



+Thanksgiving Eve+  
**November 24, 2021**

**AS WE GATHER**

Thanksgiving can be a time when families come together to celebrate and give thanks to God for all that He has given us. These times of celebration can also be times of tension, stress, and conflict due to challenges in the relationships. Thanksgiving can also be a time of loss as we grieve those who are no longer with us. In all these things, we gather to give thanks to the God who has created all people and who desires all people to be saved through the knowledge of the saving truth about His Son, Jesus.

*The pottery vessels on the altar remind us that although Holy Communion is not celebrated today, our Lord's sacred gifts are still central to our life of faith. Holy Communion is celebrated every 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> weekend (and major festivals).*

**Liturgical Color:**

*White is the color of purity and is associated with festivals of Christ and his Church*

**Prelude** ..... Jerrode Marsh

**Welcome**

## Compline

*Stand*

**Gathering Hymn** ..... "How Great Thou Art" #801



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er  
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the  
3 But when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to  
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y  
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; When I look down from loft-y moun-tain  
die, I scarce can take it in— That on the cross my bur-den glad-ly  
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad - o-



thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;  
gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;  
bear - ing He bled and died to take a - way my sin;  
ra - tion And there pro - claim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

*Refrain*



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee, How great Thou



art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

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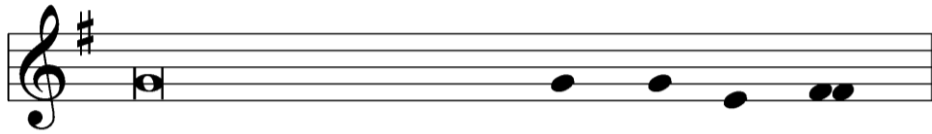
**Opening Verses.....** *page 253*



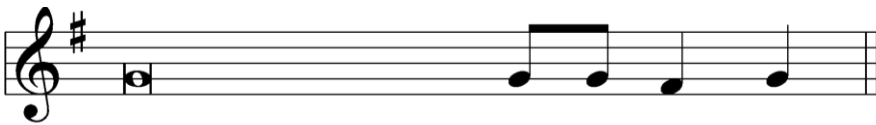
**L** The Lord Almighty grant us a qui - et night and peace at the last.



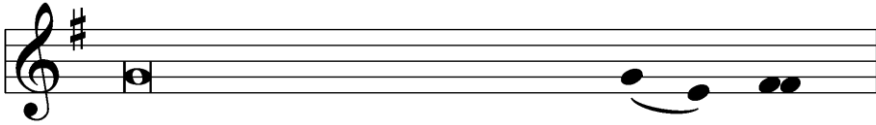
**C** A - men.



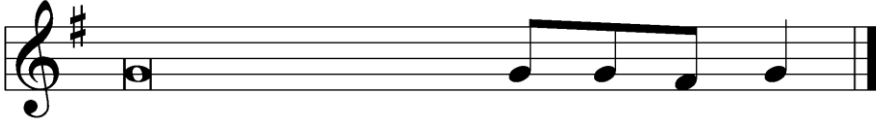
**L** It is good to give thanks to the Lord,



**C** to sing praise to Your name, O Most High;



**L** to herald Your love in the morn - ing,



**C** Your truth at the close of the day.

## Confession ..... page 254

- P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
- P** I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.
- C** The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.
- C** I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.
- P** The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.
- C** Amen.

## Psalmody

### Psalm 67 ..... (*spoken responsively by pastor and people*)

May God be gracious to us and bless us  
 and make his face to shine upon us,  
 that your way may be known on earth,  
 your saving power among all nations.  
 Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
 let all the peoples praise you!

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
**for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide the nations upon earth.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
**let all the peoples praise you!**

The earth has yielded its increase;  
**God, our God, shall bless us.**

God shall bless us;  
**let all the ends of the earth fear him!**

**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.**

*Sit*

**Office Hymn.....** *“Now Thank We all our God” #895*



1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,  
2 Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,  
△ 3 All praise and thanks to God The Fa - ther now be giv - en,



Who won - drous things has done, In whom His world re - joic - es;  
With ev - er joy - ful hearts And bless - ed peace to cheer us  
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in high - est heav - en,



Who from our moth - ers' arms Has blest us on our way  
And keep us in His grace And guide us when per - plexed  
The one e - ter - nal God, Whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



With count - less gifts of love And still is ours to - day.  
And free us from all ills In this world and the next!  
For thus it was, is now, And shall be ev - er - more.

# Readings

## Old Testament Reading..... Deuteronomy 8:1-10

“The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.”

*(silence for reflection)*

## Response Hymn ..... “For the Fruits of His Creation” #894



1 For the fruits of His cre - a - tion, Thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
3 For the har-vests of the Spir - it, Thanks be to God.



For His gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, Thanks be to God. For the  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done. In our  
For the good we all in - her - it, Thanks be to God. For the



plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, Si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
 world - wide task of car - ing For the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
 won - ders that as - tound us, For the truths that still con - found us,



Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, Thanks be to God.  
 In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
 Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God.

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**Epistle Reading ..... Philippians 4:4-13**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

*(silence for reflection)*

**Response Hymn ..... "Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart" #806**



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give thanks to the

Ho - ly One, Give thanks \_\_\_\_\_ be - cause He's giv - en\_\_ Je - sus  
 Christ His Son. Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give  
 thanks to the Ho - ly One, Give thanks \_\_\_\_\_ be - cause He's giv - en\_\_  
 Je - sus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say "I am  
 strong," Let the poor say "I am rich," \_\_\_\_\_ Be - cause of  
 what the Lord has done for us. And now let the  
 weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am  
 rich," \_\_\_\_\_ Be - cause of what the Lord has done for us.  
 Give thanks, \_\_\_\_\_ give thanks. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Stand**

**Holy Gospel ..... Luke 17:11-19**

On the way to Jerusalem [Jesus] was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on

us.” When he saw them he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” And he said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

*(silence for reflection)*

**Responsory**.....*pages 255-256*



**L** In-to Your hands, O Lord, I com - mend my spir - it.



**C** In-to Your hands I com - mend my spir - it.



**L** You have re - deemed me, O Lord, God of truth.



**C** In-to Your hands I com - mend my spir - it.



**L** Glory be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it.



**C** In-to Your hands I com - mend my spir - it.

*Sit*

**Sermon**..... “Life Offered Up”

**Offering**

*Offering plates are not being passed during the service; worshipers may place their offerings into the plate located at the west entrance.*

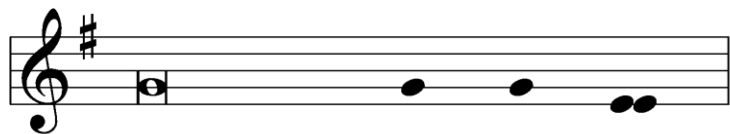


“Through him (Jesus) then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” (Hebrews 13:15-16)

**Stand**

## Prayer

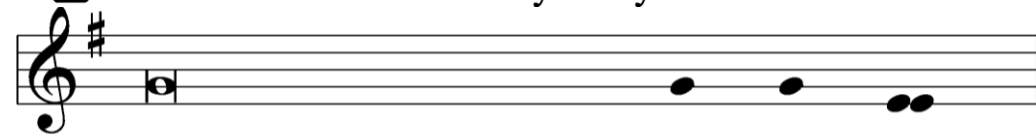
Prayer.....pages 256-257



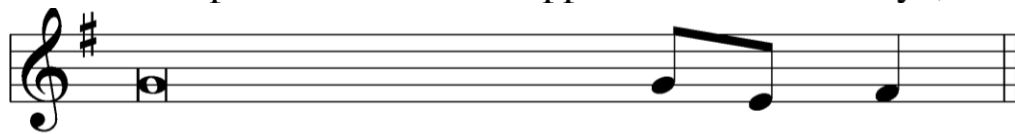
**L** Hear my prayer, O Lord;



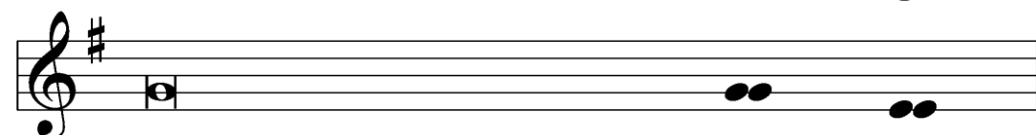
**C** listen to my cry.



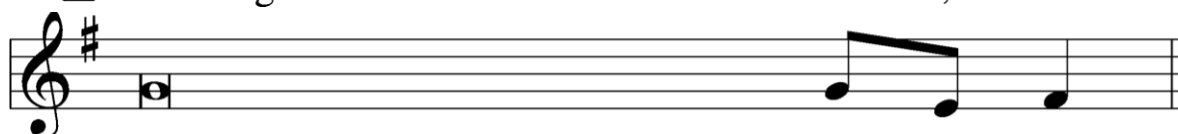
**L** Keep me as the apple of Your eye;



**C** hide me in the shadow of Your wings.



**L** In righteousness I shall see You;



**C** when I awake, Your presence will give me joy.

Lord's Prayer.....page 257

**P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**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.

**Nunc Dimittis** .....page 258

*Antiphon*

**L** Guide us wak - ing, O Lord, and guard us sleep - ing

that a - wake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

**C** Lord, now You let Your ser - vant go in peace; Your word has been ful - filled.

My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have prepared

in the sight of ev - ry peo - ple: a light to reveal You to the na - tions

and the glory of Your peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the

Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for -

*Antiphon*

ev - er. A - men. Guide us wak - ing, O Lord,

and guard us sleep - ing that a - wake we may

watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

**Benediction**.....page 259

**L** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Fa - ther, the  $\text{✠}$  Son,  
and the Holy Spir - it, bless us and keep us.  
**C** A - men.

**Sending Hymn**.....“We Are but Pilgrims Here”

*(Tune: “Heaven is my Home”)*

We are but pilgrims here, / Earth is our home.  
Not always seen so clear, / Earth is our home.  
No matter where we stand, / Round us on ev’ry hand;  
Earth is our motherland, / Earth is our home.

Made by the Lord Divine, / Earth is our home;  
Who made the water wine, / Earth is our home.  
Pledge of the wedding feast, / For greatest and the least,  
May we all live in peace, / Earth is our home.

When on that coming day, / Heaven and Earth;  
Made new, so boldly say, / “Christ is our worth!”  
Tears He will wipe away, / And with His creatures stay,  
For the eternal day —**of**—Heaven and Earth.

*I wrote this hymn text in 2014 as a corollary to Thomas R. Taylor’s well-known “I’m But a Stranger Here,” which taken on its own can seem a total disparagement of the Lord’s good but suffering Creation. Many have found comfort in that hymn’s longing for heaven during times of hardship and loss, so I didn’t want to discredit the validity of that but did want to direct attention to the biblical truths that the Lord made the earthly realm “very good” (Gen. 1:31), that the Son of God entered it fully*

*in order to redeem and restore it (John 1:14), and that we long for the day when the “holy city” comes down from heaven to earth and God dwells with people once again in a new and fulfilled way (Rev. 21:1-4).*

*Thomas Taylor (1807-1835) lived a short life, as you can see, plagued by ill health and the bleak hope of recovery—which comes through his “I’m But a Stranger Here” hymn (which has appeared in 601 hymnals). His much lesser known hymn “Earth, with Her Ten Thousand Flowers” (in only 64 hymnals, with the refrain: “God is love”) shows that earthly life was not all “desert drear” to him and that he also saw the abundant goodness of the Lord’s Creation too. My text is in that vein, linking up with the realization of Psalm 84:4: “Blessed are those whose strength is in you, O Lord, whose hearts are set on the pilgrim’s way!” and the conviction we state in the Nicene Creed: “I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.” This year has given plenty of occasions for being reminded of that! (JRK)*

**Dismissal** ..... (Bethlehem’s Mission)

- P** Grow in Christ,
- C** Live in Love and Share the Faith!

**Postlude** ..... Jerrode Marsh

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**Serving Us Today:**

- Elder ..... Caleb Thomas
- Musicians ..... Jerrode Marsh
- Altar Committee..... Teresa Hillsman (Chair), Lisa Gulick,  
Beryl Lindley, Susie Mills, Sheree Moody
- Flower Committee ..... Eunice Cobb (Chair), Lori Sloan

**This Week’s Schedule:**

- |             |            |  |
|-------------|------------|--|
| Thursday-25 |            | <i>Thanksgiving Holiday-Office Closed</i>  |
| Friday-26   |            | <i>Thanksgiving Holiday-Office Closed</i>  |
| Saturday-27 | 5:30 p.m.  | Worship  |
|             | 6:45 p.m.  | Bible Study  |
| Sunday-28   | 8:00 a.m.  | The Lutheran Hour broadcast on 96.9  |
|             | 9:00 a.m.  | Radio Broadcast 98.5 (can also be heard at <a href="http://www.blchurch.com">www.blchurch.com</a> , under the Sermons tab) |
|             | 9:15 a.m.  | Christian Education  |
|             | 10:30 a.m. | Worship  |

## Contact Information

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 607 N. Maguire, Warrensburg, MO 64093**

### **Our Mission**

· Grow in Christ · Live in Love · Share the Faith

### **Our Vision**

To be a community of believers, disciples, and servants while we deepen our personal faith and reach others for Christ.



#### **Rev. Joel R. Kurz**

Tuesday & Thursday: 8am–5pm, Wednesday & Friday: 10am-5pm

Otherwise by appointment

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Cell Phone: 660-441-5710

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#### **Office Manager:**

Cindy Smith

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#### **Congregational Life Facilitator:**

Rebecca Stewart

Tue & Thurs: 8am-5pm

[clf@blchurch.com](mailto:clf@blchurch.com)

#### **Bookkeeper:**

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 3pm–6pm

Thursday by appointment

[financial@blchurch.com](mailto:financial@blchurch.com)

Please note that Bethlehem Lutheran Church has a closed-circuit video system. This allows for live streaming on the web, viewing of the service on screens in the building and helps to enhance our security. Please see a trustee or an elder if you have any questions.