

**As We Gather:** Imagine if you were the father in today’s Gospel. Since childhood, his son has been plagued by an unclean spirit that makes him mute and throws him down, doing bodily harm. The dad brings his son to Jesus’ disciples, and they are of no help. The father comes before Jesus and asks him to help ... if He can. Jesus responds, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” To which the father cries out, “I believe; help my unbelief!” (St. Mark 9:23–24). This father, who is at the end of his rope, cries out with faith mixed with desperation. Thankfully, his worthiness, and our worthiness, does not depend on the greatness or smallness of faith. Instead, it depends on Jesus, the object of our faith. When we face desperate times, we, too, cry out in prayer and faith, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

✝ SERVICE OF PREPARATION ✝

**Greeting**

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

**Hymn of Invocation**.....“Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure Eternal” #533 (G)

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

✝ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✝

**Introit and Gloria Patri**<sup>②</sup>

*Psalm 31:14–16; antiphon: Ps. v.24*



**P** Be strong, and let your heart take | courage,\*  
all you who wait | for the LORD!

**C** **But I trust in you, | O LORD;\***  
**I say, “You | are my God.”**

**P** My times are | in your hand;\*  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my perse- | cutors!

**C** **Make your face shine on your | servant;\***  
**save me in your | steadfast love!**

**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** Be strong, and let your heart take | courage,\*  
all you who wait | for the LORD!

**Kyrie**..... *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).

Hymn of Praise - Gloria in Excelsis<sup>①</sup> ..... Page 154

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

**P** [♪] Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defense in every need, continue to preserve Your Church in safety, govern her by Your goodness, and bless her with Your peace; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** [♪] Amen.

Old Testament Reading ..... Isaiah 50:4–10

*["He who vindicates me is near."]*

The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of those who are taught,  
that I may know how to sustain with a word  
him who is weary.  
Morning by morning he awakens;  
he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught.  
The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward.  
I gave my back to those who strike,  
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;  
I hid not my face  
from disgrace and spitting.  
But the Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like a flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame. e who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.  
Who is my adversary?  
Let him come near to me.  
Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?  
Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment;  
the moth will eat them up.  
Who among you fears the LORD  
and obeys the voice of his servant?  
Let him who walks in darkness  
and has no light  
trust in the name of the LORD  
and rely on his God.

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

Gradual<sup>③</sup> and Verse *Psalm. 34:9, 19, alt.; St. Mark 9:23b*

**P** Fear the LORD, you his saints,

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

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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.

② 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.

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.

- P** Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
- C** **but the Lord delivers him out of them all.**
- P** All things are possible
- C** **for one who believes.**

**Epistle**..... **James 3:1–12**

*["From the same mouth come blessing and cursing."]*

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For we all stumble in many ways, and if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

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

**Alleluia and Verse** ~ *Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?*..... Page 156

**Holy + Gospel**<sup>①</sup> ..... **St. Mark 9:14–29**

*[Jesus casts out a spirit.]*

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

When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them.

And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to [Jesus] and greeted him. And he asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” And he answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.” And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

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

**Children’s Message**

**Hymn of the Day**..... **“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” #849**

**Sermon** ..... **St. Mark 9:29 - Rev. Karim Baidaoui**

**Nicene Creed**..... Page 158

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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.

## 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

*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 ..... "Jesus Comes Today with Healing" #620  
"O Jesus, King Most Wonderful" #554 (E)

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

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

Hymn of Departure ..... "Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old" #846 (G)

### Silent Prayer

### Announcements & Sending:

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C** 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.

**OUR WORSHIP STYLE:** We are a "liturgical" church. That means that the basic pattern of our worship is drawn from the services that have been used by Christians for many centuries all across the world. The components of the Liturgy come from the Bible and serve to focus our worship on God's Word and our response to His Word in faith. As Martin Luther once said, "We worship to hear God speak and to speak to the God who hears us." If you are new to our worship format let it serve as a witness of our response to God who reaches out to us. In time, we pray that you, too, will celebrate the rich spiritual rewards of our heritage in Worship.

**WE WELCOME REV. KARIM BAIDAQOI** from Disciples of the Way who will be teaching our Adult Bible class and preaching this morning.

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** this Sunday are given to the Glory of God by Butch & Connie Eppeland.

**IN TODAY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON,** the children will learn how "Joseph Feeds Egypt" during a great famine. Ask your children, "How do our sins cause suffering for both ourselves and others?" God sent His Son, Jesus, to save all humanity from sin, death, and the devil. Discuss the reality that in spite of how awful life seems, Jesus is with us through His Word and Sacraments, caring for us always

**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** continue 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. Items for the October newsletter are due in the office Today. Thank you!

**FROM HOPE STATION:** On November 10, Hope Station will be hosting our first benefit and auction to expand services and resources for the homeless in our community. Our project is the introduction of tiny homes to increase available housing. In 2017 there were over 200 homeless people in Palestine! If you would like to donate to the auction, please contact Jacob Randle at 903-723-2930

**NEW 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.

**ABOUT THE COVER:** As God's people, we seek to lead a God-pleasing and Christ-centered life each and every day. However, we still sin against God. We sin much, and yet we believe in Christ's promise of the forgiveness of our sins. Just like the man in the miracle, we find ourselves praying to God, "I believe; help my unbelief!" We give thanks to God that He never turns His back on us.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:** Jeremiah 11:18-20; James 3:13-4:10; St. Mark 9:30-37

<b>OUR STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEK</b>			
<b>OFFERINGS</b>		<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	
General Offering	\$4520.25	Sunday School	32
<u>[Needed per week:</u>	<u>\$2,668.00]</u>	Divine Service	61
Building Fund	\$.00	Mid-Week (9/12)	26
<u>[Needed per week:</u>	<u>\$350.00]</u>		

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY THIS WEEK

<b>Sunday (09/16)</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Pentecost 17 [Proper 19]</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Sunday School &amp; Bible Classes</b>
	Acolyte/Crucifer:	<b>Divine Service (Setting 1) / Holy Communion</b>
	Organist:	Christopher Harris
	Altar Guild:	Mary Bowden
	Duty Elder:	Lana Bowden & Lea Rosier
<b>Wednesday (9/19)</b>	<b>5:15 PM</b>	<b>Choir Practice</b>
	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Potluck Supper</b>
	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Bible Classes</b>
<b>Thursday (9/20)</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Circuit 14 Winkel - Bethlehem</b>
<b>Saturday (9/22)</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Adopt a Highway</b>
<b>Sunday (09/23)</b>		<b>Pentecost 18 [Proper 20]</b>
	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Sunday School &amp; Bible Classes</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Divine Service (Matins)</b>
	Acolyte:	Kristen Harris
	Duty Elder:	Mary Bowden
	Altar Guild:	Lana Bowden & Lea Rosier
	Duty Elder:	Jim Broad

### 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; Julie Schoppe

**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:** Peggy Adler, Natalie Byrd, Richard Haddock, Ray Hughes, Sandy Smith

**Comfort: Joan Smith's family-**[Dorothy Jackson's niece]

### **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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Pastor

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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”*

