 God is at work in and around us:

seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!

Washed and set free, humbled and honored,
gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.

Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call,
sharing the good news of your gospel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

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GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW P. 99)

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

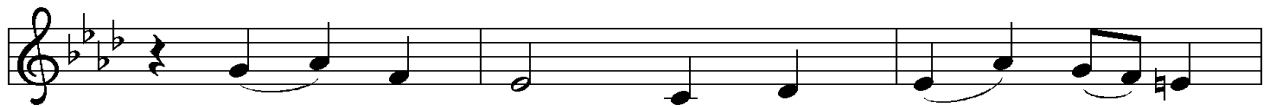


Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

C: Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

A reading from Isaiah.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

^{7a} the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146 (*Sung by cantor and congregation responsively by whole verse*)

¹ Hal- | lelujah!

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

² **I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.

³ Put not your | trust in rulers,
in mortals in whom there | is no help.

⁴ **When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,
and in that day | their thoughts perish.**

⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;
who keeps promis- | es forever;**

⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who
hunger.

The LORD sets the | captive free.

⁸ **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;
the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;
the LORD | loves the righteous.**

⁹ The LORD cares | for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way | of the wicked.

¹⁰ **The LORD shall | reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah**

SECOND READING: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

A reading from James.

¹ My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ² For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³ and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine

clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷ Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸ You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹ But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [¹¹ For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹² So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³ For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴ [Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸ But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹ Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ He took him aside in private, away from the

crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON – The Rev. Daniel P. Smail

HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 504 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.
- 2 No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.

He holds the field victorious.
3 Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot overpow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.
4 God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
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COMMISSIONING OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

APOSTLES CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Awaken in our communities of faith a spirit of radical hospitality. Encourage our churches to celebrate and embrace people of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and abilities. Deepen our commitment to ecumenical and interreligious partnerships. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bring forth water to nourish plants and animals in places suffering from drought. Renew our commitments to protect rivers, lakes, and streams, and make us good stewards of water in our homes and communities. Preserve wetland habitats and the creatures that make their homes there. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Inspire leaders of cities, nations, and tribes to lead with wisdom and humility. Bring peace among peoples in conflict and strengthen global

commitments to nonviolent solutions. Guide all who seek refuge from war to a safe haven. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Comfort all who live with chronic illness. Surround them in your tender embrace and sustain all who provide ongoing care and support. Bring hope and healing to people struggling with addiction and nourish the spirits of all who are in recovery. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Nurture in all people the gift of your creating Spirit. Inspire artists and musicians, woodworkers and quilters, poets and dancers. Revive those whose artistic wells have run dry and enliven all who doubt their creative talents. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks for all who have died and now find their rest in you. May their faithful witness guide us in our daily life with you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

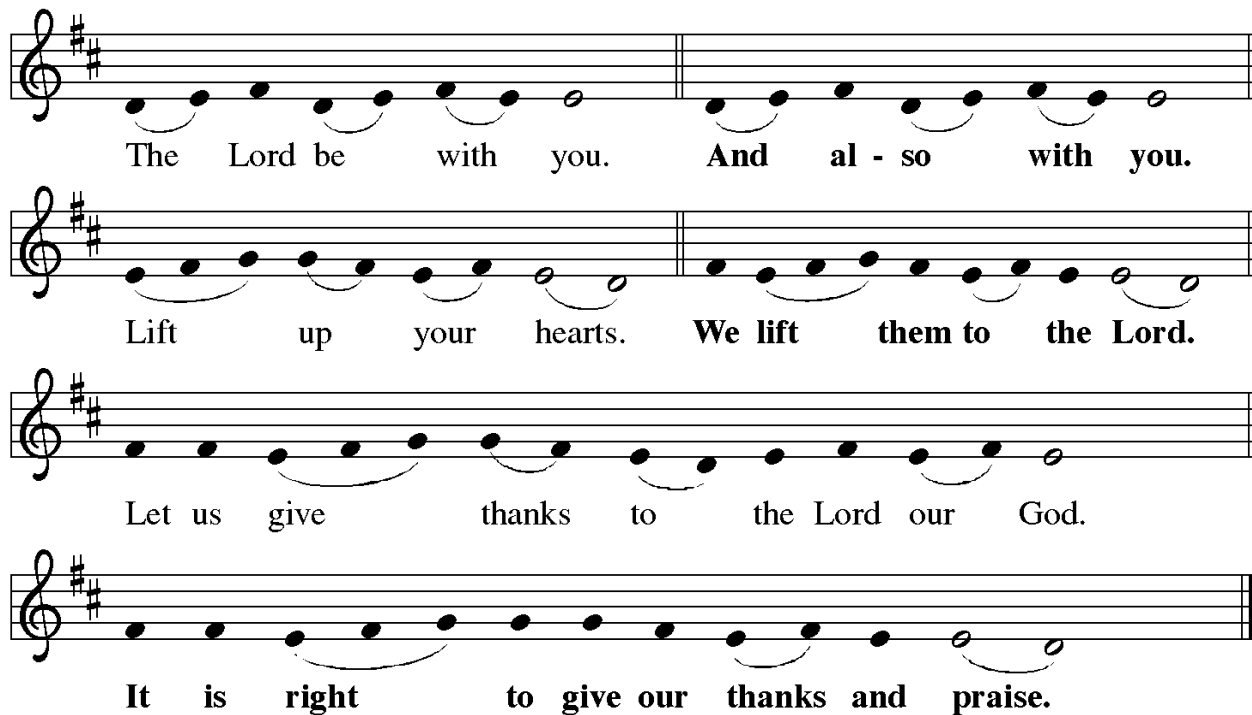
OFFERING - *Offering boxes are located in the narthex and in back of the sanctuary.*

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

**C: Blessed are you, O God,
source of every gift of your creation.
By these gifts and with our lives,
help us to serve one another and all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW P. 108)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,

our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,
 you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your
 abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,
 and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.

You sent your Son to eat with sinners
 and to become food for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,

his life given for us

and his rising from the grave,

we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:

strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,

and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church,

both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

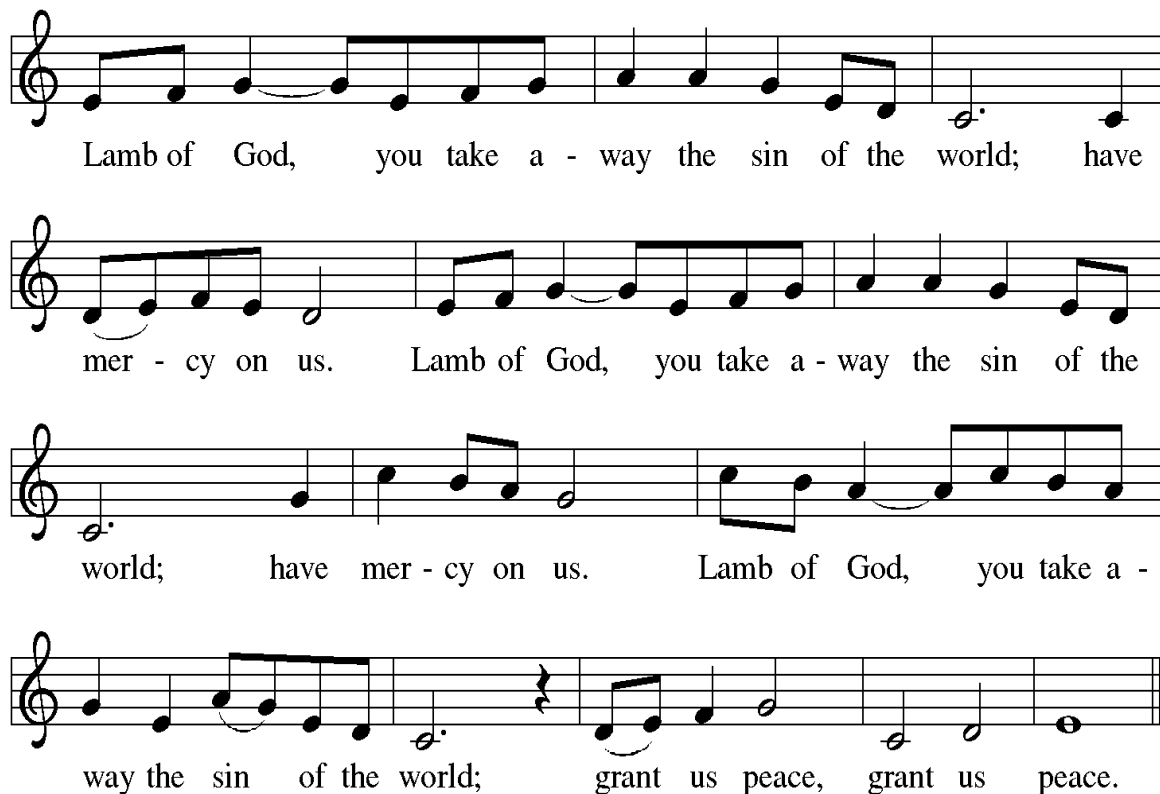
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

COMMUNION

Gluten free wafers and grape juice available. Please ask the pastors or communion assistants.

COMMUNION SONG (ELW P. 112)



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

SENIOR CHOIR - A JOYFUL CALL TO PRAISE, LLOYD LARSON

COMMUNION HYMN NO. 807 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:

"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;

let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.

Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Holy God,

you have welcomed us to this meal
and fed us with dignity at your table.

Send us now to welcome others
and to be at peace with one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

10:30 am THANKSGIVING AT THE RETIREMENT OF A DEBT

SENDING
BLESSING

God all mighty,
God most merciful
‡ bless you, keep you,
and give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG NO. 576 We All Are One in Mission

1 We all are one in mission;
we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united
by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single great commission
compels us from above
to plan and work together
that all may know Christ's love.

2 We all are called for service,
to witness in God's name.
Our ministries are different;
our purpose is the same:
to touch the lives of others
with God's surprising grace,
so ev'ry folk and nation
may feel God's warm embrace.

3 Now let us be united,
and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel
for God's redeeming Word.
We all are one in mission;

we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united
by Christ, the Lord of all.

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10:30 AM Following the hymn, please process outside with the pastors and worship leaders for some brief remarks and the Mortgage Burning.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Children's Space

We encourage children to worship in the sanctuary as much as possible. However, we know that some days, a break may be needed. Please stop in the lounge for shorter breaks where there are coloring activities and snacks provided. All children must be accompanied by an adult. The nursery is also available downstairs in Fellowship Hall with the ability to hear the service.

Monthly Special Offering for SEPTEMBER is:

Bethlehem Campership Fund

The Week at Bethlehem

Sunday, Sept. 8th 8:00 am Worship & Communion
 9:15am Sunday School
 *10:30am Worship & Communion
 Church Picnic following late service
* Live streaming of worship service

Monday, Sept. 9th 9:00-2:30p PACC (Fellowship Hall)
 11a-2p Passage to Recovery (Library)
 5-7pm 1st Monday Meal (Fellowship Hall)
 6:30-8:00p Girl Scouts Mtg. (Schmid Hall)

Tuesday, Sept. 10th 10:30-11:30a AA (Schmid Hall)
 6:00-8:30pm NA (Fellowship Hall)
 7:00pm Council Mtg. (Lounge)

Wednesday, Sept. 11th **We remember 911**
 10:30a & 7:00p Bible Study (Schmid Hall)
 10:30a Memory Café
 7-8:30p Boy Scouts Mtg. (Schmid Hall)

Thursday, Sept. 12th 10:00am Stained Glass & Other Crafts Class

Friday, Sept. 13th Shelter Meal

Saturday, Sept. 14th 6:00pm Worship/Comm.

Are You Interested in Becoming A Member at Bethlehem Lutheran?

Dear friends, as we enter the autumn months this is a time think about new starts and blessed beginnings. Have you been visiting Bethlehem, considering becoming a member of the congregation? Do you have questions about our congregation or the ministry we share here? Please feel free to reach out to one of our pastors (Pastor Dan, d.smail@belc.org or Pastor Ellen, e.lundie@belc.org), they would be delighted to spend some time with you, answer your questions, and faithfully discern the next steps. Thank you for being an important part of this joy filled family of faith!

Madrigal Dinner Organizational Dinner Please join us!

Dear friends, this December 6th, 7th, and 8th we hope to host our first Madrigal Dinner here at Bethlehem Lutheran; there will be drama, music, delicious food, and all of it serving as a wonderful way to get the most out of the Advent and Christmas season. Would you consider being in the cast? How about helping in the kitchen? Are you a gifted decorator? Are you good with publicity? We need all the help we can get to make this one more signature Bethlehem event! If you could not make the first official organizational meeting but still interested? Not a problem, just reach out to the church office and we'll be sure to get you involved!



Our Blessing Box

Our outdoor food pantry has been a blessing to our community providing needed items to those who are food insecure. Your generosity shows your commitment to do God's work but still day after day the box is being emptied by those in need. Here are some of the most desired foods:

<u>Single serve meals</u>	Cereals	<u>Individual</u> : fruit cups, rice pkg., potato pkg.
Spaghetti sauce	Condiments	<u>Juices individual bottles</u>
Pasta / spaghetti cheese	Hash	Peanut butter crackers small sized boxes
Hearty soups <u>with lift off tops</u>	Tuna— <u>in foil packages</u>	Ensure <u>individual bottles</u>

NO MEDICATIONS OF ANY KIND

Get yours today!
While supplies last!
A BELC Original!

REFORMATION RAG



Price: \$15

(If you're feeling really generous) \$15.17

**All proceeds benefit this year's production of
Bethlehem's Madrigal Dinner*

Name: _____

Number of Reformation Rags: _____

Total contribution: _____

Thank you in advance for your
kind support of our shared ministry!



HYMN SING -- First Sunday in October

With the arrival of Fall and Rally Day Today, everyone will be back in the swing of things with Sunday School, Choir and all the normal program year activities. In worship, we will return to Liturgy Setting 1 for the months of September and October. Also in the plans is another popular Hymn Sing service on the first Sunday of October. The favorite hymns submitted will be used in place of the liturgical texts. Please take this opportunity to submit below your favorite hymn for consideration.

My favorite hymn is: _____

Signature: _____



SOCK IT TO ME!



GET READY! This **Sept. – Oct.** we will once again be collecting socks for those being released from the Allegheny County Jail. Thus, we can help send our brothers and sisters in Christ home dressed with warmth and dignity.

The chaplain has notified our Health & Wellness Team that the jail has a great need for socks for both men and women to wear home as they are released. Both ankle socks and crew length socks are needed. So as part of our outreach efforts we will be collecting socks:

Sept. – Oct. 2024.

Socks must be:

- ✓ **New**
- ✓ **Any color**
- ✓ **Any size**
- ✓ **Any style**
- ✓ **Mostly for men**



CALLING ALL PARENTS of our
BELC COLLEGE STUDENTS:

The Hope & Compassion Committee is seeking contact information for all college students in our congregation. If you previously submitted that information, we ask you to please make sure that it is correct for the current school year of 2024-25 as students tend to get a different address each year and items then get sent back to us at the church if we do not have an update from you. Students will receive occasional cards, small gifts, and treats during the year so they know they have the churches support.

Please submit student name and current mailing address to
the church office.

It will only take a minute or two of your time. Thanks in advance!

Fall Bible Study 2024

“Looking Into the Gospel of Luke”

Friends, If you haven’t joined us yet this fall we are considering the wisdom, power, and perspective present in the Gospel of Luke! Bring your curiosities and questions! We will continue to meet on September 11th, 18th, and 25th. We offer two sessions of Bible Study each week: a morning class at 10:30 and evening offering at 7:00. Thanks in advance for your faithful participation. And remember, even if you can only make a class or two, you are more than welcome to participate as you are able!



You're Invited!!!

1st Monday Meal – Free Community Dinner

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

1719 Mt. Royal Blvd., Glenshaw, PA 15116

The next 1st Monday meal Bethlehem Lutheran Church will be hosting, is going to be held on ***Monday, September 9th**

Our Free Community Dinner is from 5-7 pm. in Fellowship Hall.

Dinners will continue the first Monday of each month throughout 2024
*(exception: Monday, September 9th, due to the Labor Day Holiday).

Please feel free to join us for dinner and fellowship!

This 1st Monday Meal will be a "picnic" menu again -- since it was popular in July! Our menu is Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Tater Tots, Calico Beans, and Asian Coleslaw. For dessert, we will have a 'make your own' Ice Cream Sundae bar!

Any questions, please contact the church office at

412-486-0550.

Hope to see you there.



Amazing Grace Race, Anyone?

We are considering bringing back the Bethlehem Road Rally, aka the Amazing Grace Race this October! "If you are interested in participating in the Road Rally we are asking that you add your name to the sign-up list in the Narthex.

For those who may not be familiar, the Amazing Grace Race is similar to the TV show, the Amazing Race. In the Bethlehem Lutheran Church version, participants will assemble into teams and travel in cars to complete a series of challenges at each stop. Once the task or challenge at each location is completed, the team will then receive instructions or a clue to their next location. The team with the most points/correctly completed tasks or challenges wins!

The tentative date for the event is **Sunday, October 20th, after the 10:30 service**. We'll begin with lunch at the church and depart from there. The anticipated length of the race is about 2 hours.

Please sign up by Sunday, Sept 15th, so we can determine whether to proceed. Hope you can join us!