

**As We Gather:** God’s power, grace, and mercy stands in contrast to our weakness. The psalmist urges us to lift up our eyes to God, especially in times of distress. In the Old Testament Reading, Ezekiel is sent to rebellious Israel to speak the Word of the Lord. Likewise, in the Gospel, Jesus comes to His hometown to teach, but He is rejected. And in the Epistle, we find the theme in its clearest depiction as Paul boasts and rejoices in his weakness, because when he is weak, then he is strong, and God most clearly showcases His power, grace, and mercy.

✠ CONFESSON AND ABSOLUTION ✠

**Greeting**

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

**Hymn of Invocation** ..... “O Christ, Who Called the Twelve” #856 (G)

**Invocation, Confession of Sins and Absolution**<sup>①</sup> .....Page 151

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

**Introit and Gloria Patri**<sup>②</sup> *Psalm 132:13–16; antiphon: Ps. 34:8*



**P** Oh, taste and see that the | LORD is good! \*  
Blessèd is the man who takes ref- | uge in him!

**C** For the LORD has chosen | Zion; \*  
he has desired it for his | dwelling place:

**P** “This is my resting place for- | ever; \*  
here I will dwell, for I have de- | sired it.

**C** I will abundantly bless her pro- | visions; \*  
I will satisfy her | poor with bread.

**P** Her priests I will clothe with sal- | vation, \*  
and her saints will | shout for joy.”

**All** Glory be to the Father and | to the Son \*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning, \*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

**P** Oh, taste and see that the | LORD is good! \*  
Blessèd is the man who takes ref- | uge in him!

**Kyrie** ~ *Lord, have mercy*..... *omitted on Sundays after Pentecost until Christ the King*

<sup>①</sup>The Scripture Teaches (*St. John 20:23*): We should receive the Pastor’s absolution as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven. “It is not the voice or word of the man who speaks it, but it is the Word of God, who forgives sin, for it is spoken in God’s stead and by God’s command” (Augsburg Confession XXV 3).

<sup>②</sup>“**Introit**” is pronounced “in-troh-it” & Latin for “he enters.” Here the Pastor enters the Chancel with the reading/chanting of these Psalm/Scripture verses. “**Gloria Patri**” is Latin for “*Glory be to the Father*” which is acclamation of praise before the final antiphon (a refrain that begins and concludes the Introit).

**Gloria in Excelsis**<sup>①</sup> .....Page 154

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**<sup>②</sup> .....Page 156

**P** [♪] O God, Your almighty power is made known chiefly in showing mercy. Grant us the fullness of Your grace that we may be called to repentance and made partakers of Your heavenly treasures; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** [♪] **Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading** .....**Ezekiel 2:1–5**

*[Ezekiel is sent to Israel, a nation of rebels, with God’s Word.]*

He said to me, “Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you.”

And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. And he said to me, “Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD.’ And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual**<sup>③</sup> and Verse *Romans 11:33, 36; St. Mark 6:13*

**P** Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

**C** **How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!**

**P** For from him and through him and to him are all things.

**C** **To him be glory forever. Amen.**

**P** They cast out many demons

**C** **and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.**

**Epistle** .....**2 Corinthians 12:1–10**

*[We rejoice in our weaknesses because they showcase the power, mercy, and grace of Christ.]*

I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. Though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

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①“**Gloria in Excelsis**” is Latin for “*Glory To God In The Highest*” is based on the song of the angels announcing the birth of Jesus.

②The “**Salutation**” (greeting) is reminiscent of an Old Testament greeting recorded in *Ruth 2:4*. The “**Collect**” is a short prayer which ‘collects’ or summarizes the thoughts of the day. The Collects for every Sunday come to us from the rich treasury of the church’s heritage.

③“**Gradual**” comes from the Latin “*gradus*” meaning ‘step.’ In the ancient church these Psalm & Scripture verses were chanted from the steps of the Altar. It is a response to the First Lesson and a bridge to the Second Lesson.

Holy + Gospel<sup>①</sup> .....St. Mark 6:1–13

*[Jesus is rejected in His hometown but sends out the twelve disciples to proclaim repentance, cast out demons, and heal the sick.]*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixth chapter. **C** (♪) **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus] went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.” And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. And he marveled because of their unbelief.

And he went about among the villages teaching.

And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts— but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. And he said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** (♪) **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Children’s Message**

**Hymn of the Day** ..... “O Christ, Our True and Only Light” #839

**Sermon** ..... “In the Midst of Amazing Unbelief” St Mark 6:1-13

1. Cultural \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Christianity
3. Categorical \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

**A Matter of Importance:**

***Please Note:** If you are visiting and have not already done so, please read **Communion Information** in the bulletin.*

**Offering and Attendance Registration**

**Your Preparation for the Sacrament**

*“Father, I believe that You sent Your Son, Jesus, as my Savior from sin. I repent of my sins and ask Your forgiveness. I believe the Risen Christ is really present in this Sacrament and that with the bread and wine I receive His True Body and Blood. In accordance with the pure doctrine taught at this altar, I dedicate myself anew to You regular worship, study of Your Word, faithful witness and loving service. With the help of Your Holy Spirit, make this my conviction and intention. Amen.”*

*“Lord, it is true that I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. Yet I am in need and desire Your help and grace. So I come with no other plea except that I have heard the gracious invitation to come to Your*

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<sup>①</sup>In the “Gospel” we hear a reading from the New Testament accounts of Jesus’ life and message. In Lutheran Worship we believe that in the Reading of the Gospel Christ is in our midst, and so we stand to honor His presence. We also sing short verses before (to greet Christ) and after (to offer our joyful praise) the reading.

altar. I am unworthy, but You have assured me I shall have forgiveness of all sins through Your body and blood which I eat and drink in this sacrament. Amen, dear Lord; Your word is true. I do not doubt it. Let Your will be done. Amen.”<sup>①</sup>

Other prayers may be found on the inside front cover of the Hymnal, “Lutheran Service Book.”

**Offertory**<sup>②</sup> ~ *What Shall I Render to the Lord* .....Pages 159-160

## ✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

**Preface** .....Page 160

**Sanctus**<sup>③</sup> and **Prayer of Thanksgiving** .....Page 161

**Lord’s Prayer and The Words of our Lord**<sup>④</sup> .....Page 162

**Pax Domini**<sup>⑤</sup> and **Agnus Dei**<sup>⑥</sup> .....Page 163

### The Distribution

Communicants are ushered forward by rows. ***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. ***Please tip the base of the chalice yourself*** to avoid spillage. The individual cups in the center ring contain de-alcoholized wine for those who have so requested.

**Distribution Hymns** ..... “Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord” #637  
“How Firm a Foundation” #728 (E)  
“Jesus, Lead Thou On” #718 (E)

**Post-Communion Cantic**<sup>⑦</sup> ~ *Thank the Lord* .....Pages 164-165

**Post Communion Collect and Benediction** .....Page 166

**Hymn of Departure** ..... “On Galilee’s High Mountain” #835 (OT)

### Silent Prayer

### Announcements and Sending:

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

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① “Luther’s Prayers,” ed. Herbert F. Brokering, Augsburg Publishing House, © 1994 Augsburg Books. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

② The “**Offertory**” is a Scripture based hymn which is sung as we prepare to bring our tithes and offerings to God. In doing so we are reminded that the offering of monetary offerings is a public testimony that we have first “*given [ourselves] to the Lord*” (2 Corinthians 8:5)

③ “**Sanctus**” is Latin for “*Holy*.” This Hymn is based on *Isaiah 6:3* & *St. Matthew 21:9*

④ These are the very Words of Christ which make the elements of bread and wine a sacrament. Our Confessions state “When the Word is joined to the external element, it becomes a sacrament” (Large Catechism, v.10).

⑤ “*The Peace of the Lord*” – The purpose of the Pax is a confessional declaration that the peace that passes all understanding is here present in the body and blood of Christ. For this reason the Celebrant now lifts the Chalice and Host.

⑥ “**Agnus Dei**” (pronounced ‘ahn-yoos day-ee’) is Latin for “Lamb of God”

⑦ This hymn of Thanksgiving is based on *1 Chronicles 16:8-10* and expresses our thanks to God who sends us forth into the world with rejoicing.

**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!



**COMMUNION INFORMATION:** Bethlehem is an orthodox, confessional Lutheran congregation. Following the teaching of God's Word, we believe that the Lord's Supper is more than a mere symbol, but that in the Lord's Supper we receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ with the bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us Christians to eat and to drink. Through this eating and drinking, we receive the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. The Apostle Paul notes the importance of those who come to the Lord's Supper coming in a worthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:25-19), that is, coming in an attitude of repentance, recognizing the bread and wine as the true body and blood of the Lord Jesus, and firmly believing Christ and his words that this is given for the forgiveness of sins. We also recognize that the Lord's Supper is also an outward sign of doctrinal unity. The Apostle Paul notes the importance of unity within the body of believers who receive this sacrament (1 Corinthians 10:16-17). For these reasons and since Christian Churches vary widely in their teachings about the Lord's Supper, we ask that **all guests please speak to the Pastor prior to approaching the Altar**. All communicants are asked to sign the Registration sheet in the Narthex.

**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 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.

**SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Our theme this summer is **Delivered: God's Gift of Grace**. These consist of all New Testament lessons. Please prayerfully consider leading a Sunday School class this summer. The sign-up sheet is located in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Melanie Jackson.

**IN TODAY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON** John the Baptist appears in, "John Tells People to Repent." As they study this Bible account, students will learn how God wants them to be sorry for their sins and seek His forgiveness. Consider these discussion questions: "How did John call the people to repent of their sins? What was John preparing them for? Who calls us to repent?"

**SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY:** "**Job: Confident in Calamity**" -- Why do the just suffer? Where is God in the midst of loss, illness, ridicule and defeat? In this informative study we will also consider the purpose of adversity in the lives of the faithful and the role of Satan regarding our relationship with God.

**THE QUARTERLY VOTER'S MEETING** will take place after the Divine Service Sunday, July 22<sup>ND</sup>.

**PRAYER CHAIN:** There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would like to participate in the prayer chain.

**NEWSLETTER** –The JUNE/JULY edition of *The Bethlehem Star* newsletter is in your mailbox in the narthex. Make sure you have picked up your copy.

**BOARD OF ELDERS MEETING** will take place at **6:00 PM** next Tuesday, July 10, **NOT** at 5:30 as the July calendar states. Sorry!

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

**FROM THE YOUTH:** We are collecting new or gently used towels for BARC, Anderson County's Humane Society. Questions? Please see Yanneth Harris.

**FROM THE EVANGELISM BOARD:** We are planning a BBQ fundraiser for the Pleasant Hills Children's Home on Saturday, July 28 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. We will be serving a sandwich, chips and bottled water for \$8. Proceeds will provide school supplies and personal items for the residents. Also, we will be collecting other supplies for the home (see list in the narthex) and gift cards (\$25 and \$50) to Wal-Mart and Payless Shoes. See Jerry Hartenberger for more information.

**TRAVELING THIS SUMMER?** If you are traveling and you would rather not attend an LC-MS church where there is no historic liturgy and hymnody ... visit [lutheranliturgy.org](http://lutheranliturgy.org) to find an orthodox and liturgical congregation to visit.

**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:** 2 Corinthians 12:10 – "For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities." Paul found contentment in Christ. To be content means to accept what the Lord gives us at any given time as somehow being from the hand of the Father who wants to bless us. Sometimes it's hard to see how things like hardships, calamities, and insults will turn out for a blessing: but that is why Paul found this contentment in Christ and not in his own wisdom.

**LIFE QUOTES:** "When people consider euthanasia for those experiencing illness or decline with aging, God's Word is clear again through King David in Psalm 139:16b (NIV): '[A]ll the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.'" *Mona Fuerstenau, director of Lutheran Ministry Partnerships, Bethesda Lutheran Communities*  
 • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

**ABOUT THE COVER:** Regardless of what we want to think, we are not the center of the universe. Paul writes that the very center of the universe is Christ Jesus. We, as sinful humans, have nothing of which to boast. It is in and through Christ's forgiveness that we have our identity and our purpose in life. His grace is therefore sufficient for us just as it was for Paul.

<b>OUR STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEK</b>			
<b>OFFERINGS</b>		<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	
General Offering	\$5084.00	Sunday School	41
[ <u>Needed per week</u> ]	\$2,668.00]	Divine Service	61
Building Fund	\$100.00	Communion	56
[ <u>Needed per week</u> ]	\$350.00]		

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:** Amos 7:7-15; Ephesians 1:3-14; St. Mark 6:14-29.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY THIS WEEK

<b>Sunday (07/08)</b>		<b>Pentecost 7 [Proper 9]</b> <b>Sunday School &amp; Bible Classes</b> <b>Divine Service (Setting 1) / Holy Communion</b> Acolyte/Crucifer: Christopher Harris Pianist: Sylvia Frenzel Altar Guild: Sandy Smith & Natalie Byrd Duty Elder: Burl Gruetzner After Church: LWML Meeting
<b>Tuesday (7/10)</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b> <b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Board of Elders</b> <b>Church Council</b>
<b>Sunday (07/15)</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b> <b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Pentecost 8 [Proper 10]</b> <b>Sunday School &amp; Bible Classes</b> <b>Divine Worship (Service of Prayer and Preaching)</b> Acolyte: Kristen Harris Organist: Aaron Jackson Altar Guild: Sandy Smith & Natalie Byrd Duty Elder: Burl Gruetzner After Church: Evangelism Board

www.belctx.org  
info@belctx.org

Rev. David L. Adler,  
Pastor

**N 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:** Shelia Flynn (6/24), Sylvia Frenzel (7/1), Albert Harris, George Nelson; Julie Schoppe

**Homebound - Members:** Dorothy Jackson, Martha Kaudelka, Johnnie Weaver

**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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**BETHLEHEM EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 1515 South Loop 256 † Palestine, TX 75801  
 Office: (903) 729-6362 † Fax: (903) 723-7725

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”*

