

✠ CONFESSON AND ABSOLUTION ✠

Greeting

P The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.

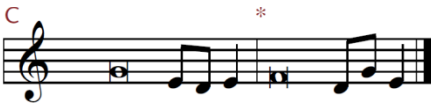
Hymn of Invocation “Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten” #914 (E)

Invocation, Confession of Sins and Absolution Page 184-185

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

We Speak To God:

Introit *Psalm 143:2, 5-6, 10-11; antiphon: Psalm 143 v. 1*



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

C Enter not into judgment with your | servant,*
for no one living is righteous be- | fore you.

P I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that | you have done;*
I ponder the work | of your hands.

C I stretch out my | hands to you;*
my soul thirsts for you like a | parched land.

P Teach me to do your will, for you | are my God!*
Let your good Spirit lead me on | level ground!

C For your name’s sake, O LORD, pre- | serve my life!*
In your righteousness bring my soul out of | trouble!

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

Gloria Patri and Kyrie Page 186

Gloria in Excelsis ~ *Glory to God in the Highest* Pages 187-189

Salutation and Collect of the Day Page 189

P [♪] Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C [♪] Amen.

Musical Offering - Adult Choir “For the Fruit of All Creation”

God Speaks To Us:

Old Testament Reading.....**Zephaniah 1:7–16** Pew Bible, page 788
[The Day of the Lord is coming near.]

P This is the word of the Lord. **G** Thanks be to God.

Gradual *Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5*

P These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.

C They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

P Blessèd are those whose strength is in you,

C in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

Epistle **1 Thessalonians 5:1–11** Pew Bible, page 987
[Encouragement at the coming of the Lord]

P This is the word of the Lord. **G** Thanks be to God.

Triple Alleluia and Verse Page 190

P [♪] For to everyone who has will more be | given,*
and he will have an a- | bundance.

St. Matthew 25:29a

Gospel AcclamationsPages 190-191

Holy + Gospel..... **St. Matthew 25:14–30** Pew Bible, page 830
[The parable of the use of the talents]

Nicene Creed Page 191

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day “The Day is Surely Drawing Near” #508 (E, G)

Sermon..... “Living in Our Master’s Joy” St. Matthew 25:14-30

1. _____ Trust

2. _____ Service

We Respond To God:

Offering and Attendance Registration

Offertory ~ Create in Me a Clean HeartPages 191-193

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mercy. or **P** Lord, in Your mercy, **C** Hear our prayer.

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

Please note our Communion Information in the bulletin.

Preface and Sanctus ~ Holy, Holy, Holy Pages 194-195

Lord’s Prayer, the Words of Our Lord, and Pax Domini Pages 196-197

Agnus Dei ~ Lamb of God..... Page 198

Distribution Hymns “**To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All**” #613 (OT)
“**Take My Life**” #783 (G)
“**We Give Thee But Thine Own**” #781 (G)

Nunc Dimittis ~ Song of Simeon..... Pages 199-200

Thanksgiving and Post-Communion Collect..... Pages 200-201

Salutation, Benedicamus and Benediction..... Pages 201-202

Hymn of Departure..... “**Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus**” #660 (E)

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Sending:

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God!

HOLY COMMUNION - A CLARIFYING WORD



Bethlehem congregation confesses and affirms what the Bible teaches, namely that in this sacred meal Jesus Christ is truly present with His body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine, given for the forgiveness of sins.

Our Church practices Closed Communion^①, the accepted practice of the Church since the Apostolic age. Participation in the Lord's Supper at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, where Lutheran teaching and practice are the definitive marks of our identity, is a privilege ordinarily reserved for confirmed members, in good standing, of congregations in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and synods with whom we are in Altar Fellowship (in North America: Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti, Lutheran Church-Canada and American Association of Lutheran Churches). Such individuals have been instructed and through faith confess the teachings of these Synods as the true and correct exposition of Holy Scripture.

The most loving and honest practice, when this instruction has not been received and/or this confession cannot be made, is for an individual not to commune. The intent of this practice is not to offend but to honor and obey the Word of Christ. If an individual would find it meaningful to come forward during the distribution to receive a spoken blessing, the officiant can be signaled to that effect by keeping your hands beneath the communion rail.

Since participation in this Sacrament is based on complete agreement and unity in all doctrine, and since Christian Churches vary widely in their teachings even about the Lord's Supper, **first time visitors desiring to commune are asked to speak to the Pastor prior to participation in and reception of the Blessed Sacrament.**

Lutherans who are inactive (i.e., not currently members in good standing), who have not communed in the last six months or more, and/or guests who are formerly "Missouri Synod" should speak to the Pastor prior to communing also. Scripture teaches that pastors are shepherds and overseers, who have divine authority and "a terrible responsibility" being held "**accountable** for [the] flock" (Ezekiel 34:10), especially when it comes to distributing the Lord's body and blood. Our thanks to you for honoring the Scriptural teaching and practice.

All communicants are asked to Register by signing the Registration sheet in the Narthex. Please note that in registering you affirm that you have examined yourself (1 Cor. 11:27-28; 2 Cor. 13:5) that you acknowledge, confess, and repent of your sins (including the sins of irregular worship and cohabitation outside of marriage), and by God's grace, as the Catechism also teaches, intend to change such sinful behavior in thought, word, and deed and live a godly life in accord with God's Word. If this is not your intent and you commune, you do so untruthfully and will not receive the Lord's Supper to your spiritual benefit, but to your great harm (1 Cor. 11:29).

For those who have not espoused the doctrines of the Lutheran Church (or those Lutherans who are inactive) and wish to receive the body and blood of Jesus as He reveals Himself to us in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, the essentials of teaching, learning, and confessing can be obtained from the Pastoral Ministry at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church. Inform the Pastor of your desire and he will assist you.

Communicants are ushered forward by row. Please receive the host upon an open palm. The Chalice (or common cup) is available at every table. The Duty Elder will offer the individual cups and is followed by the Pastor who will offer the Chalice. You may direct questions to the Pastor or Duty Elder.

That which we value highly, we administer faithfully!

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Prayers for use before and after the reception of the Sacrament may be found on the inside front cover of our Hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*.

^①**Closed Communion** is the Scriptural and historic practice of limiting participation in the Lord's Supper to those who have been catechized (instructed), formally admitted to the Altar after being examined in the truths of the Christian faith, and who have promised to believe, teach and confess all that the church in which they will commune believes, teaches and confesses.

TWENTY-FOURTH DAY OF PENTECOST

November 19, 2017

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: *Steadfast in the Word, Bethlehem Lutheran Church shares Christ and serves people with friendship in His love in all of God's world.*

WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH! We extend a most joyous welcome to all who are worshipping today. We are confident the Lord will reveal Himself to you through this Divine Service so that you may know the joy of His presence in your life. To our guests: If you have any questions about the Christian faith or about Lutheran worship and practice, please ask the Pastor, one of our Elders, or any of our members. God bless you in Christ Jesus!

WORSHIP NOTES: The Chasuble is a Eucharistic Vestment which the Pastor puts on before preparing the Sacramental vessels. It is a visual mark indicating that in the transition from the Service of the Word to the Service of the Sacrament something extraordinary is about to take place. The use of such a vestment is in keeping with both Lutheran tradition and practice; as our Lutheran Confessions state (*Ap XXIV*).

AS WE GATHER: In today's Scriptures Zephaniah prophesies a day of wrath, a day of mourning. Paul writes that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. In spite of gloom and doom, there is joy in our hearts! In Jesus' parable of the talents, the good and faithful servants are commended not for how much they earned for their master, but simply because they trusted him and wanted to please him. Because of God's gift of grace-filled faith, we live in our Master's joy, both now and forever.

AS WE COME INTO THE SANCTUARY - let us be sensitive to the needs of those who use the quiet and reverence of the Prelude as a time to prepare their hearts and minds for the Divine Service. **ALSO:** Out of respect for God's House and courtesy for other worshippers, please turn off all cell phones. Please also encourage one another to show respect to God, His Word, our fellow-worshippers, and our Pastor by limiting movement during Scripture Readings, Sermon & prayers. Thank you.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS this Sunday are given to the Glory of God by Roland and Audrey Felder in celebration of their anniversary on the 25th!

IN TODAY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON "God's People Go Home" is the focus. God used unbelieving kings to restore His exiled people to Jerusalem according to His will. God sent Jesus, the King of kings, to Jerusalem to restore His wayward people to Himself forever. As a family, discuss, "What preparations did the people need to make before they returned to Jerusalem? How can you prepare for worship each week?"

NEW SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE "Leviticus: Life in the Blood" -- Holiness. What is it? For some, holiness is our attempt to live up to God's expectations recorded in His Word. Failure is attributed to human error, while success is ascribed to human accomplishment. Holiness becomes a measure of how well we're doing in the sight of our holy God. In contrast, Leviticus shows how God goes to great lengths not only in defining true holiness, but also in sharing His holiness with his redeemed and ransomed people.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE with Holy Communion will be this Wednesday, November 22nd at 7:00 p.m. Make sure you are in God's House to give thanks for His blessings!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: It is time to order poinsettias to decorate our chancel at Christmas. The form is in the narthex and you also have the opportunity to place these flowers "in memory of". Your help in providing this decoration is appreciated.

THANK YOU FROM THE YOUTH for the help with Operation Christmas Child. We packed 60 boxes!! Also, a big thank you to those who helped in different ways with the garage sale.

THANK YOU to all who helped with the Circuit 14 retreat!

THE ALTAR GUILD is seeking new members. Your commitment could be just one month a year and you can designate which month you would like to serve. If you would like to volunteer, please see Lori Fortner.

PORTALS OF PRAYER devotion booklets for October through December are on the shelf in the narthex. Make sure you have one and pick up an extra copy for a friend!

FROM THE EVANGELISM COMMITTEE: In order to spread the good news of Jesus Christ, please pick up the Gospel of John books in the narthex to distribute to those in our community.

A SCHOLARSHIP FUND has been established for Aaron Jackson's college expenses. Aaron is attending Concordia University/Seward, NE to prepare for full-time Church Work as a Minister of Music. If you would like to contribute, please indicate on your check and place it in the offering plate. You can also send Aaron an encouraging note at: Concordia University, Aaron Jackson, 800 North Columbia Ave., Seward, NE 68434-1500.

STEWARDSHIP VIEWPOINT: (St. Matthew 25:30) "And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness." Why did the worthless servant act the way he did? Because of what he believed about the Master. He didn't trust or love the Master – and so his actions did not demonstrate love and trust, but rather hate and mistrust. It's the same with us, but in reverse: since we know our Lord God to be faithful and kind, we desire to serve Him and render faithful service with what He has given us.

LIFE QUOTES: "A child who has been adopted by loving parents knows from the outset that he is loved because he knows they chose him. He was not simply accepted because he was conceived and born into their midst but was sought out to become their child. God is like that with us! 'Although it may appear outwardly that we make our way toward God, the joyful and wonderful truth is that it is God who comes to us' (Matthew the Poor)." *Abbot Tryphon, Vashon Island, Washington* • www.lutheransforlife.org

ABOUT THE COVER: The Holy Spirit has worked in us the gift of faith. That gift was not given to us to hide it from others, but rather to re-gift, so to speak. In our work, we bear witness to Jesus and His love for all mankind. When we faithfully share this gift of faith, the Lord is pleased, and we, too, will hear Him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

OUR STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEK			
OFFERINGS		ATTENDANCE	
General Offering	\$3121.00	Sunday School	45
[Needed per week:	\$2,668.00]	Divine Service	72
Building Fund	\$50.00	Midweek (11/15)	32
[Needed per week:	\$350.00]		
Scholarship Fund	\$100.00		
Disciples of the Way offering	\$1836.00		

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28; St. Matthew 25:31-46.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY THIS WEEK		
Sunday (11/19)	9:00 AM	Pentecost 24 [Proper 28]
	10:15 AM	Sunday School & Bible Classes
	Acolyte/Crucifer:	Kristen Harris
	Organist:	Mary Bowden
	Altar Guild:	Sandy Smith & Natalie Byrd
	Duty Elder:	Devin Jackson
After Church:	Evangelism Meeting	
Wednesday (11/22)	7:00 PM	Thanksgiving Eve Service / Holy Communion
Sunday (11/26)	9:00 AM	Christ the King [Proper 29]
	10:15 AM	Sunday School & Bible Classes
	Acolyte:	Matthew Jackson
	Organist:	Mary Bowden
	Altar Guild:	Sandy Smith & Natalie Byrd
	Duty Elder:	Devin Jackson

IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

National Leadership and Military: including members Kyle Lawson and Kyle Shepherd, as well as Robert Garcia [Juanita's son], and Jeremy Stafford [Marcy Hogan's nephew]

Health needs - Members: George Nelson, Marjorie Smith (now at TruCare); **Friends:** Sharon Bigott (11/05), [JoAnn Tugwell's nephew's wife], **Yvette Durbin** (11/19) [Palestine Police Officer], **Debbie Noonan** (11/19) [Marcy Hogan's friend], **Marissa Williams** (11/19) [Marcy Hogan's niece in law]

Homebound - Members: Dorothy Jackson, Martha Kaudelka, Ardelle Samford, Johnnie Weaver ... **Friends:** Benjamin Garcia

Celebrating this week: Birthdays: Krista Rollo ... **Baptismal Birthdays:** Aaron Jackson, Charlotte Lawson, Betty Ristvedt, Randy Teets ... **Wedding Anniversaries:** Roland & Audrey Felder

All who commune

NOTE: New prayers requests are in **BOLD**. Prayers submitted will stay on the prayer list for two weeks unless updated. Please inform the Pastor and the Church Office regarding the status of submitted prayers so we may be timely and up-to-date in petitions to our gracious God.

TO ADD PETITIONS TO OUR PRAYER CHAIN CALL LEA ROSIER AT (903) 729-1879 or (903) 391-5678

Note: The Letters in parentheses after the Hymn number indicate hymns selected because of direct connection to the Propers (i.e., Scripture Readings) for the day ... OT=Old Testament, FR=First Reading, SR= Second Reading , Ps=Psalm; V=Verse; E=Epistle, G=Gospel. Hymns with no such indication are hymns that, while having no direct connection to the Propers, still support the theme of the day.

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Sunday School: 9:00 AM
Adult Bible Class: 9:00 AM
Divine Service: 10:15 AM

"To Give Light to Those who Sit in Darkness"

