

Jesus,  
**REMEMBER**  
me  
when you come  
into your kingdom

LUKE 23:42



+ Christ The King +

**November 19-20**

**(Last Sunday of the Church Year)**

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**AS WE GATHER**

“For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross” (Colossians 1:19–20). On the cross, Jesus died for the sins of the world. On the cross, Jesus comforted one of the criminals crucified with Him. On the cross, Jesus interceded even for those who crucified Him. On the cross, Jesus makes peace by His blood.

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**REGARDING COMMUNION** *When we gather at the Lord’s Table, the cup of blessing we receive is a sharing in the blood of Christ; the bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ. We who are many are one bread and body in Christ (I Cor. 10:16-17). As a people baptized into the life of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to us in this holy meal to renew us individually and together in our life of faith and following him. Since Christian denominations have differing understandings of Holy Communion, if you are not a member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation and have not communed here before, we ask that you speak with the pastor or elder prior to communing with us the first time. Those not communing are invited to cross their arms over their chests and approach the pastor for a blessing during the distribution. Also, if certain factors prohibit you from partaking of regular wine, non-alcoholic wine is available in the center circle of the tray. If you would like to begin sharing this sacred meal with us on a regular basis, please ask the pastor for a time of faith instruction and formation.*

*If you are in need of a gluten free wafer for communion,  
please let Pastor or an Elder know.*

**Liturgical Color:**

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

*The new white Lamb of God banners were purchased recently with memorial funds in loving remembrance of Delores Christianson.*

*Visitors: We are glad you have chosen to be with us today! We would especially like to follow-up with you beyond today, so please take a moment to leave your best contact information in the guest books at each entrance/exit or in the Record of Fellowship books found on each pew. Do you have basic questions about Bethlehem? Refer to the information sheet inside the Record of Fellowship books or ask. A cry-room for parents and children is just off from the front entryway, and there is a nursery downstairs as well.*

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

## Welcome

*Please rise and turn to face the processional cross for the festival entrance.*

## Processional Hymn ..... "Crown Him with Many Crowns", #525



1 Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;  
 2 Crown Him the vir - gin's Son, The God in - car - nate born,  
 3 Crown Him the Lord of love. Be - hold His hands and side,  
 4 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave  
 5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, En - throned in worlds a - bove,



Hark how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own.  
 Whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won Which now His brow a-dorn:  
 Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied.  
 And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those He came to save.  
 Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The won-drous name of Love.



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And  
 Fruit of the mys - tic rose, Yet of that rose the stem, The  
 No an - gels in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But  
 His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who  
 Crown Him with man - y crowns As thrones be - fore Him fall; Crown



hail Him as thy match-less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, The babe of Beth - le - hem.  
 down-ward bend their won-d'ring eyes At mys - ter - ies so bright.  
 died e - ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.  
 Him, ye kings, with man - y crowns, For He is king of all.

# Divine Service, Setting Two Confession and Absolution

*(Saturday Only: Verses & responses are spoken, but longer portions are sung.)*

*The sign of the cross † may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

## Confession and Absolution.....page 167

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## Service of the Word

### Entrance Hymn ..... “Thine Forever, God of Love”, #687



- 1 Thine for - ev - er, God of love! Hear us from Thy throne a - bove;
- 2 Thine for - ev - er! Oh, how blest They who find in Thee their rest!
- 3 Thine for - ev - er, Lord of Life! Shield us through our earth - ly strife.
- 4 Thine for - ev - er! Shep-herd, keep These Thy frail and trem-bling sheep;
- 5 Thine for - ev - er! Thou our guide, All our wants by Thee sup - plied,



Thine for - ev - er may we be Here and in e - ter - ni - ty!  
 Sav - ior, guard - ian, heav' n - ly friend, O de - fend us to the end!  
 Thou, the life, the truth, the way, Guide us to the realms of day.  
 Safe a - lone be - neath Thy care, Let us all Thy good - ness share.  
 All our sins by Thee for - giv' n; Lead us, Lord, from earth to heav' n.

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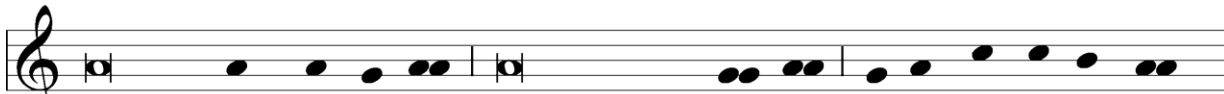
**Kyrie.....pages 168-169**



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a - bove and for our sal - va - tion let us pray to the Lord.



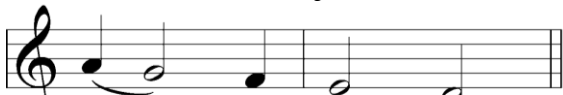
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



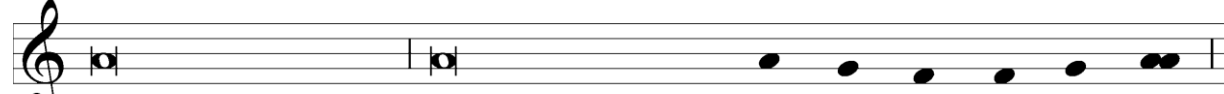
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



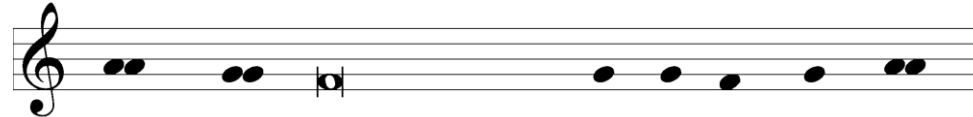
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

## Hymn of Praise ..... "This Is the Feast" page 171



**A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



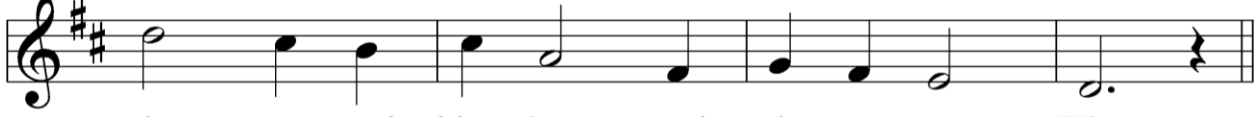
**C** Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to  
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.  
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,  
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Salutation** .....page 172

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And al - so with you.

**Collect of the Day** ..... (*spoken in unison*)

**Lord Jesus Christ, You reign among us by the preaching of Your cross. Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**First Reading** .....**Malachi 3:13-18**

“Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD. But you say, ‘How have we spoken against you?’ You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts? And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.’”

Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. "They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him."

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 46** .....(*front of hymnal, spoken responsively*)

God is our refuge and strength,

**a very present help in trouble.**

Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,

**though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,**

though its waters roar and foam,

**though the mountains tremble at its swelling.**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

**the holy habitation of the Most High.**

God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;

**God will help her when morning dawns.**

The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;

**he utters his voice, the earth melts.**

The LORD of hosts is with us;

**the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

Come, behold the works of the LORD,

**how he has brought desolations on the earth.**

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;

**he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;**

**he burns the chariots with fire.**

"Be still, and know that I am God.

**I will be exalted among the nations,**

**I will be exalted in the earth!"**

The LORD of hosts is with us;

**the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

**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.

## Epistle.....Colossians 1:13-20

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Please rise.*

## Alleluia and Verse .....page 173

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a whole rest followed by a half note G, a quarter note A, a half note B, a quarter note C, a half note D, a quarter note E, a half note F#, and a quarter note G. The second staff begins with a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a half note D, a quarter note E, a half note F#, and a whole note G. The lyrics are written below the notes.

## Holy Gospel ..... Luke 23:27-43

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.

Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

The image shows a single staff of musical notation in G major (one sharp). It begins with a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a half note C, a half note D, a quarter note E, a half note F#, and a quarter note G. The lyrics are written below the notes.

And there followed [Jesus] a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But turning to them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Please be seated.*

**Hymn of the Day**..... *"Praise Be to Christ", #538*



1 Praise be to Christ in whom we see The im - age of the  
 2 Praise be to Him whose sov - 'reign sway And will up - holds cre -  
 3 Praise be to Him who, Lord Most High, The full - ness of the



Fa - ther shown, The first-born Son re - vealed and known, The truth and  
 a - tion's plan; Who is, be - fore all worlds be - gan And when our  
 God - head shares; And yet our hu - man na - ture bears, Who came as



grace of de - i - ty; Through whom cre - a - tion came to birth,  
 world has passed a - way: Lord of the Church, its life and head,  
 man to bleed and die. And from His cross there flows our peace



Whose fin - gers set the stars in place, The un - seen pow'rs, and  
 Re - demp - tion's price and source and theme, A - live, the first - born  
 Who chose for us the path He trod, That so might sins and



this small earth, The fur - thest bounds of time and space.  
 from the dead, To reign as all - in - all su - preme.  
 sor - rows cease And all be rec - on - ciled to God.

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**Sermon..... “In Christ is Our Peace & Paradise”**

*Please rise.*

**Nicene Creed.....page 174**

**I believe in one God,  
 the Father Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth  
 and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
 the only-begotten Son of God,  
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
 God of God, Light of Light,  
 very God of very God,  
 begotten, not made,  
 being of one substance with the Father,  
 by whom all things were made;  
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
 and was made man;  
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
 He suffered and was buried.  
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
 and ascended into heaven  
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
 whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Announcement of Intercessions & Thanksgivings**

**Prayer of the Church (sung) ..... “Hear Our Prayer” (Bell & Howison)**

After each verse, the congregation sings the refrain:

**Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer. Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Now we pray to You Father for peace in the world  
For the right use of all You have given  
A respect for creation in us be restored

And we pray for the poor of the world everywhere  
And for all those who suffer from hunger and fear  
For those who are homeless – for those who need care

Now we pray for those close to us, those who have needs  
For the friends that we love and for all our families  
For these loved ones we pray Jesus grant them Your peace

And we pray for ourselves for forgiveness of sins  
For the evil around that is born from within  
And we ask You oh God that You heal us again

Now in closing we ask You dear Father on our knees  
Lord for mercy on all those we call our enemies  
So that all might be one in Your love and Your peace

## **Offering**

*An offering plate is located at the west entrance narthex. You may leave your monetary offering there either when coming or going. Remember that all of your life is to be an offering of gratitude to the Lord who gives us life and in service of those he puts with needs on our path: **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)*

**Offertory**..... *page 176*



**C** What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

## **Service of the Sacrament**

**Communion Liturgy**..... *pages 177-180*



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**Sanctus**.....*page 178*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is He who comes in the name



of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Lord's Prayer**.....*page 179*

**Agnus Dei**.....*page 180*



**C** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of

God, You take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Please be seated, until motioned to rise & proceed forward if going for Communion or a blessing.*

**Instrumental** ..... Jerrode Marsh  
*(Communion Hymns—Sunday Only)*

**Communion Hymn** ..... *“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”, #761*

1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;  
2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy Law's de-mands;  
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling.  
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in death,

Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,  
Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
Na - ked, come to Thee for dress; Help - less, look to Thee for grace;  
When I soar to worlds un-known, See Thee on Thy judg - ment throne,

Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.  
Foul, I to the foun-tain fly; Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

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**Communion Hymn** ..... *“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”, #722*

1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Up - on life's way;  
2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear,  
3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en And night has come,



Di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me From day to day.  
 For You, the Rock of A - ges, Are al - ways near.  
 I know that You will strength - en My steps toward home.



With - out Your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;  
 Close by Your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,  
 Then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend;



So take my hand, O Sav - ior, And lead the way.  
 For when Your hand is guid - ing, In peace I go.  
 So take my hand and lead me Un - to the end.

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**Communion Hymn** ..... *“O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee”, #632*



1 O Je - sus, bless - ed Lord, to Thee My heart - felt  
 2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is



thanks for - ev - er be, Who hast so lov - ing -  
 come to me this day! My Sav - ior dwells with -



ly be - stowed On me Thy bod - y and Thy blood.  
 in my heart: How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

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*Please rise.*

**Post Communion Canticle**..... *page 181*



**☐** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev - 'ry-one what



He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -  
 joyce and proud - ly bear His name. He re - calls His prom - is -  
 es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
 giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Benediction..... page 183**

**Sending Hymn ..... "Your Kingdom, O God, Is My Glorious Treasure", #654**

1 Your king - dom, O God, is my glo - ri - ous trea - sure,  
 2 Your king - dom, O God, is a - live with the pow - er  
 3 Your king - dom, O God, is a field for the grow - ing  
 My pearl of in - com - p'ra - ble worth.  
 Your Word and Your Spir - it be - stow.  
 Of seeds that Your mer - cy has sown;  
 Its val - ue ex - ceeds ev - 'ry stan - dard of mea - sure,  
 Like yeast, they af - fect the whole mea - sure of flour,  
 But still in our midst is the en - e - my sow - ing  
 Sur - pass - ing the wealth of the earth.  
 En - a - bling Your king - dom to grow.  
 The weeds that im - per - il Your own.



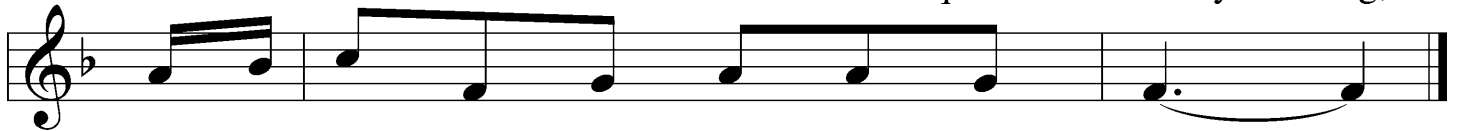
Lord, give me Your grace and the pow'r of the Spir - it  
 Em - pow - er me, Lord, as I live Your com - mis - sion,  
 Sus - tain me, O Lord, till Your day of re - turn - ing



To val - ue this trea - sure a - right  
 Though hum - ble my ser - vice may be,  
 And har - vest me home - ward at last,



That, nev - er al - lured by the world, I in - her - it  
 And bring ev - 'ry plant - ing to per - fect fru - i - tion,  
 To shine in the home - land that qui - ets all yearn - ing,



Your king - dom of glo - ry and light.  
 A mus - tard seed grown to a tree.  
 Where sor - row and dan - ger are past.

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## Dismissal ..... (Bethlehem's Mission)

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

## Postlude ..... Jerrode Marsh

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### Next week's readings:

**OT: Is. 2:1-5; Epistle: Rom 13:8-14; Gospel: Matt. 21:1-11 or Matt. 24:36-44**

**Attendance: Last Saturday: 27**

**Total Offering: \$1,950.00**

**Home Use: \$1,760.00**

**Attendance Last Sunday: 72**

**Missions: \$0.00**

**Benevolences: \$190.99**

### Serving us today:

Elders.....Ricky Bertels (Sat), Alan Miller, Caleb Thomas (Sun)

Musicians .....Jerrode Marsh

Soloists ..... Becky Limback (Sat), Lorraine Miller (Sun),

Altar Committee.....Teresa Hillsman (Chair), Mary Creswell,  
Lisa Gulick, Beryl Lindley, Susie Mills  
Flower Committee ..... Eunice Cobb (Chair), Penny Humphrey

### **This Week's Schedule**

Sunday 3:00 p.m. Youth Get-Together  
Monday *Cindy Out All Week*  
*NO EXERCISE THIS WEEK*  
2:00 p.m. Moms and Tots  
6:30 p.m. Scouts  
  
Tuesday *Pastor's Vacation*  
9:30 a.m. NO QUILTING  
7:15 p.m. Education Board Meeting  
Wednesday 10:30 a.m. NO BIBLE STUDY TODAY  
*Bible Study will start new one on the 30th*  
7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service  
Thursday *Thanksgiving Holiday-Closed*  
Friday *Thanksgiving Holiday-Closed*  
Saturday *Advent Begins*  
5:30 p.m. Worship  
Sunday 8:00 a.m. The Lutheran Hour broadcast on 96.9  
9:00 a.m. Radio Broadcast 98.5 (can also be heard at  
[www.blchurch.com](http://www.blchurch.com), under the Sermons tab)  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Class  
10:30 a.m. Worship

### **Prayers**

**Of Rejoicing** for Ezra Murrells' baptism which will be held on Sunday, November 27. God's blessings to the Murrell family.

**For Sustenance, Healing, and Provision**—We remember those who are dealing with illness, are homebound or in nursing homes, are undergoing and recovering from surgery, as well as going through hospitalization and rehabilitation: Holli Burge, Mel Bockelman, Paula Brewer, Felisa & Mark Brown, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Bob & Barbara Compton, Marion Droege, Wilma Gertz, Karen Haase, Mary Johnson, Wanda Kreisel, Betty Landers (Darlene Laubenstein's sister), Johnny Nichol, Judy Pierce, Maryanna Savery, Cindy Smith, Denny Spanton, Rose Steitz, & Joe Zeman.

**For Pregnant Mothers (& Waiting Fathers)**, especially Paige & Colin Hart as they get closer to December! The Lord's good provision to all parents in the daily welcome and care of their children.

**For Military Members**—We remember all service and support personnel who are deployed and stationed away from us and their families: Andy Burden, Ty Carter and Chance Hillsman.

**Prayer Requests & Spiritual Care**—If you would like to make a prayer request, contact Pr. Joel or email the church office. Also, if you're feeling the strain, feel free to call or text Pr. Joel or contact your elder or the church office. We rely upon the Holy Spirit and his gifts in Christ during every time of uncertainty, and can never be thankful enough for the gift of each other!

### **Worship Services**

**Saturday Services start at 5:30 p.m. Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m.** Sunday's Services are live on Facebook and YouTube and the webpage at [blchurch.com](http://blchurch.com).

**Thanksgiving Eve Service**—Gather together with others in our sanctuary on **Wednesday, November 23 at 7:00 p.m.** to ground ourselves anew in a life of gratitude and grateful living. Please join us!

**Midweek Advent Services** will be held on the four Wednesdays leading up to Christmas Eve—**November 30, December 7, 14 and 21—at 7:00 p.m.** in our sanctuary. As in past years, we'll be using the beautiful and renewing Holden Evening Prayer. Our theme this year is ***Keeping Time***. Plan on setting aside this time for a quiet and contemplative keeping of the short and often crowded-out season of Advent!

### **Sunday School and Christian Education**

**Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings downstairs for ages Preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.** The children are regularly working on songs with the goal of singing in the Sunday service once per month. We invite all children of the congregation (and outside too!) to come and be a part of this time growing together in Christ.

**Children's Christmas Practice**—All children are welcome and encouraged to participate in this year's children's presentation (*We Celebrate a Tree*) which will be held on **Sunday, December 18** during our normal worship service at 10:30 a.m. Practice rehearsals have started, during part of the Sunday School time. For further information, contact Ellen Pederson.

**Sunday Bible Study**—Continuing through the last Sunday of the Church Year (November 20), we're finishing a study that surveys hunger and harvest, wasting, feasting, and sharing in Scripture and in our lives. The last session will be *Party*. **Join us in the conference room at 9:15 a.m.** We'll start a new study on the first Sunday of Advent (November 27) that will be perfect for the start of the new Church Year's focus on who Christ truly is as he comes among us—an exploration of A. Trevor Sutton's 2018 book *Clearly Christian: Following Jesus in This Age of Confusion*.

### **Faith Discussion and Bible Study**

**Wednesday Bible Study** will be on break until **November 30**, when we'll then begin working our way through the writings of the prophet Zechariah. **Join us in the conference room from 10:30 to noon** for this time of study, growth, and exploration together.

**UCM Students**—The **UCM Lutheran Student Center** is located at **215 S. Holden Street** and is a place on campus for students to gather for fellowship. The Student Center has a meal and Bible study every **Thursday, starting at 5:00 p.m.** Their contact number is 660-747-7603 and Facebook @UCMLutherans. You are also invited to gather with us at Bethlehem for worship, Scripture study, faith discussion, and projects at any time. We welcome you to grow and serve alongside us here at Bethlehem!

### **Junior & Senior Youth**

**Jr./Sr. High Youth Group** will be meeting on the **3rd Sunday (November 20<sup>th</sup>) at 3:00 p.m.** for an afternoon of fun and fellowship at Woodchux in Warrensburg. Along with axe throwing, there is an area for other activities and games. We are allowed to bring in food and drinks. Closed toed shoes are required for throwing. Please contact Penny Humphrey if you would like to participate so we can make sure we have enough lanes reserved for our group and she will pass on liability/waver instructions at that time. Also, please let Penny know if you have any questions or would like a ride from/to the church.

### **Opportunities to Help & Serve**

**Mary Martha Guild**—Remember our **December meeting** will be the observance of Hanging of the Greens on **November 28 at 6:30pm**. All Guild members (as well as all in the congregation) are urged to come and help decorate the sanctuary. Thanks. Darlene Laubenstein-President.

Bethlehem will be participating in the **Annual Holiday Parade on Friday, December 2nd, starting at 6:00 p.m.** **Decorating the float will take place on Sunday, November 27 in the afternoon.** Everything has to be lit, even the walkers. If you

would like to help with the float, walk or ride on the float please call the office at 747-6742 so we can get a group together to plan. It is only a little over a month away. **We need children, adults, and even animals can participate!**

**Crazy Christmas Dinner**—The Fellowship Board will be hosting a Crazy Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 11 at 5:00 p.m.

**Blanket the County with Love**—Once again Thrivent will be collecting blankets during the month of November. These will be given to different agencies in the community, the homeless and others in need. If you would like to donate, please bring the blankets to either entrance of the church, and place them in the collection box. New or gently used blankets will be very much appreciated.

**2022 Christmas Store.** In December, our community will come together to host Christmas Store 2022. This will be the 49th year we have worked to give those who struggle with food insecurity a meal for the Christmas season. We will again rely on financial contributions rather than food donations. Our plan is to distribute vouchers to those in need to purchase food for a Christmas meal. This year we anticipate feeding over 400 families. To meet this need, we expect to spend approximately \$50,000. **Donations can be made by the following:** (1) Make a check out to Bethlehem Lutheran Church and in the memo section write “Christmas Store” or (2) donate online at: [foodcenterjoco.com](https://foodcenterjoco.com) and click Donate then Christmas Store.

### Fellowship

**Exercise Class** happens at **9:30 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays** in the Fellowship Hall. This class is low impact exercise open to anyone, men or women. For more information, contact Judy Smith. **Exercise will not meet during the week of Thanksgiving.**

**The Games and Card Group** meets on **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Youth Room downstairs. Anyone, men and women, are welcome to come. If you have any questions, please contact Melvin Theroff.

**The Quilting Group** meets on the **second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.** (September through May). Anyone is welcome to help with this project. No special sewing skills are needed. Bring your own lunch. If you have any questions, please contact Georgia Luker. **Quilting will not meet on November 22.**

### This & That

**The 3rd Annual Saint Paul Christkindlesmarkt** is less than 1 month away! Join us on **Friday, December 9th from 4-8pm and Saturday, December 10th from 11am-7pm**

for this festive, family-friendly, outdoor event on the campus of Saint Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, MO. Enjoy traditional German Christmas Market food like Brátwurst, Kartoffelpuffers (*potato pancakes*), Pommes Frites (*french fries*), Crepes, Mutzen (*fried donuts*), and more! Plus, traditional drinks including Kinderpunsch (*kid's punch*), Heiße Schokolade (*hot chocolate*), Kaffee (*coffee*), Glühwein (*mulled wine*), Bier (*beer*), and more! Shop amongst the vendors offering their handmade goods and wares, listen to the entertainment on the main stage, take a carriage ride around campus, plus activities for children including a coloring contest, scavenger hunt, story time with the Christkind, and a visit from St. Nikolaus.

**American Heritage Girls** ([americanheritagegirls.org](http://americanheritagegirls.org)) is a Christ-centered group program for girls (ages 5-18). **AHG** was founded by a group of parents wanting a faith-based, scout-type character development program for their daughters in 1995. The AHG Program is dedicated to the mission of building women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country. AHG girls across the nation and the globe participate in badge programs, service projects, leadership opportunities, and outdoor experiences, all with an emphasis on Christian values and family involvement. AHG meets at Faith Lutheran Church in Knob Noster. For more information on dates and times contact Rebecca Holland (660) 441-1271.

**Trail Life USA** ([www.TrailLifeUSA.com](http://www.TrailLifeUSA.com)) is a Christ-centered outdoor adventure and character development program for boys (ages 5-18). Trail Life partners with churches to grow godly young men. Boys connect with friends, dads and mentors in a safe, encouraging, Christian Environment. Trail Life USA meets at Faith Lutheran Church in Knob Noster. For more information on dates and times contact Jeremy VanWey (660) 909-4765.

**Country Kitchen Cards**—We have Country Kitchen Cards. Stop by the office if you would like to purchase one. They are \$10 and you get 10 buy-one- get-one free meal deals. All proceeds go to the youth group. Thanks for your support!

**Ongoing thanks** to those who generously give to the Bethlehem Emergency Fund, which enables Pr. Joel to assist members and certain people in the community who are in crisis situations. Much appreciation for your good support!

### 2022 Elders

**Willie Crespo** (last name begins A-D) 660-679-8121, [crespo6fam@gmail.com](mailto:crespo6fam@gmail.com)

**Ricky Bertels** (last name begins E-H), 660-262-8080, [rick1janice2@gmail.com](mailto:rick1janice2@gmail.com)

**Jack Easterwood** (last name begins I-Ma) 660-678-2045, [easter.egg2380@gmail.com](mailto:easter.egg2380@gmail.com)

**Alan Miller** (last name begins Mc-R) 660-909-1764, [alormiller@aol.com](mailto:alormiller@aol.com)

**Caleb Thomas** (last name begins S-Z) 660-441-2010, [calebthomas50@gmail.com](mailto:calebthomas50@gmail.com)

## 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

Office: 660-747-6742

Cell Phone: 660-441-5710

Email: [pastor@blchurch.com](mailto:pastor@blchurch.com)

Website: [www.blchurch.com](http://www.blchurch.com)      Facebook: [blcwarrensburg](https://www.facebook.com/blcwarrensburg)

#### **Office Manager:**

Cindy Smith

Monday–Friday: 8am–5pm

660-747-6742

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

#### **Bookkeeper:**

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 9am–11am

Thursday: 9am–11am

[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.