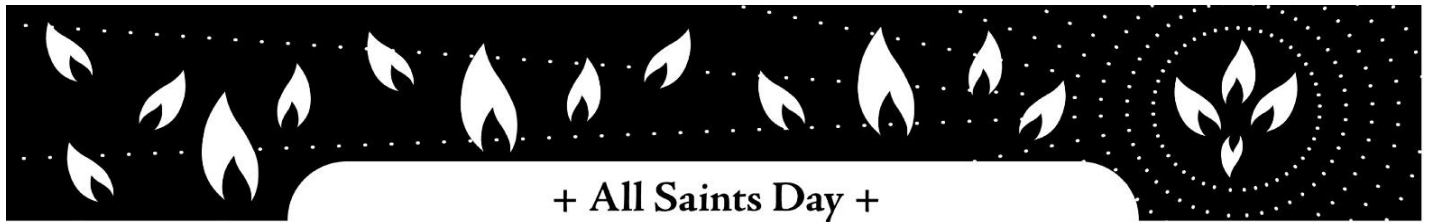




God will
wipe away
every tear
from their eyes

REVELATION 7:17



+ All Saints Day +
November 4-5, 2023
(All Saints—Observed)

AS WE GATHER

Every year on either November 1 or the first Sunday of November, we pause our busy lives to remember the saints. Lutherans teach that saints are sinners baptized into Christ, they are sinners redeemed by the cross of Jesus, and they are sinners who gave us examples of trusting not in their own heroic feats but in the grace and mercy of God in Jesus. Why remember saints? Our Augsburg Confession of 1530 says it clearly: “Our churches teach that the history of saints may be set before us so that we may follow the example of their faith and good works, according to our calling” (AC XXI 1). Why remember the saints? To thank God for their life and witness, to be encouraged in our walk of faith, and to remember and rejoice for God giving us examples of how grace and faith look in the real lives of people we knew.

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.

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 Jerrode Marsh

Pastoral Welcome

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

Please rise.

Invocation Hymn..... "We Sing for All the Unsung Saints" #678



1 We sing for all the un-sung saints, That count-less, name-less throng,
2 Though un-in-scribed with date or place, With ti-tle, rank, or name,
3 So we take heart from un-known saints Be-reft of earth-ly fame,



Who kept the faith and passed it on With hope stead-fast and strong
As liv-ing stones their sto-ries join To form a hal-lowed frame
Those faith-ful ones who have re-ceived A more en-dur-ing name:



Through all the dai-ly griefs and joys No chron-i-cles re-cord,
A-round the mys-t'ry in their midst: The Lamb once sac-ri-ficed,
For they re-veal true bless-ing comes When we our pride ef-face



For-get-ful of their lack of fame, But mind-ful of their Lord.
The Love that wrest-ed life from death, The wound-ed, ris-en Christ.
And of-fer back our lives to be The ves-sels of God's grace.

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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 "Heavenly Hosts in Ceaseless Worship", #949



1 Heav'n-ly hosts in cease-less wor-ship "Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly" cry;
2 All cre-a-tion, all re-demp-tion, Join to sing the Sav-ior's worth;



"He who is, who was and will be, God Al-might-y, Lord Most High."
Lamb of God, whose blood has bought us, Kings and priests, to reign on earth.



Praise and hon-or, pow'r and glo-ry, Be to Him who reigns a-lone!
Wealth and wis-dom, pow'r and glo-ry, Hon-or, might, do-min-ion, praise,



We, with all His hands have fash - ioned, Fall be - fore the Fa - ther's throne.
 Now be His from all His crea - tures And to ev - er - last - ing days!

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Kyrie.....*page 186*



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



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

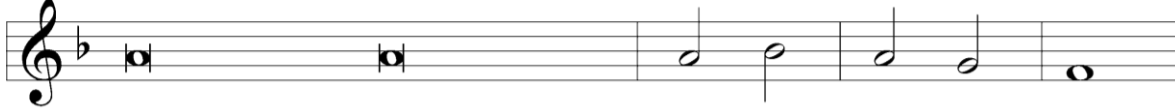
Gloria in Excelsis.....*page 187*



☐ Glory be to God on high: **☐** and on earth peace, good - will toward



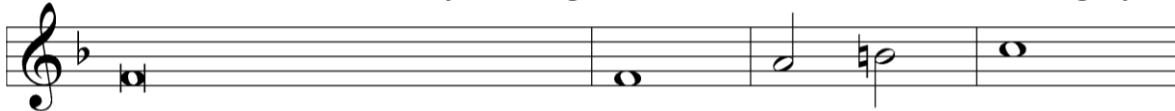
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



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;



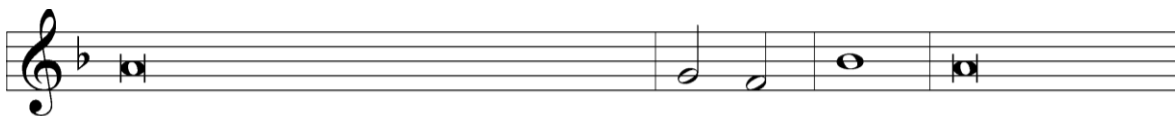
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



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



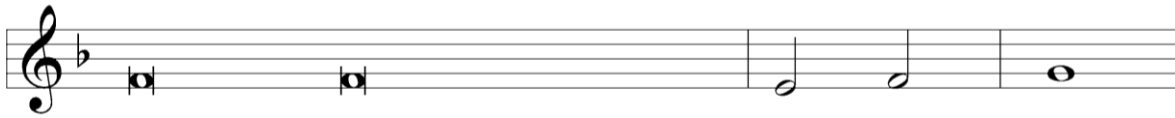
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.



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.

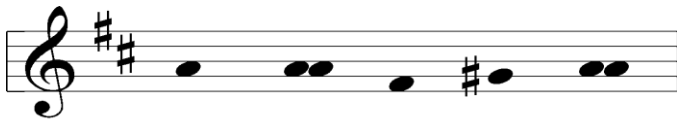


Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,



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 and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading **Revelation 7:9-17**

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels were standing around the throne

and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

"Therefore they are before the throne of God,
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;
the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.

For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 149.....(*front of hymnal, spoken responsively*)

Praise the LORD!

Sing to the LORD a new song,

his praise in the assembly of the godly!

Let Israel be glad in his Maker;

let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!

Let them praise his name with dancing,

making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!

For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;

he adorns the humble with salvation.

Let the godly exult in glory;

let them sing for joy on their beds.

Let the high praises of God be in their throats

and two-edged swords in their hands,

to execute vengeance on the nations

and punishments on the peoples,

to bind their kings with chains

and their nobles with fetters of iron,

to execute on them the judgment written!

This is honor for all his godly ones. Praise the LORD!

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 Reading1 John 3:1-3

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

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 5:1-12

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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 "For All the Saints", #677 (1-4)



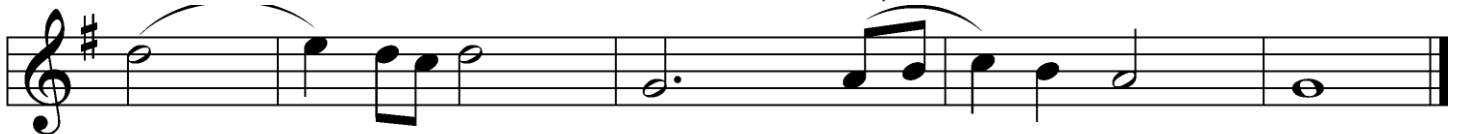
1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,
2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
3 Oh, may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
4 Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!



Who Thee by faith before the world confessed, Thy
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old And
We fee-bly struggle, they in glory shine; Yet



name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
Thou, in the dark - ness dwell, their one true light.
win with them the vic - tor's crown of gold!
all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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Sermon..... "The Blessing of Saints"

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

All Saints' Remembrance & Prayer of Commendation

(A candle will be lit for each of the three members of our church family who left the assembly of the saints below for the saints above between today and last All Saints' Day—Johnny Nichol, Judy Pierce, Denniss Spanton—plus one for those we call to mind from our other circles in life.)

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.



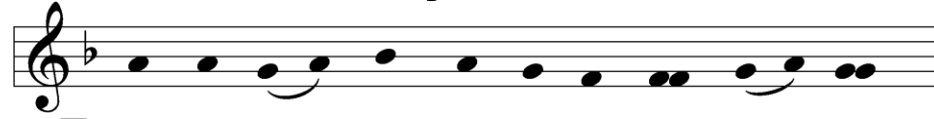
C And with thy spir - it.



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

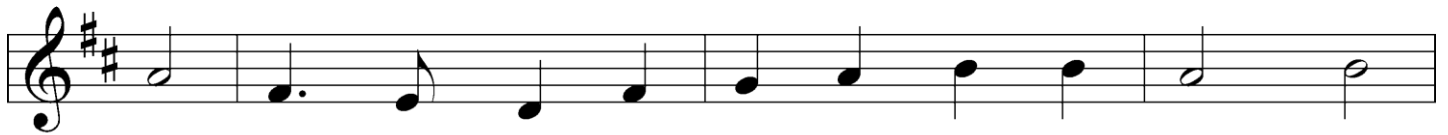
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin of the
 world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
 tak - est a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin of the
 world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

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 "Wide Open Stand the Gates", #639



1 Wide o - pen stand the gates a - dorned with pearl, While
2 He speaks the Word the bread and wine to bless: "This
3 The cher - u - bim, their fac - es veiled from light, While



round God's gold - en throne The choirs of saints in
is My flesh and blood!" He bids us eat and
saints in won - der kneel, Sing praise to Him whose



end - less cir - cles curl, And joy - ous praise the Son!
drink with thank - ful - ness This gift of ho - ly food.
face with glo - ry bright No earth - ly masks con - ceal.



They watch Him now de - scend - ing To vis - it wait-ing earth.
All hu - man thought must fal - ter— Our God stoops low to heal,
This sac - ra - ment God gives us Binds us in u - ni - ty,



The Lord of Life un - end - ing Brings dy - ing hope new birth!
Now pres - ent on the al - tar, For us both host and meal!
Joins earth with heav'n be - yond us, Time with e - ter - ni - ty!

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Communion Hymn "Behold a Host, Arrayed in White", #676



1 Be - hold a host, ar - rayed in white, Like thou - sand
2 De - spised and scorned, they so - journed here; But now, how
3 O bless - ed saints in bright ar - ray Now safe - ly

snow - clad moun - tains bright! With palms they stand; Who
 glo - rious they ap - pear! Those mar - tyrs stand, A
 home in end - less day, Ex - tol the Lord, Who
 is this band Be - fore the throne of light? These are the
 priest - ly band, God's throne for - ev - er near. On earth they
 with His Word Sus - tained you on the way. The steep and
 saints of glo - rious fame, Who from the great af -
 wept through bit - ter years; Now God has wiped a -
 nar - row path you trod; You toiled and sowed the
 flic - tion came And in the flood Of Je - sus' blood
 way their tears, Trans - formed their strife To heav'n - ly life,
 Word a - broad; Re - joice and bring Your fruits and sing
 Are cleansed from guilt and shame. They now serve God both
 And freed them from their fears. They now en - joy the
 Be - fore the throne of God. The myr - iad an - gels
 day and night; They sing their songs in end - less light. Their
 Sab - bath rest, The heav'n - ly ban - quet of the blest; The
 raise their song; O saints, sing with that hap - py throng! Lift
 an - thems ring As they all sing With an - gels shin - ing bright.
 Lamb, their Lord, At fes - tive board Him - self is host and guest.
 up one voice; Let heav'n re - joice In our Re - deem - er's song!

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Communion Hymn *“Jerusalem the Golden”, #672*

1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With milk and hon - ey blest—
 2 With-in those walls of Zi - on Sounds forth the joy - ful song,
 3 A - round the throne of Da - vid, The saints, from care re - leased,
 4 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try, The home of God's e - lect!

The prom - ise of sal - va - tion, The place of peace and rest—
 As saints join with the an - gels And all the mar - tyr throng.
 Raise loud their songs of tri - umph To cel - e - brate the feast.
 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try That faith - ful hearts ex - pect!

We know not, oh, we know not What joys a - wait us there:
 The Prince is ev - er with them; The day - light is se - rene;
 They sing to Christ their lead - er, Who con - quered in the fight,
 In mer - cy, Je - sus, bring us To that e - ter - nal rest

The ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, The bliss be - yond com - pare!
 The cit - y of the bless - ed Shines bright with glo - rious sheen.
 Who won for them for - ev - er Their gleam - ing robes of white.
 With You and God the Fa - ther And Spir - it, ev - er blest.

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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.

Benedictionpage 202

Sending Hymn "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen" #474 (3-5)



3 Je - sus the vine, We are the branch - es; Life in the
4 Weep-ing, be gone; Sor - row, be si - lent: Death put a -
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er, Gold - en Je -



Spir - it the fruit of the tree; Heav - en to earth, Christ to the
sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright. Cher - u - bim sing: "O grave, be
ru - sa-lem, Je - sus the Lamb, Riv - er of life, Saints and arch-



peo - ple, Gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
o - pen!" Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
an - gels, Sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

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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:

O.T.: Amos 5:18-24; Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

Attendance Last Saturday: 27

Total Offering: \$13836.00

Home Use: \$3053.00

Attendance Last Sunday: 53

Missions: \$0.00

Benevolences/Non Offering: \$10,783.00

Serving us today:

Elders.....Jack Easterwood (Sat), Willie Crespo, Alan Miller (Sun)

MusiciansJerode Marsh

Soloists Penny Humphrey (Sat), Stephanie Schumaker (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
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Card Group
	3:30 p.m.	Adult Faith Formation Class
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study-Ezekiel
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Saturday	3:00 p.m.	Benefit Concert for Ukraine Refugee Assistance
	5:30 p.m.	Worship
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Christian Education
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
	12:00 p.m.	Annual Meeting (lunch provided)

Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar this weekend are in celebration of **Duane and Becky Limback's 60th** wedding anniversary which was on the 9th. We pray that Christ's love continues to abound in their life together, and that they know his every goodness and grace.

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,

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, 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!

Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting—Bethlehem's 2022 Annual Meeting will take place on **Sunday, November 12** after service. Lunch will be served by the Fellowship Committee. All members age 18 and above are encouraged to attend.

Special Days for Members This Week

Birthdays—Lauren Hagle-6th, Andrew Burden-9th, Liz Fatka-10th, Kathy Marshall-10th. **Anniversary**—Duane and Becky Limback-9th.

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).

Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings downstairs for ages Preschool through 12th grade. 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!

Christmas Program—Beginning November 12th thru December 17th, children's Sunday school will start at 9:00am to give us time to practice for the Christmas program. The joint Sunday school opening with the adults will be on hiatus during this time.

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 will resume on **November 8**. We've started exploring 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.

Thursday Bible Study will resume on **November 9 at 7:00 p.m.** with Pastor Bertels' continued study on the book of Ezekial. We will begin with Chapter 20.

Music

Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Warrensburg will be presenting a benefit concert on St. Martin's Day, Saturday, November 11, at 3pm. The concert will feature Gary Moege (Horn), Lorraine Miller (Flute), and Jerrode Marsh (Piano). The concert will feature some of the great German composers, including J.S. Bach, Felix Mendelssohn, Robert Schumann, and Johannes Brahms. The donations raised from this program will go directly to support the Ukrainian refugee assistance work being done in Germany, particularly in the eastern region of Germany, near the town of Cottbus. Donations can be given to Bethlehem Lutheran, with designation in the memo line Ukrainian Refugee Assistance. St. Martin of Tours is widely recognized around the world as the patron saint of the poor so this concert is very fitting to be taking place on this date. Please join us for an afternoon of beautiful music that will inspire your heart with generosity to give to those who are in great need of assistance!

Choir will meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 for fellowship time and rehearse from 7:00-8:00p.m. We are always looking for new members. Please contact Peggy Forstad with any questions about joining the choir.

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

Thrivent will hold their annual blanket drive during the month of November. The blankets will be distributed locally to families (sometimes to families whose home has burned) and to others in need. We are looking for new blankets or for gently used ones. There will be plastic totes located at both doors for you to use. Hopeful that you will be able to help!

The 50th year of Christmas Store has officially begun with Bethlehem being the host church. We have already started signing up people. We have also begun our quest for donations by sending out letters to 393 previous donors. You can donate in several ways: **Pay Pal Charities** has us in their list of charities, **Mail** a check to the Food Center or donate at **The Food Center.org** and click the donate button on the Christmas Store area. **We will also be needing help handing out the vouchers on December 13, 14, 15, 16. If you can help please let me know. Sue Cottrill.**

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

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!

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 and That

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

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.