A man wearing a straw hat, a plaid shirt, and overalls is working in a vineyard. He is leaning over a row of grapevines, examining the grapes. In the background, a tractor is visible, blurred, moving through the vineyard. The scene is set in a lush green vineyard with rows of grapevines stretching into the distance.

GO ^{AND} WORK IN THE VINEYARD TODAY

MATTHEW 21:28



+ The 18th Sunday After Pentecost +

September 30-October 1, 2023

AS WE GATHER

The number of languages being spoken on our planet today is amazing. There are currently more than 6500 individual languages in use. The smallest group that speaks in a singular language is a tribe of indigenous people in Canada, about 50 in number, who speak a distinct dialect of the Tsuu T'ina tongue. The most widely spoken language on earth is English, with some 1.4 billion users, including a large group for whom English is not their native language. We are blessed by God to hear His Word in our own language. Through Moses, God said to His chosen people: "Lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, . . . as long as the heavens are above the earth" (Deuteronomy 11:18, 21). We continue to respond to that directive in our generation by holding fast the Word of life—and by sharing it as well!

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:

Green is the color of life and growth in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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. **A cry-room for parents and children is just off from the front entryway, and there's a wonderful nursery downstairs at the end of the fellowship hall for you to make use of at any time.** Do you have any questions about anything here? Don't hesitate to ask one of the ushers or elders or talk to the pastor.

Prelude

Pastoral Welcome

(Prayer request cards will be collected by an usher passing through the aisle.)

Please rise.

Invocation Hymn..... "O Jesus, King Most Wonderful" #554



1 O Je - sus, King most won - der - ful!
2 When once You vis - it dark - ened hearts,
3 O Je - sus, light of all be - low,
4 May ev - 'ry heart con - fess Your name,
5 Oh, may our tongues for - ev - er bless,



O Con - quer - or re - nowned! O Source of peace in -
Then truth be - gins to shine, Then earth - ly van - i -
The fount of life and fire, Sur - pass - ing all the
For - ev - er You a - dore, And, seek - ing You, it -
May we love You a - lone And ev - er in our



ef - fa - ble, In whom all joys are found:
ty de - parts, Then kin - dles love di - vine.
joys we know, All that we can de - sire:
self in - flame To seek You more and more!
lives ex - press The im - age of Your own!

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Divine Service, Setting Three

(Saturday Only: Verses & responses are spoken, while longer portions are sung ... plus, the Lord's Prayer is prayed in unison.)

Confession and Absolution

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

Confession and Absolution.....pages 184-185

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
P Beloved in the Lord! . . . our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
P Our help is in the name of the Lord.
C who made heaven and earth.
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
P Almighty God, . . . Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
C O most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your Grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
P Almighty God, . . . Grant this, Lord, unto us all.
C Amen.

Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful" #955

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, And fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, That we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the
hopes and the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we

of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and
 give us A fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Tune Richard W. Hillert, Used by permission: # 955 LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

Kyrie.....page 186

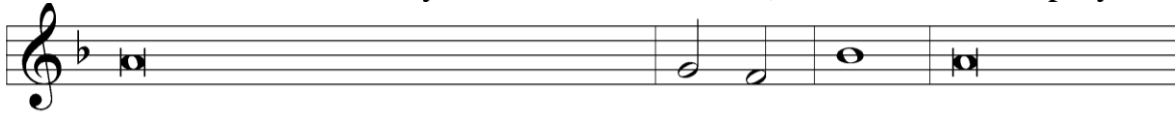
C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis.....page 187

P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward
 men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
 we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
 O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.
 O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
 O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
 that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



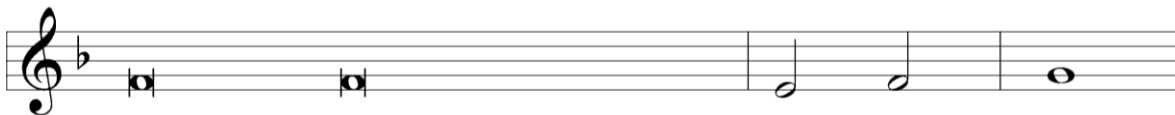
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

Salutation



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir-it.



P Let us pray.

Collect of the Day *(spoken in unison)*

Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

Old Testament Reading..... Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The word of the LORD came to me: “What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb

shall no more be used by you in Israel. Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . .

“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual *(spoken in unison)*

**He will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!. *(Psalm 91:11)***

Epistle Reading **Philippians 2:1-18**

If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and

under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please rise.

Alleluia.....*page 190*



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel**Matthew 21:23-32**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty first chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed.....*page 191*

**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.

Please be seated.

Hymn of the Day *“Jesus, Greatest at the Table”, #446*



1 Je - sus, great - est at the ta - ble, The al -
 2 Mar - vel how their Lord and teach - er Gent - ly
 3 Je - sus took the role of ser - vant When up -
 4 Can we fath - om such deep mer - cy? Do we
 5 Je - sus gave to His dis - ci - ples A com -



might - y Son of Man, Laid a - side His out - er cloth - ing,
 taught them not to vie As He hum - bly knelt be - fore them,
 on that grue - some span, For all hu - man sin He suf - fered
 see what God has done? Who can grasp this great re - ver - sal:
 mand - ment that was new: “Show My love to one an - oth - er,



Poured some wa - ter in a pan; As the Twelve lay,
 Dust - y feet to wash and dry, By His ten - der
 As a vile and loath - some man; On the cross poured
 Love that gives His on - ly Son? Christ, the sin - less
 Do as I have done for you; All the world will



hushed in si - lence, He the ser - vant's task be - gan.
 touch ex - press - ing True com - pas - sion from on high.
 out like wa - ter To ful - fill the Fa - ther's plan.
 for the sin - ners, For the man - y dies the One.
 know you love Me As you love each oth - er too.”

Sermon..... “Sour Grapes or Saving Grace?”

Please rise.

Offertorypages 192-193



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Please be seated.

Offering

Please rise.

Announcement of Prayers

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.

(It will conclude with a spoken line and the final **Amen.**)

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

Service of the Sacrament

Communion Liturgypages 194-197



P The Lord be with you.



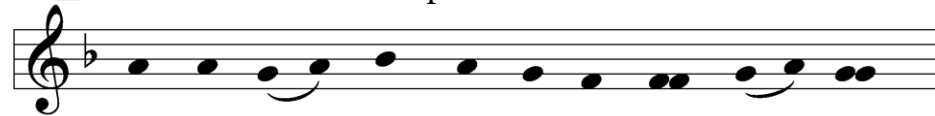
C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right and salutary . . . evermore praising You and singing:



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;

heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
 ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
 bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer.....page 196
The Words of Our Lord.....page 197
Pax Domini.....page 197
Agnus Dei.....page 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin of the
 world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
 tak - est a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin of the
 world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit (until motioned to rise and proceed forward if going for Communion or a blessing).

Communion Distribution

Instrumental

(Sunday Only)

Communion Hymn *“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive #609*



1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich
 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shep - herd
 4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live
 grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
 e'er for - sak - eth; Wea - ry souls that lost their way
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;



And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for
 Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly in these
 Christ, the Shep - herd, gent - ly tak - eth In His arms that
 Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



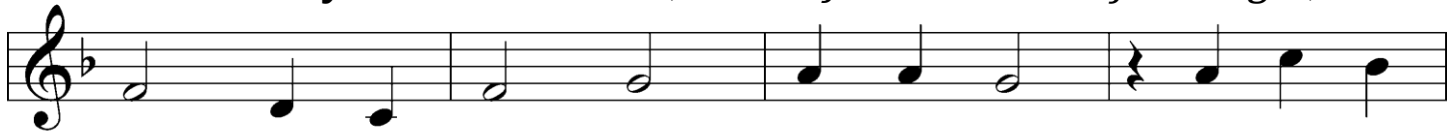
all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 they may live: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

5 Oh, how blest it is to know:
 Were as scarlet my transgression,
 It shall be as white as snow
 By Thy blood and bitter passion;
 For these words I now believe:
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

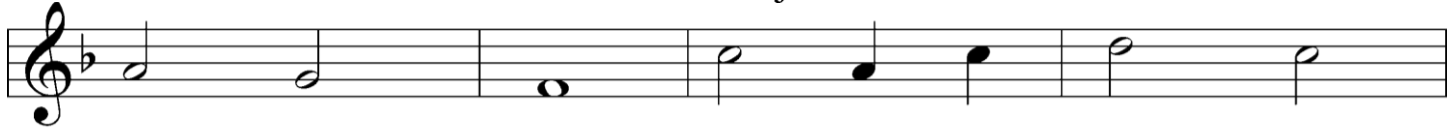
6 Now my conscience is at peace;
 From the Law I stand acquitted.
 Christ hath purchased my release
 And my ev'ry sin remitted.
 Naught remains my soul to grieve:
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

7 Jesus sinners doth receive;
 Also I have been forgiven;
 And when I this earth must leave,
 I shall find an open heaven.
 Dying, still to Him I cleave:
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

Communion Hymn "Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs", #812



1 Come, let us join our cheer - ful songs With an - gels
 2 "Wor - thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "To be ex -
 3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re - ceive Hon - or and
 4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one To bless the



round the throne; Ten thou - sand thou - sand
 alt - ed thus!" "Wor - thy the Lamb," our
 pow'r di - vine; And bless - ings more than
 sa - cred name Of Him who sits up -

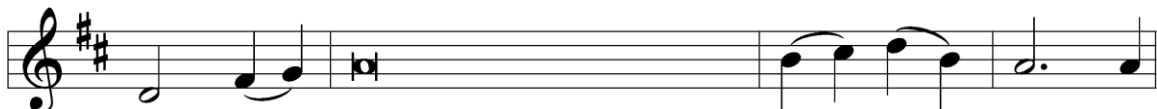


are their tongues, But all their joys are one.
 lips re - ply, "For He was slain for us!"
 we can give Be, Lord, for - ev - er Thine.
 on the throne And to a - dore the Lamb.

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Please rise.

Nunc Dimittis.....pages 199-200



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

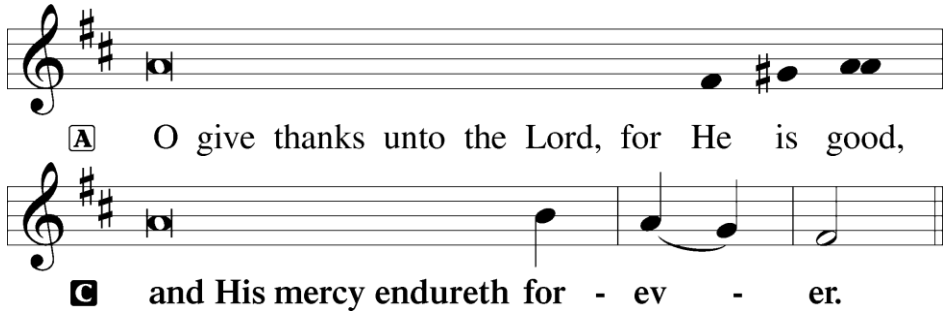


peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



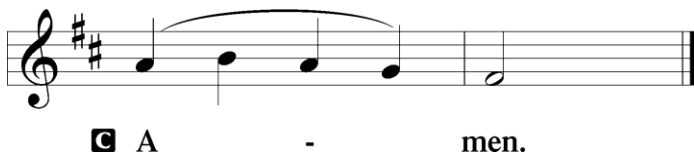
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving..... *pages 200-201*



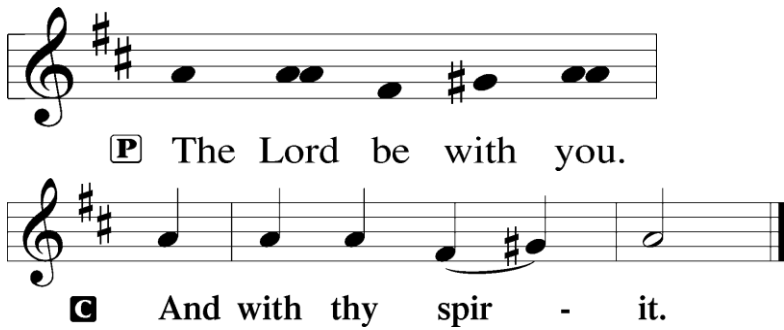
A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P Let us pray. . . one God, now and forever.



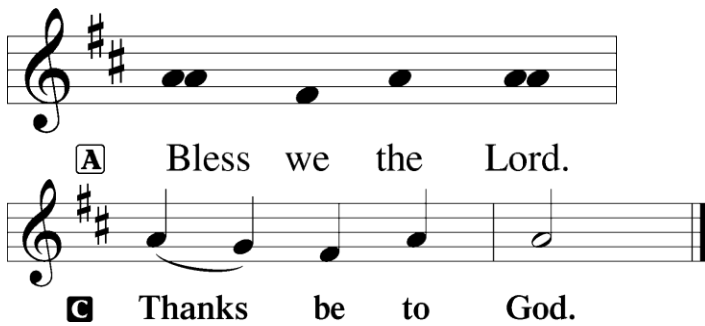
C A - men.

Salutation..... *page 201*



P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus..... *page 202*



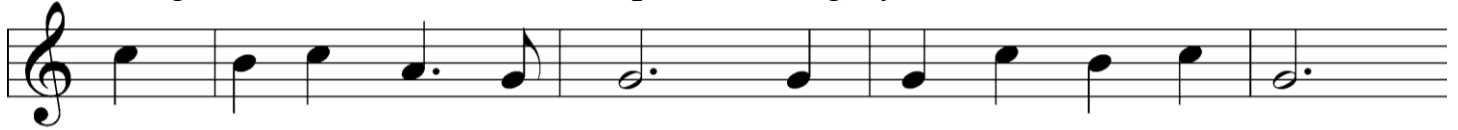
A Bless we the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction..... *page 202*

Sending Hymn "When Morning Gilds the Skies" #807



1 When morn-ing gilds the skies, My heart, a - wak - ing, cries,
 2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, This is my song of songs:
 3 No love - lier an - ti - phon In all high heav'n is known
 4 Ye na - tions of man - kind, In this your con - cord find:
 5 Sing, suns and stars of space, Sing, ye that see His face,



"May Je - sus Christ be praised!" When eve - ning shad - ows fall,
 "May Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's ho - ly house of prayer
 Than "Je - sus Christ be praised!" There to the e - ter - nal Word
 "May Je - sus Christ be praised!" Let all the earth a - round
 Sing, "Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,



This rings my cur - few call: "May Je - sus Christ be praised!"
 Hath none that can com - pare With "Je - sus Christ be praised!"
 The e - ter - nal psalm is heard: "May Je - sus Christ be praised!"
 Ring joy - ous with the sound: "May Je - sus Christ be praised!"
 Both now and ev - er - more Shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

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Dismissal (Bethlehem's Mission)

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

Postlude

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Next week's readings:

O.T. Isaiah 5:1-7; EP: Philippians 3:4b-14; Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

Attendance Last Saturday: 29
Total Offering: \$4,767.00
Home Use: \$3,648.00

Attendance Last Sunday: 48
Missions: \$0.00
Benevolences: \$1,119.00

Serving us today:

Elders..... Willie Crespo, Alan Miller
 MusiciansJerrode Marsh

Soloists Penny Humphrey (Sat), Jerrode Marsh (Sun)
 Altar Committee.....Teresa Hillsman-Chair Lisa Gulick, Beryl Lindley
 Susie Mills, Cindy Schnell, Samantha Schnell
 Flower Committee Penny Humphrey (Chair), Cindy Smith

This Week's Schedule

Sunday	1:00 p.m.	Youth Catechesis
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	2:00 p.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park
Tuesday	11:30 a.m.	Braille in Concordia
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	5:30 p.m.	Faith Night Meal & Discussion
	6:30 p.m.	Gender & Sexuality Study/Choir Fellowship
	7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pr. Joel at WCS for Chapel
	1:00 p.m.	Games and <i>Cards</i> Group
	3:30 p.m.	Adult Catechesis— <i>Rooted in the Faith</i>
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:00 a.m.	Creation School
	6:00 p.m.	Friday Fun Night—Bonfire
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Worship—LWML Weekend
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Christian Education
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion—LWML Weekend
	2:30 p.m.	Country Club and Arbors Care Center Services
	4:00 p.m.	<i>Down by the Riverside</i> Concert in Waverly

Prayers

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: Charlie Becker, Pr. Ricky Bertels, Mel Bockelman, Paula Brewer, Mark Brown, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Bob & Barbara Compton, Marion Droege, Wilma Gertz, Winnie & George Goldsmith (Steve's parents), Karen Haase, Don Hillsman, Juanita Holcomb (Peggy Forstad's mother), Mary Johnson, Wanda Kreisel, Lloyd McCarter, Jeannie Peterson, Maryanna Savery, Denny Spanton, Rose Steitz, and & Joe Zeman.

For Military Members—We remember all service and support personnel who are deployed and stationed away from us and their families.

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!

Thank You

LauraBeth VanWey and her mom would like to thank everyone who donated to their American Heritage Girls troop supply-drive for New Beginnings Women's Center. With your help, the troop collected 54 packs of diapers, 45 packs of wipes, and many baby and mom supplies, as well as much-needed funds to help them accomplish the life-saving work New Beginnings does.

Special Days for Members This Week

Birthdays—Seth Hillsman-3rd, Terry Hoslten-3rd, Anna Florida-4th, Logan LeBaige-4th, Amy F. Martin-4th, Jerry Bell-5th, Linda Tomblinson-5th, Noah Lipham-6th.
Anniversaries—Aaron & Mary Beth Martin-2nd.

Worship Services

Saturday Services start at 5:30 p.m. Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m. Sunday Services are live on Facebook, YouTube and the webpage at blchurch.com.

Sunday School and Christian Education

Sunday Proverbs Bible Study—*Oh, to love wisdom and live wisely!* How many times have you said and thought that? Join us for our Sunday Bible study—*Living (& Loving) Wisdom*—which explores the book of Proverbs through the lens of the Ten Commandments and Christ “the Wisdom of God” (I Cor. 1:24). There's room for all of us to grow in wisdom through this study until the end of November. Pr. Joel is drawing from David Coe's *Provoking Proverbs*—a recent CPH book. **We start at 9:20 a.m.** (in the conference room) ... *following a combined devotional opening with the children and youth downstairs from 9:15 to 9:20.*

Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings downstairs for ages Preschool through 12th grade. We start out with a combined opening with the adults to kick off each Sunday. The children continue working on songs with the goal of singing in the church service once per month. We invite all children to come and be a part of this time growing together in Christ!

Wednesday Bible Study—We're finishing the last book of the Old Testament—the book of the Hebrew prophet Malachi. Join us in the conference room **from 10:30 'til noon** to see how this is the perfect lead-in to the New Testament fulfillment in Christ Jesus ... and to venture forth into whichever book we study next!

Gender and Sexuality Study—Through the end of October, Rebecca (our Congregational Life Facilitator) is leading a study on gender and sexuality guided by four booklets in Concordia Publishing's *A Biblical Response to...* series on **Wednesdays at 6:30-7:30 pm in the fellowship hall**. We will work through the booklets and referenced Scripture in detail, as well as related passages and explanations in the Small Catechism. The goal is to equip all with knowledge for responding faithfully to these issues with firm grounding and compassion. The pamphlets and a study schedule are available on the table by the mailboxes. **Please download the "Band" app and email or text Rebecca to send you an invite.**

Thursday Bible Study will be taking a break until the first week in November to let Pr. Ricky fully recover.

Youth Catechesis—7th & 8th graders are meeting from **1 to 3 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month** in the conference room for this time of faith formation and growth in Christ's Baptized life. If you haven't been contacted, and have a child in this age range, contact Pr. Joel so that he can put you on the list.

Adult Catechesis/Rooted in the Faith—If you'd like to know more about the Christian faith through Scripture and Luther's Small Catechism—in preparation for Baptism or Confirmation or both (or simply to learn and grow in knowing for now)—please let Pr. Joel know. A new session has started on **Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. and meeting every Thursday at that time**. If this time or day doesn't work for you and you'd still like to proceed, talk to Pr. Joel.

Mary Martha Guild

LWML Sunday (Weekend) will be October 7-8, so we will celebrate the work of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and, more specifically, our Mary-Martha Guild. We invite all the ladies to come to the meetings and then, hopefully, join us. If you would like to be a member of any of the committees (see the handout given that weekend) please let us know. You can participate in a committee without being a member of MMG.

Fellowship

First Friday Family Fun—On **October 6, at 6:00 p.m.**, Rebecca will host an outside get-together with a bonfire, s'mores, hot dogs, pumpkin painting and more. A sign-up sheet for foods that are needed is located by the mailboxes. Bring your family and friends and lawn chairs. Everything else will be provided.

College Students

The Lutheran Student Center has an evening meal and Bible study on **Thursdays at 5:00 p.m.** at 215 S. Holden. You're welcome to attend and be a part of this time for

growth and fellowship together! Also, there's an evening worship service there on the **2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m.** Check out our Facebook page for more information about how to plug in with this group!

Special Musical Event

Saint Paul High School Singing Saints will present their *Down by the Riverside* concert on **Sunday, October 8 at 4:00 p.m.** Admission is free and there will be a reception to follow. This year's performance will include the *world premiere* of "Christ, the Constant River" (words written by Pr. Joel and music composed by Nebraska professor David von Kampen). If you've never attended this 4th annual outdoor concert, the setting and sounds are glorious ... and if you have, you know that already!

Opportunities to Serve

Choir!—Rebecca Holland, our Congregational Life Facilitator, has a very important study on Gender and Sexuality from a Biblical Perspective that also meets Wednesday evenings, so we put our heads together and both modified our schedules. **Choir refreshments will be in the basement at 6:30 when her class meets from 6:30-7:30. I typically bake something yummy and try to accommodate allergies and dietary needs. Choir attendees will leave at 7:25** to rehearse from 7:30-8:30. It seemed the best compromise for the weeks this important study is happening. Rebecca has done her homework and I encourage you to attend! If you have any questions about the choir, please contact Peggy Forstad at 913-568-6921.

Bulletin Board—A section of the bulletin board at the North entrance has been dedicated to our congregation members who are home-bound and in nursing homes. Please check it out to see how you can reach out to those who can no longer come to services regularly. Send a card or leave one in the pocket on the board to be delivered during a visit. If you have a picture of a loved one you can share, please send it to Rebecca to have it posted!

Fellowship

Crafternoons—On the fourth Fridays (October 27) from 3-5 p.m., let's get together to craft! A project and supplies will be waiting for you in the fellowship hall. We'll make seasonal crafts and cards that can be shared with others and conspire to deliver them with good cheer and a visit. Cards, door decorations, and suncatchers are some examples of projects we can do together. Children are welcome to craft alongside us or to play nearby.

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.

The Games and Card Group meets on **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Youth Room downstairs. Everyone is welcome to come to this fellowship time.

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 or go out and grab something. If you have any questions, please contact Georgia Luker.

This & That

UCM Homecoming Parade is Saturday, October 21 at 9:00 a.m. Please check upcoming messages as we will be looking for help with the float and people to ride and/or walk on the float.

Sing Boldly is a group of junior high students from St. John Lutheran School in Seward, Nebraska - and they'll be presenting a hymn festival at **Grace Lutheran Church in Lexington, on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.** A hymn festival is a combination of a hymn sing and choral concert - so while the choir and handbells will present their own music, it's done in a way that also invites the gathered congregation to join in. For a sample of what the choir will present, visit SingBoldly.org/tour. You will also get to hear Grace's newly rebuilt and expanded pipe organ. We hope to see you there!

A Circuit Reformation Service for the Concordia North and Concordia South Circuits will be held on **Saturday, October 28, at 4:00 pm** at Grace Lutheran Church, 806 S Business Hwy 13, Lexington. We will sing hymns related to the Reformation, hear of events related to the Reformation, and hear God's saving Word. All are invited.

Medical Care & Housing Assistance—Katy Trail Community Health's mobile unit is in Warrensburg for the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, so the next clinic day will be on **October 10** from **9am to 3pm**. Someone from the Katy Trail clinic should still be present for making appointments and assisting on non-clinic Tuesdays, and folks from the Johnson County Resource Center will be present for housing, employment, and other assistance as well. A free lunch is served **from 11:30am-1pm**. All are welcome, and financial assistance is available! **Call 877-733-5824 to schedule an appointment, and make sure to refer others too.**

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 in shining the light of Christ! If you'd ever like to hear some of the stories of how these funds have been used, just ask Pr. Joel.

2023 Elders

Willie Crespo (last name begins A-F) 660-679-8121, crespo6fam@gmail.com

Ricky Bertels (last name begins G-K), 660-262-8080, rick1janice2@gmail.com

Jack Easterwood (last name begins L-O) 660-678-2045, easter.egg2380@gmail.com

Alan Miller (last name begins P-Z) 660-909-1764, alormiller@aol.com

FIRST FRIDAY FAMILY FUN

**October 6 at 6:00 p.m.
Outdoor Gathering**



S'mores, Hot dogs and Pumpkin painting



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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Congregation Life Facilitator

Rebecca Holland-VanWey

Wednesday: 1pm-5pm

Thursday: 1pm-5pm

rholland@blchurch.com

Bookkeeper

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 9am-11am

Thursday: 9am-11am

thillsman@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.