


MATTHEW 22:9

Invite everyone
you find



+ The 20th Sunday After Pentecost +

October 14-15, 2023

AS WE GATHER

Food is at the center of our lives—we either live to eat or eat to live, but we always eat. In the parable of our Lord this morning, we hear the kingdom of God compared to a wedding feast. When those invited proved to be unworthy, God called every kind of person from the highways and byways of life and equipped them with a wedding garment as well as an honored place at His table. This feast is the promise of Isaiah the prophet, the joyful refrain of the beloved Psalm 23, and the promise still given and kept by our Lord as we gather around His holy body and blood. But the Meal is not simply about the eating, but the food—Christ’s flesh for the life of the world and His blood that cleanses us from all our sin. Because of this, it is the supper of our joy here on earth and the supper of our glory in heaven forevermore.

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..... "In Holy Conversation" #772



1 In ho - ly con - ver - sa - tion We speak to God in prayer,
2 These ho - ly con - ver - sa - tions Be - gin in child-like ways;
3 As ho - ly con - ver - sa - tion, In si - lence or by word,
And at His in - vi - ta - tion Our deep - est thoughts we share.
We bring our sup - pli - ca - tions And words of thanks and praise.
In ev - 'ry sit - u - a - tion Through Je - sus, we are heard.
We come, His will o - bey - ing, As chil - dren bring - ing needs;
With care our Fa - ther lis - tens To ev - 'ry thought ex - pressed,
So let us pray se - cure - ly, Ex - press - ing hopes and fears
And to sup - port our pray - ing, His Spir - it in - ter - cedes.
Then an - swers our pe - ti - tions In ways He knows are best.
With con - fi - dence that sure - ly Our Fa - ther ev - er hears.

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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 "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"



1 Breathe on me, breath of God; Fill me with
2 Breathe on me, breath of God, Un - til my
3 Breathe on me, breath of God; So shall I



life a - new, That I may love all
heart is pure, Un - til with You I
nev - er die, But live with You the



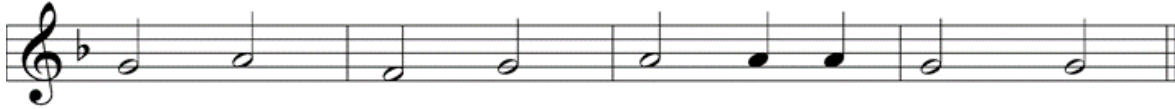
that You love And do what You would do.
 will one will To do and to en - dure.
 per - fect life Of Your e - ter - ni - ty.

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Kyrie.....page 186

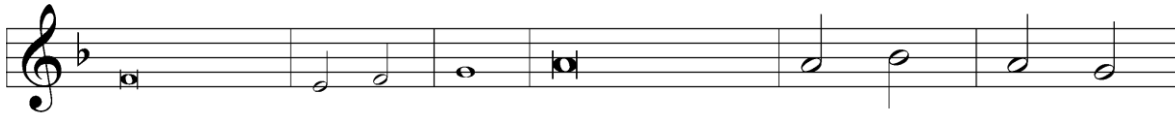


C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



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



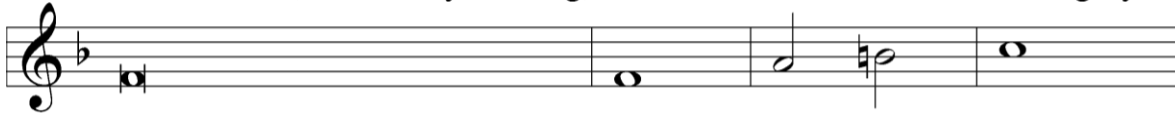
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



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;



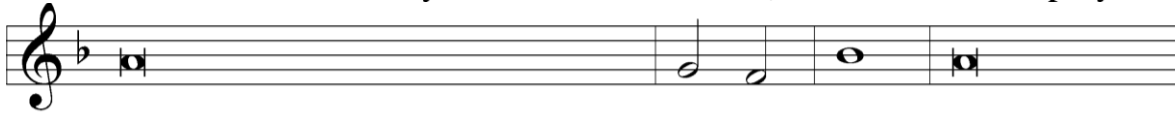
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



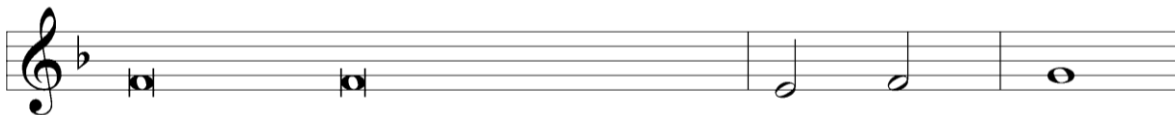
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



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.



G And with thy spir-it.



P Let us pray.

Collect of the Day *(spoken in unison)*

Almighty God, You invite us to trust in You for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of Your judgment but by the greatness of Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

Old Testament Reading..... **Isaiah 25:6-9**

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.
And he will swallow up on this mountain

the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.

He will swallow up death forever;

and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

It will be said on that day,

“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.
This is the LORD; we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

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 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.


Alleluia.....page 190



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

Holy Gospel **Matthew 22:1-14**

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



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

Again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.’ But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

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 "Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise", #680



1 Thine the a - men Thine the praise Al - le -
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly Thine the
 3 Thine the tru - ly Thine the yes Thine the
 4 Thine the king - dom Thine the prize Thine the
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night No more



lu - ias an - gels raise Thine the ev - er - last - ing head
 prom - ise let there be Thine the vi - sion Thine the tree
 ta - ble we the guest Thine the mer - cy all from Thee
 won - der full sur - prise Thine the ban - quet then the praise
 dy - ing on - ly light Thine the riv - er Thine the tree



Thine the break - ing of the bread Thine the glo - ry Thine the
 All the earth on bend - ed knee Gone the nail - ing gone the
 Thine the glo - ry yet to be Then the ring - ing and the
 Then the jus - tice of Thy ways Thine the glo - ry Thine the
 Then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly Then the ho - ly ho - ly



sto - ry Thine the har - vest then the cup Thine the
 rail - ing Gone the plead - ing gone the cry Gone the
 sing - ing Then the end of all the war Thine the
 sto - ry Then the wel - come to the least Then the
 ho - ly Cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee Thine the



vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
 sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
 liv - ing Thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
 won - der all in - creas - ing at Thy feast at Thy feast.
 splen - dor Thine the bright - ness on - ly Thee on - ly Thee.

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Sermon..... "What Kind of a Feast is This?!"

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.



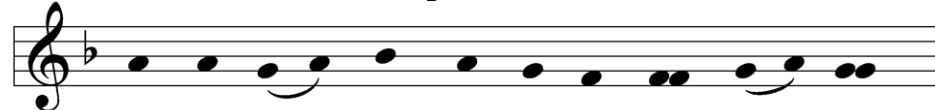
C And with thy spir - it.



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.

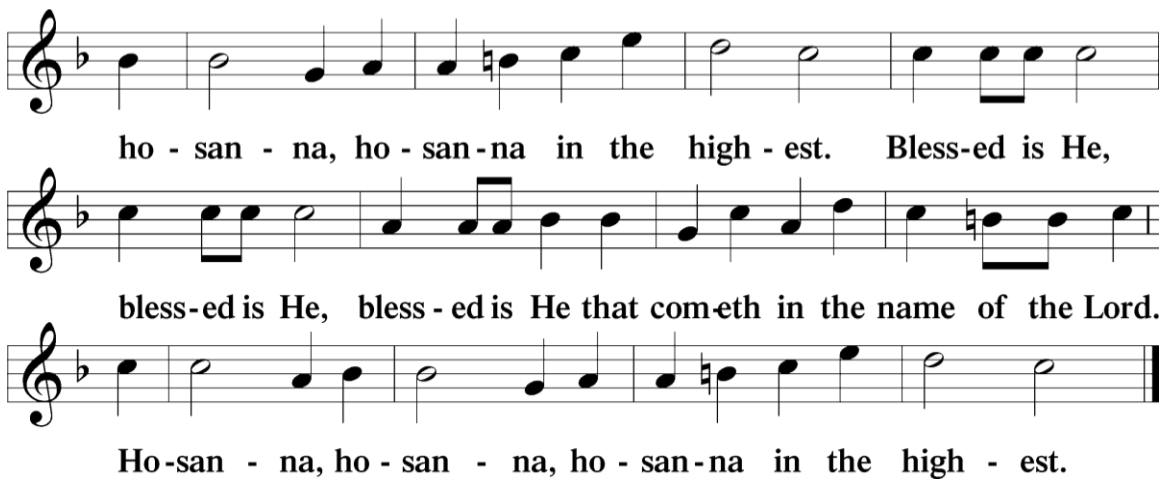
P It is truly meet, right and salutary . . . evermore praising You and singing:



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,



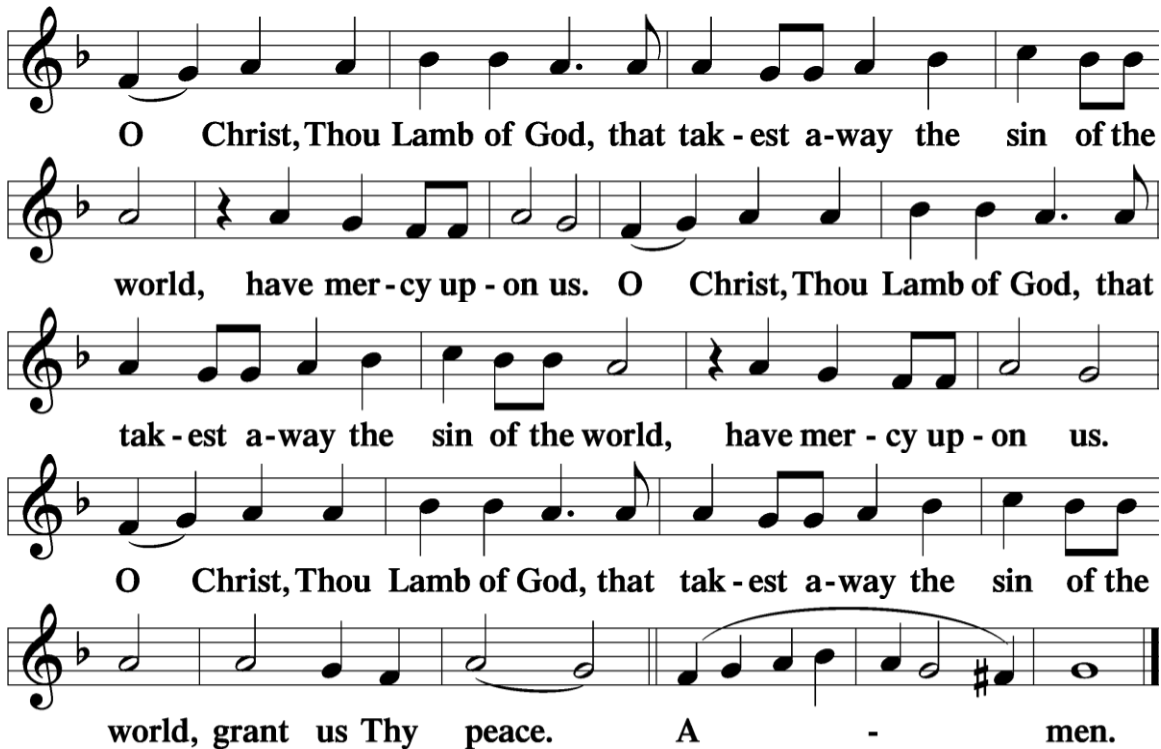
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
 bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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/Silent Reflection

(Sunday Only Hymns)

Communion Hymn "O Gracious Lord, I Firmly Am Believing #635



1 O gra - cious Lord, I firm - ly am be - liev - ing
2 Lord, I have sinned, a thou - sand times of - fend - ing;
3 You see my sin yet seat me at Your ta - ble;
4 O Lamb of God, my faith - ful, lov - ing Sav - ior,
5 Heav - en - ly Bread, my life and ben - e - dic - tion,



Your bound - less love will bless each faith - ful soul,
My thank - less thoughts and words and deeds e - raise,
Lord, as a guest, I sure - ly am the least:
You I em - brace in faith and ho - ly love;
This cup You give can take a - way each ill.



As from this al - tar we are here re - ceiv - ing
To me Your hand of mer - cy now ex - tend - ing,
Un - clean, un - fit, of wor - thy deeds un - a - ble—
Grant me the strength to show by my be - hav - ior
Come and re - lieve my soul from all af - flic - tion;



Your bod - y and Your blood to make us whole,
O God, my Sav - ior, I im - plore Your grace,
My heart pre - pare for this most ho - ly feast,
A life now hid - den in Your reign a - bove,
Calm ev - 'ry sigh un - til my heart is still,



Your bod - y and Your blood to make us whole.
O God, my Sav - ior, I im - plore Your grace.
My heart pre - pare for this most ho - ly feast.
A life now hid - den in Your reign a - bove.
Calm ev - 'ry sigh un - til my heart is still.

Communion Hymn "Lord, This Day We've Come to Worship", #911 (4-5)



4 As we meet our bless-ed Sav-ior At the Ta-ble of the Lord,
5 Cel-e-brate the res-ur-rec-tion In the church and sing His praise,

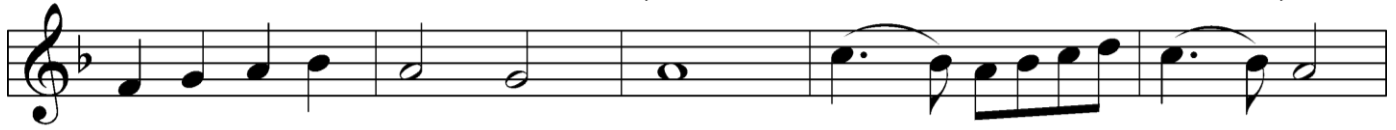


May this bod-y bro-ken for us Strength and com-fort, Lord, af-ford.
Till we come to true per-fec-tion: Serve the Lord through all our days.

Refrain



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia,



Al-le-lu-ia, praise the Lord! Al-le-lu-ia,



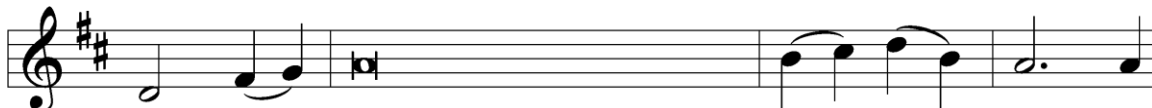
al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, praise the Lord!

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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*

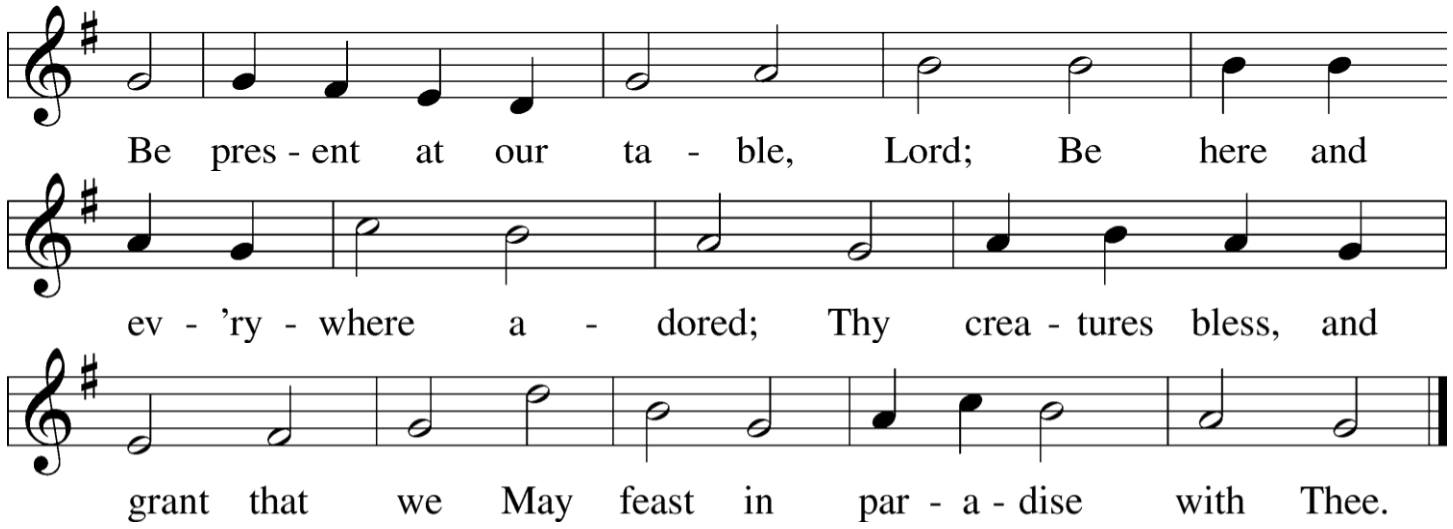
P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus..... *page 202*

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

Benediction..... *page 202*

Sending Hymn *“Be Present at Our Table, Lord” #775*



Be pres - ent at our ta - ble, Lord; Be here and
 ev - 'ry - where a - dored; Thy crea - tures bless, and
 grant that we May feast in par - a - dise with Thee.

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Dismissal (Bethlehem’s Mission)

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

Postlude

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Next week’s readings:

O.T. Isaiah 45:1-7; EP: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

Attendance Last Saturday: 36	Attendance Last Sunday: 59
Total Offering: \$4,240.00	Missions: \$0.00
Home Use: \$4,201.00	Benevolences: \$39.00

Serving us today:

- Elders..... Jack Easterwood (Sat), Willie Crespo (Sun)
- Musicians Rich Vanderburgh
- Soloists Becky Limback (Sat), Abby Humphrey (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
- 3:00 p.m. Youth Get Together
- Monday 9:30 a.m. Exercise Class

	2:00 p.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park
Tuesday	3:00 p.m.	Mission Board Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Funeral for Denniss Spanton
	6:30 p.m.	Gender & Sexuality Study/Choir Fellowship
	7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday		<i>Pr. Joel on vacation through November 1</i>
	9:30 a.m.	Rebecca at Warrensburg Christian School
	11:00 a.m.	Lunch Bunch
	1:00 p.m.	Games and <i>Cards</i> Group
	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Meeting
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	UCM Parade
	11:00 a.m.	Trustees' Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Worship
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Christian Education
	10:30 a.m.	Worship

Absence/Presence

While Pr. Joel is on vacation, Pr. Ricky Bertels will be leading worship and preaching for the weekend services. If a need arises, please contact your elder or the head elder, Willie Crespo. (Pr. Joel and Carol will be enjoying a family gathering in the Carolinas.)

Prayers

For Pat Spanton, family and friends who mourn the loss of Denniss Spanton who passed away this week. May Christ the Risen Lord fill them with all comfort and peace as they commend him to the Lord's eternal keeping!

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, Mel Bockelman, Paula Brewer, Mark Brown, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Bob & Barbara Compton, Marion Droege, Wilma Gertz, Peggy Forstad, 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, 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!

Special Days for Members This Week

Birthdays—Marvin Kreisel-14th, Ken Pederson-14th, Cindy Smith-14th, Corinne Allison-15th, Carol Dreier-16th, Jo Greife-16th, Ethan Hillsman-16th, Jeremy Allison-18th, Ron Mabrey-20th. **Anniversaries**—Jerry and Karon Harding-14th, Mark and Christine Steitz-17th.

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

Adult Bible Class will be joining with the Jr. and Sr. Sunday School classes on **October 21 & 28** during Pastor's absence. All will be downstairs in the fellowship hall, with the opening devotion happening at **9:15 a.m.** in front of the wooden altar. The Adult *Proverbs* Bible Study **will resume on November 5** in the conference room.

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!

Let's join the LCMS Memory Verse Challenge! The Sunday School children will be challenged to learn these verses every week, and you can too! To help make this easy to do and remember, each Sunday I will post the weekly verse on the BLC Facebook page, provide a coloring page with the verse printed on it to take home (find this at the mailboxes), and post the verse in the **Band** app. Download this free app and join the group **BLC Sunday School**. I created a Group Challenge (Rehearse the weekly memory verse), for which you can check-in daily. I'll make a new challenge for each month. You can also visit lcms.org/worship/memory-verse-challenge to find the weekly verse.

Wednesday Bible Study won't be meeting again until November 8 since Pastor will be on vacation.

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.**

Faith Night happens on the first Wednesday of every month with a simple shared potluck meal from **5:30 to 6:00** (or so), followed by a faith discussion **until 6:45**. Through the end of the year, we're focusing on *Keeping Every Moment HOLY* by reflecting on liturgies and prayers from this great new resource in book or app form (www.everymomentholy.com). **Since November 1 is All Saints' Day**, Rebecca will be leading and sharing attentive ways to pray through grief and give thanks for the lives of those no longer with us. Plan on coming for this beneficial time together!

Youth

Youth Group—the Jr. and Sr. youth will be gathering this **Sunday, October 15 at 3:00 p.m.** to take a leaf walk on the nature trail and have some fellowship and game time.

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!

Opportunities to Serve

Our next Family Fun Night on November 3 will have a Veteran's Day theme. Veterans, please email or bring in copies of your boot camp picture, or some young-service-member-you picture. We will dedicate one of the wooden display cases near the kitchen to our member veterans and post these pictures there.

Christmas Kindness Fair—On November 18 from 1-4pm, Bethlehem will host a Christmas Kindness Fair at which children can make crafts to give as gifts. In the fellowship hall, several tables will be set up as craft stations. Each station will need a leader to help children make the craft. Crafts could include painted picture frames, beaded bracelets, felt coasters, and more. This will be an event open to the

community. We will ask for a free-will admission offering for The Christmas Store. I need your help! Do you have a craft project that you could help kids make? Can you help at the fair by leading a craft or greeting visitors? Could you prepare craft materials in advance? Would you help me market the event in your network? Let Rebecca know!

Choir will rehearse from 7:30-8:30 pm through the month of October. Holli Burge will be directing in the absence of Peggy.

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

It's Fall Fellowship Time! —Join us after service on **Saturday, October 28 and Sunday October 29** (Reformation weekend) for some fall treats and good time visiting with each other.

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

The UCM Homecoming Parade is Saturday, October 21 at 9:00 a.m. Please contact Rebecca Holland-VanWey or the church office if you would like to help with the float or ride/walk in the parade. We are also taking donations of candy to hand out. You can put those in the box next to Pastor's office.

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.

The Johnson County Resource Center happens every Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the basement of First Presbyterian Church (206 N. College)—providing breakfast, a hot lunch, and a place to hang out. Housing assistance and case management are provided, as well as Medicaid signup. **Katy Trail's Mobile Medical Unit provides health care on every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month.** Everything is free, so that is the place to be for those struggling with the basics!

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

UCM PARADE

Saturday, October 21, 9:00 a.m.

Float Preparation

Friday, October 20 at 6:00 p.m.

VanWey's place (429 Grover)

Walkers and Riders

Please **text** Rebecca Holland (660) 441-1271

if you are able to participate.

Candy Donations

If you are able to donate a bag of candy to hand out,
please drop it off in the box by Pastor's door.

Much thanks to Penny and Scott Humphrey for providing the
truck, trailer, and their time for the parade again this year.



Fall FELLOWSHIP

Come and enjoy some of your fall favorites



Cupcakes
Carmel Apples
Apple Cider
and more



**October 28 and 29
(following each service)
Fellowship Hall**



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: jkurz@blchurch.com

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

Office Manager

Cindy Smith

Monday–Friday: 8am-5pm

660-747-6742

csmith@blchurch.com

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.