

As We Gather: One of the greatest accomplishments of Satan is tricking people into believing he is not real. After all, if people think he does not exist, then they aren't prepared for his attacks. Today, however, the apostle Paul reminds us of the reality of the old evil foe. Satan and his threats are real, but God does not leave us defenseless. We are to "take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm" (Ephesians 6:13). When Paul calls us to put on the full armor of God, the pieces of armor are all given in the one garment we put on in Holy Baptism. Clothed in Christ and His strength, we are able to stand against Satan, confident that even though he is a real threat, we need not fear!

✠ CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS ✠

Greeting

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

Hymn of Invocation**"Be Strong in the Lord" #665** (using Tune #804) (E)
This hymn, which is based on the Epistle lesson, is one of the few hymns that mentions the entire armor of God that Paul lists.

Invocation, Confession of Sins and Absolution Page 184-185

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Introit^① *Psalm. 51:7, 10–12; antiphon: v. 2*



- P** Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,*
and cleanse me | from my sin!
- C** Purge me with hyssop, and I | shall be clean,*
wash me, and I shall be whit- | er than snow.
- P** Create in me a clean heart, | O God,*
and renew a right spirit with- | in me.
- C** Cast me not away from your | presence,*
and take not your Holy Spirit | from me.
- P** Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation,*
and uphold me with a willing | spirit.
- C** Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,*
and cleanse me | from my sin!

^①"Introit" is pronounced "in-troh-it" – it is Latin for "he enters." Here the Pastor enters the Chancel with the reading/chanting of these Psalm/Scripture verses.

Gloria Patri^① and **Kyrie**^②Page 186

Gloria in Excelsis^③Pages 187-189

Salutation and Collect of the Day^④Page 189

P [♪] O God, the source of all that is just and good, nourish in us every virtue and bring to completion every good intent that we may grow in grace and bring forth the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C [♪] **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading **Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–9**

["Listen to the statutes and just decrees that I am teaching you."]

“And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you.

You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you...

Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?

And what great nation is there, that has statutes and just decrees so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?

“Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children’s children...

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

Gradual^⑤ *Psalm. 34:9, 19, alt.*

P Fear the LORD, you his saints,

C **for those who fear him lack nothing!**

P Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

C **but the Lord delivers him out of them all.**

Epistle **Ephesians 6:10–20**

["Put on the whole armor of God."]

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

① “**Gloria Patri**” is Latin for “*Glory be to the Father*” which is acclamation of praise at the conclusion of the Introit.

② “**Kyrie**” is pronounced ‘keer-ee-ay’ – shortened from the Greek phrase *Kyrie Eleison* (“*Lord, have mercy*”) and reminds us of pleas for mercy like the one recorded in *St. Matthew 15:22*

③ “**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.

④ The “**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.

⑤ “**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.

In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

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

Triple Alleluia and Verse *St. Matt. 5:8*Page 190

P [♪] Blessed are the | pure in heart, * for they shall | see God.

Holy + Gospel^①**St. Mark 7:14–23**

“[What comes out of a man is what makes him unclean”.]

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventh chapter. **C** [♪] **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

And he called the people to him again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand: There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.” And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** [♪] **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Nicene CreedPage 191

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day“**Fight The Good Fight**” #664

Sermon“**We’re at War!**” **Ephesians 6:10–20**

1. A _____ Adversary

2. A _____ Ally

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

“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 altar. I am unworthy, but You have assured me I shall have forgiveness of all sins through Your body and blood

^① 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.

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. ^①

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

Offertory^② ~ *Create in Me a Clean Heart* Pages 191-193

Prayer of the Church

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

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

Preface and Sanctus^③ Pages 194-195

Lord's Prayer, the Words of Our Lord^④, and **Pax Domini**^⑤ Pages 196-197

Agnus Dei^⑥ Page 198

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 "Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray" #623

"May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill" #698 (OT)

"Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways" #707 (OT)

Nunc Dimittis^⑦ ~ *Song of Simeon* Pages 199-200

Thanksgiving and Post-Communion Collect Pages 200-201

Salutation, Benedicamus^⑧ and **Benediction** Pages 201-202

National Hymn "God Bless our Native Land" #965

Silent Prayer, Announcements, and Sending:

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

^①"Luther's Prayers," ed. Herbert F. Brokering, Augsburg Publishing House, © 1994 Augsburg Books. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

^②The "Offertory" is a hymn from Psalm 51 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*

^④These 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"Nunc Dimittis" is Latin for 'now depart.' Simeon first sang this hymn of thanksgiving as recorded in *St. Luke 2:29-32*.

^⑧"Benedicamus" is Latin for 'bless we.'

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.

THE AMERICAN FLAGS in front of the Church commemorating Labor Day are flying by the donations of the following: Juanita Garcia, Ray & Donna Hughes, Lea Rosier, Paul & Jo Ann Tugwell and Steve & Mary Unk (There are flags still available and the cost for renewal is \$45 per flag.)

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS this Sunday are given to the Glory of God by Paul & Jo Ann Tugwell and in celebration of Mike's birthday on the 3RD and Jo Ann's birthday on the 25TH.

TODAY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON: For the next few weeks the children will be studying the story of the life of Joseph. It begins today with the account of "Joseph and His Brothers." Though the brothers didn't know it, God would use their treachery to bring about His plan to deliver His people and ultimately to deliver us from sin and death through Jesus. A family discussion might include, "How can hatred and unkind thoughts lead to hateful words and actions?" On the cross, Jesus saved us from the hurt and harm of our own sins and the sins of others.

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.

MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES resume this Wednesday with choir practice at 5:15 PM, a pot luck supper at 6:00 PM, and Bible classes at 7:00 PM. The Adults continue their study entitled: **"The Good the Bad, & The Ugly"** ... a study of the Joseph in the Old Testament Book of Genesis. Join us for this informative study. All members and friends of Bethlehem are invited to attend.

NEWSLETTER --The **SEPTEMBER** edition of *The Bethlehem Star* newsletter is in your mailbox in the narthex. Make sure you have picked up your copy.

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 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.

GREETING CARDS: Check out the birthday, get well, sympathy and other cards on the card rack, along with for a 50 cent donation to mites.

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.

LIFE QUOTES: "We come together from all parts of our land ... We come rich and poor, proud and plain, religious and agnostic, politically committed and independent ... The right-to-life cause is not the concern of only a special few, but it should be the cause of all those who care about fairness and justice, love and compassion, and liberty with law." *Dr. Mildred Fay Jefferson, MD* • www.lutheransforlife.org

ABOUT THE COVER: "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" is a fitting hymn about the lesson of today's Epistle. We stand up for Jesus because He empowers us to do so by working faith in us. On our own, we are weak and would falter and fall under the oppressive pressure of sin. The devil is overcome by Christ, who has gained the victory for us. We offer our worship and praise for His gift of faith.

| OUR STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEK | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----|
| <u>OFFERINGS</u> | | <u>ATTENDANCE</u> | |
| General Offering | \$3739.00 | Sunday School | 29 |
| <u>[Needed per week:</u> | <u>\$2,668.00]</u> | Divine Service | 64 |
| Building Fund | \$50.00 | | |
| <u>[Needed per week:</u> | <u>\$350.00]</u> | | |

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Ephesians 6:10-20; St. Mark 7:14-23.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY THIS WEEK

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|---|
| Sunday (09/02) | 9:00 AM | Pentecost 15 [Proper 17] |
| | 10:15 AM | Sunday School & Bible Classes |
| | Acolyte/Crucifer | Divine Service (Setting 3) / Holy Communion |
| | Organist: | Matthew Jackson |
| | Altar Guild: | Mary Bowden |
| | Duty Elder: | Lana Bowden & Lea Rosier |
| | After Church: | Jim Broad |
| | | Evangelism Board |
| Wednesday (9/05) | 5:15 PM | Choir Practice |
| | 6:00 PM | Potluck Supper |
| | 7:00 PM | Bible Classes |
| Sunday (09/09) | 9:00 AM | Pentecost 16 [Proper 18] |
| | 10:15 AM | Sunday School & Bible Classes |
| | | Divine Service (Service of Prayer and Preaching) |
| | Acolyte: | Jessica Bowden |
| | Pianist: | Sylvia Frenzel |
| | Altar Guild: | Lana Bowden & Lea Rosier |
| | Duty Elder: | Jim Broad |
| | After Church: | LWML Meeting |

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], James Reed [Devin Jackson's co-worker] and Jeremy Stafford [Marcy Hogan's nephew]

Health needs - Members: Albert Harris, George Nelson; Lela Sands, Julie Schoppe, Mike Smith (8/26), **Friends:** Carol (8/26) [Tugwell's sister in law], Rayoma Leuschen (8/26) [Ken Koehler's sister in law/Julie Schoppe's Aunt]

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

In Prison: William Schatte (LC-MS member @ Faith/Plano, incarcerated at Powledge Unit)

Celebrating this week: Birthdays: Michael Smith, Hailey Taylor, Alexia Werner, Karen Zelenske, ... **Baptismal**

Birthdays: Garrett Bowden ... **Wedding Anniversaries:** Tim & Kelly Lawson

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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Rev. David L. Adler,
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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”

