

✠ The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost ✠  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
September 6, 7 & 10, 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, You gave Your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon Himself. Grant that we, Your adopted children by grace, may daily be renewed by Your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**WORSHIP NOTES**

A disciple of Jesus Christ will *“bear his own cross”* (Luke 14:27) and follow the Lord through death into life. Discipleship is costly because it crucifies the old man with *“all that he has”* (Luke 14:33), in order to raise up the new man in Christ. The disciple disavows *“his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life”* (Luke 14:26), in deference to Christ. That way of the cross is impossible, except that Christ Jesus has already paid the cost. His cross is set before you as *“life and good, death and evil”* (Deut. 30:15). Taking up His cross is to *“choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him”* (Deut. 30:19–20). To live that life in Christ is also to bear His cross in love, *“that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord”* (Philemon 14).

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer**

- 1 Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer,  
Pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;  
Hold me with Thy pow’rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
Feed me till I want no more;  
Feed me till I want no more.

- 2    Open now the crystal fountain  
      Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
      Let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
      Lead me all my journey through.  
      Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,  
      Be Thou still my strength and shield;  
      Be Thou still my strength and shield.
- 3    When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
      Bid my anxious fears subside;  
      Death of death and hell's destruction,  
      Land me safe on Canaan's side.  
      Songs of praises, songs of praises  
      I will ever give to Thee;  
      I will ever give to Thee.

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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 119: 28-32; antiphon: v. 27*

**P** Make me understand the way of your precepts,  
and I will meditate on your wondrous works.

**C My soul melts away for sorrow;  
strengthen me according to your word!**

**P** Put false ways far from me  
and graciously teach me your law!

**C I have chosen the way of faithfulness;  
I set your just decrees before me.**

**P** I cling to your testimonies, O LORD;  
let me not be put to shame!

**C I will run in the way of your commandments  
when you enlarge my heart!**

**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 Make me understand the way of your precepts,  
and I will meditate on your wondrous works.**

**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 merciful Lord, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

### **Old Testament Reading**

*Deuteronomy 30:15–20*

<sup>15</sup>“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may

dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

## *Philemon 1–21*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
To Philemon our beloved fellow worker <sup>2</sup>and Apphia our sister  
and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord  
Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers,  
<sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have  
toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints, <sup>6</sup>and I pray that the  
sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge  
of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. <sup>7</sup>For I have  
derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother,  
because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through  
you.

<sup>8</sup>Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command  
you to do what is required, <sup>9</sup>yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal  
to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ  
Jesus— <sup>10</sup>I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I  
became in my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>(Formerly he was useless to you,  
but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) <sup>12</sup>I am sending  
him back to you, sending my very heart. <sup>13</sup>I would have been  
glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on  
your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup>but I  
preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your  
goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own free will.

<sup>15</sup>For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that  
you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave but  
more than a slave, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but  
how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you  
would receive me. <sup>18</sup>If he has wronged you at all, or owes you  
anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, write this with my  
own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even  
your own self. <sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the  
Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

<sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you  
will do even more than I say.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Alleluia**

*LSB 190*

**C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**Holy Gospel**

*Luke 14:25–35*

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

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

<sup>25</sup>Now great crowds accompanied [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

<sup>34</sup>“Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? <sup>35</sup>It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

**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)**

#### **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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## 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. 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**

**729 - I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus**

**700 - Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

*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.**

## 783 Take My Life and Let It Be

- 1 Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 2 Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love;  
Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing  
Always, only for my King;  
Take my lips and let them be  
Filled with messages from Thee.
- 4 Take my silver and my gold,  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect and use  
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
- 5 Take my will and make it Thine,  
It shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart, it is Thine own,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee.

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## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three 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**               **Nancy Brown (5:30)**  
                                      **Bill Lang (8:00)**  
                                      **Luther Bajus (10:30)**  
                                      **Randy Holler (6:00)**

**Communion Assistants**  
                                      **Phil Ditter & Mark Cyr (5:30)**  
                                      **Luke Timm (8:00)**  
                                      **Doug Hasenstein (10:30)**  
                                      **Randy Holler (6:00)**

**Student Assistants**  
                                      **(A) Georgie Markert & Amaya Contreras (5:30)**  
                                      **(U) Julia Detlaff & Brady Stelter (5:30)**  
                                      **(A) Rob Wildman & Jaxon Virant (8:00)**  
                                      **(U) Olivia Ostermann & Adalyn Ursprung (8:00)**  
                                      **(A) Mason Bell & Caleb Tschudy (10:30)**  
                                      **(U) Juliet Calkins & Evelyn Grunewald (10:30)**