




# ENTER INTO JOY

MATTHEW 25:21





+ The 25th Sunday After Pentecost +  
**November 18-19, 2023**

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### AS WE GATHER

I--The Last Day may come soon, but in the meantime, many people are neglecting to use their abilities and opportunities for God's purposes. Zephaniah writes that it will be a day of wrath and mourning. But for those who have realized God's blessings over the years, as Psalm 90 recalls, though the times are mean, each day is an opportunity to "encourage one another and build one another up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Today is an opportunity to hear God's very gracious Word, "well done!" and be strengthened to respond by using the talents He has loaned to us.

II--This Sunday and next we will consider how we should live between now and the Last Day. Our preparation for it is not a matter of simply believing correctly, for that would make our faith to be a good work. Rather, we are living in the end times, and by grace the Lord has already consecrated His guests. A Gospel-centered life means letting the Good News affect how we live in love today. Paul says we should "encourage one another and build one another up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11). We are very much like the servants in the Gospel, using the treasure our master has entrusted to us. We dare not keep our talents hidden, for they belong to God and should be invested! The Good News—that our Savior will return on that Day—is reason enough to take risks, investing our faith in loving the people around us.

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### REGARDING COMMUNION

*When we gather at the Lord's Table, the cup of blessing we receive is a sharing in the blood of Christ; the bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ. We who are many are one bread and body in Christ (1 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.

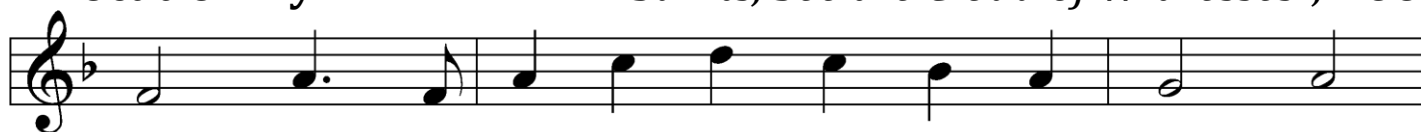
**Prelude**

**Pastoral Welcome**

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

**Please rise.**

**Invocation Hymn..... "Saints, See the Cloud of Witnesses", #667**



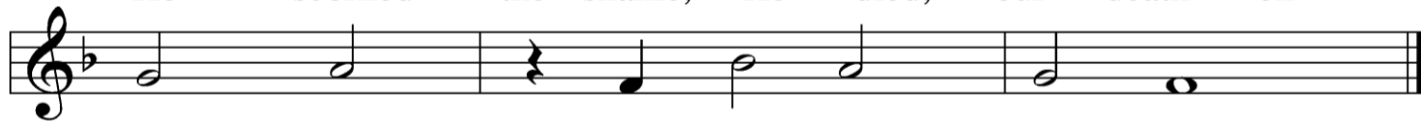
1 Saints, see the cloud of wit - ness - es sur - round us;  
2 These saints of old re - ceived God's com - men - da - tion;  
3 They call to us, "Your tim - id foot - steps length - en;  
4 Come, let us fix our sight on Christ who suf - fered,



Their lives of faith en - cour - age and as - tound us.  
They lived as pil - grim - heirs of His sal - va - tion.  
Throw off sin's weight, your halt - ing weak - ness strength - en.  
He faced the cross, His sin - less life He of - fered;



Hear how the Mas - ter praised their faith so  
Through faith they con - quered flame and sword and  
We kept the faith, we shed our blood, were  
He scorned the shame, He died, our death en -



fer - vent: "Well done, My ser - vant!"  
gal - lows, God's name to hal - low.  
mar - tyred; Our lives we bar - tered."  
dur - ing, Our hope se - cur - ing.

5 Lord, give us faith to walk where  
You are sending,  
On paths unmarked, eyes blind as  
to their ending;  
Not knowing where we go, but that  
You lead us—  
With grace precede us.

6 You, Jesus, You alone deserve all  
glory!  
Our lives unfold, embraced within  
Your story;  
Past, present, future—You, the  
same forever—  
You fail us never!

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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** ..... "O God of Light", #836



1 O God of light, Your Word, a lamp un - fail - ing,  
 2 From days of old, through blind and will - ful a - ges,  
 3 Un - dimmed by time, those words are still re - veal - ing  
 4 To all the world Your sum - mons You are send - ing,



Shall pierce the dark - ness of our earth - bound way  
 Though we re - belled, You gent - ly sought a - gain  
 To sin - ful hearts Your jus - tice and Your grace;  
 Through all the earth, to ev - 'ry land and race,



And show Your grace, Your plan for us un - veil - ing,  
 And spoke through saints, a - pos - tles, proph - ets, sa - ges,  
 And quest - ing spir - its, long - ing for Your heal - ing,  
 That myr - iad tongues, in one great an - them blend - ing,



And guide our foot - steps to the per - fect day.  
 Who wrote with ea - ger or re - luc - tant pen.  
 See Your com - pas - sion in the Sav - ior's face.  
 May praise and cel - e - brate Your gift of grace.

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**Kyrie.....page 186**

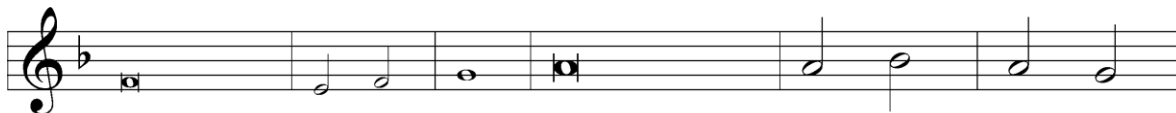


**☐** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



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.



And with thy spir - it.

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

Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; 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 ..... Zephaniah 1:7-16

Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is near;  
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice  
and consecrated his guests.

And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—

"I will punish the officials and the king's sons  
and all who array themselves in foreign attire.

On that day I will punish

everyone who leaps over the threshold,  
and those who fill their master's house  
with violence and fraud.

"On that day," declares the LORD,

"a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,  
a wail from the Second Quarter,  
a loud crash from the hills.

Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!

For all the traders are no more;  
all who weigh out silver are cut off.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,  
and I will punish the men

who are complacent,

those who say in their hearts,

'The LORD will not do good,  
nor will he do ill.'

Their goods shall be plundered,  
and their houses laid waste.

Though they build houses,  
they shall not inhabit them;  
though they plant vineyards,  
they shall not drink wine from them.”

The great day of the LORD is near,  
near and hastening fast;  
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;  
the mighty man cries aloud there.

A day of wrath is that day,  
a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of ruin and devastation,  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness,  
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry  
against the fortified cities  
and against the lofty battlements.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual** ..... (*spoken in unison*)

**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.**

**Blessèd are those whose strength is in you,  
in whose heart are the highways to Zion. (*Revelation 7-14b*)**

**Epistle Reading** ..... **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether



we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

**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 25:14-30**

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



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with

interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

**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.*

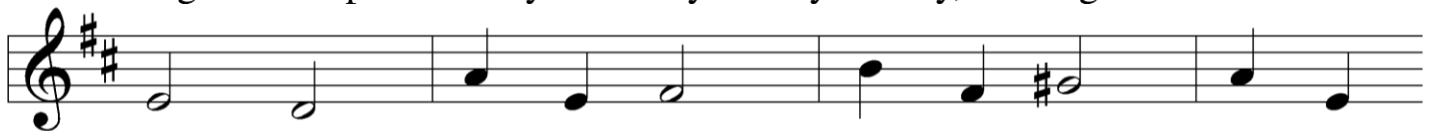
**Hymn of the Day** ..... *“Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray”, #663*



1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep a - wak -  
 2 Watch a - gainst the dev - il's snares Lest a - sleep he find  
 3 Watch! Let not the wick - ed world With its lies de - feat  
 4 Watch a - gainst your - self, my soul, Lest with grace you tri -  
 5 But while watch - ing, al - so pray To the Lord un - ceas -



en! Be not by the e - vil day Un - a - wares o'er -  
 you; For in - deed no pains he spares To de - ceive and  
 you Lest with bold de - cep - tions hurled It be - tray and  
 fle; Let not self your thoughts con - trol Nor God's mer - cy  
 ing. God pro - tects you day by day, Strength and faith in -



tak - en; For the foe, Well we know, Is a  
 blind you. Sa - tan's prey Oft are they Who se -  
 cheat you. Watch and see Lest there be Faith - less  
 sti - fle. Pride and sin Lurk with - in, All your  
 creas - ing, So that still Mind and will Shall u -



har - vest reap - ing While the saints are sleep - ing.  
 cure are sleep - ing And no watch are keep - ing.  
 friends to charm you, Who but seek to harm you.  
 hopes to shat - ter; Heed not when they flat - ter.  
 nite to serve Him And for - ev - er love Him.

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**Sermon**..... *“Living in Trust”*

*Please rise.*

**Offertory** ..... *pages 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 Liturgy .....pages 194-197



**P** The Lord be with you.



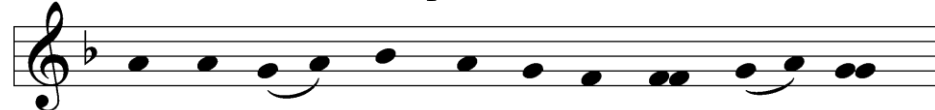
**C** And with thy spir - it.



**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.

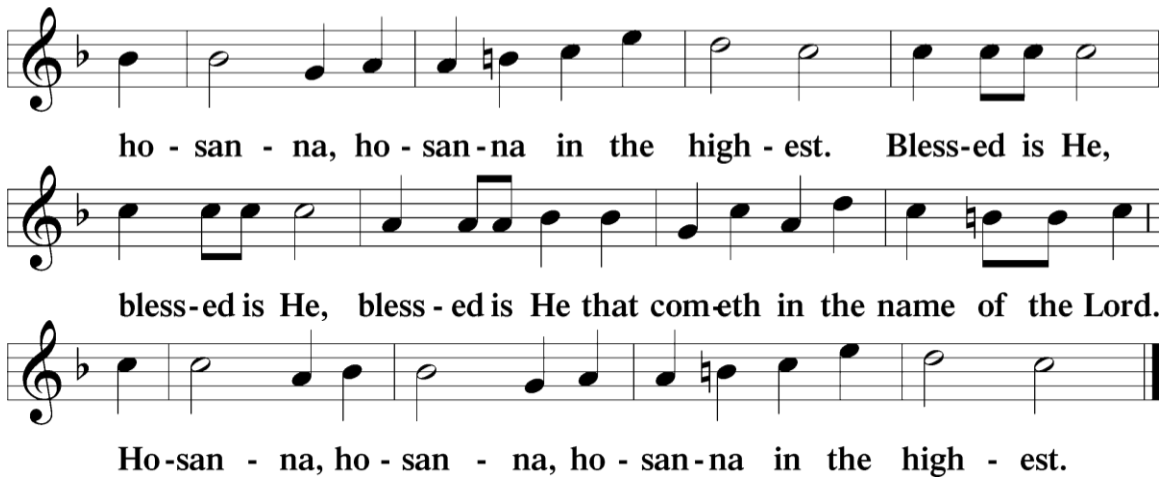
**P** It is truly meet, right and salutary . . . evermore praising You and singing:



**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,



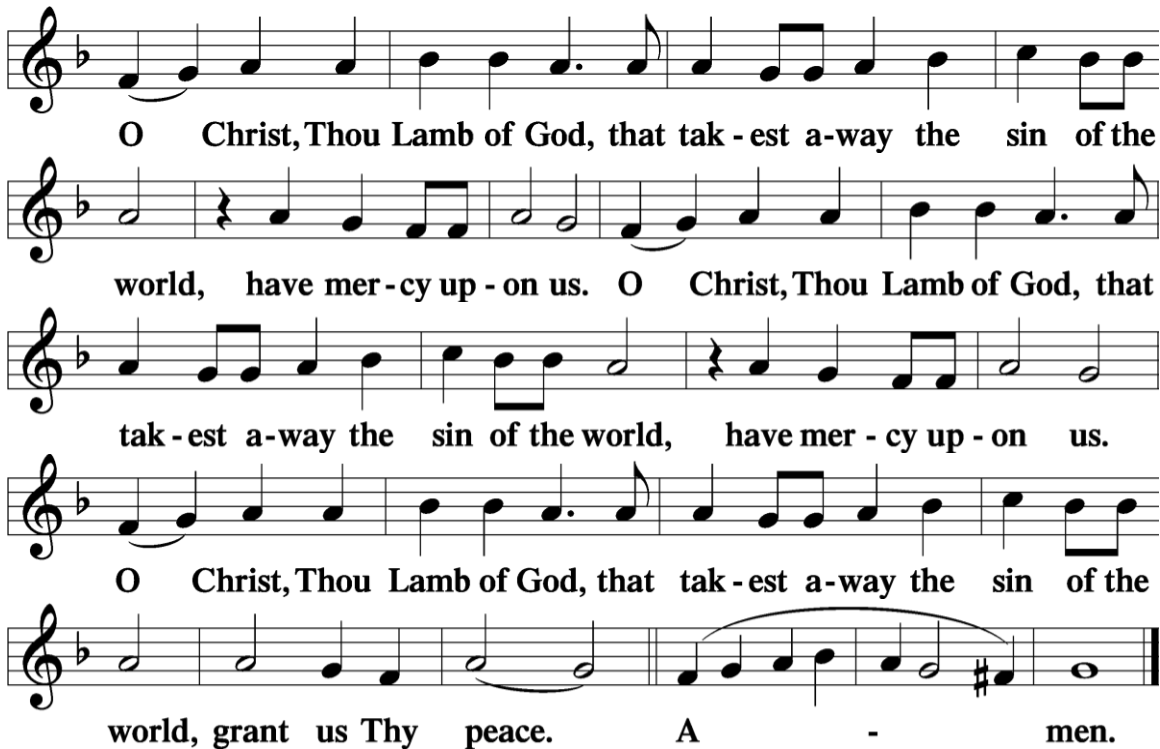
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,  
 bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**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.

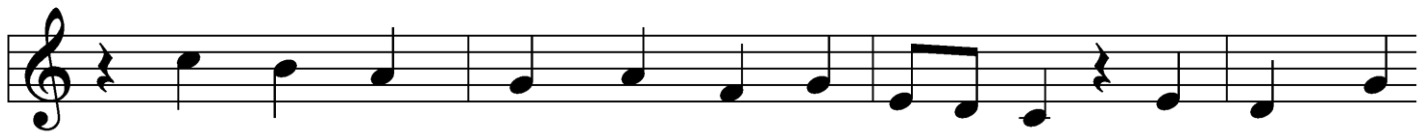
*Sit (until motioned to rise and proceed forward if going for Communion or a blessing).*

**Communion Distribution**

**Instrumental/Silent Reflection**

**(Sunday Only Hymns)**

**Communion Hymn** ..... "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table", #618



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and  
 2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners  
 3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I  
 4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my  
 5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -  
 may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in  
 have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt  
 soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -  
 bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:  
 faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.  
 ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:  
 ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.  
 heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.

*Refrain*



Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

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## Communion Hymn ..... "Church of God, Elect and Glorious", #646



1 Church of God, e - lect and glo - rious, Ho - ly  
 2 God has called you out of dark - ness In - to  
 3 Once you were an al - ien peo - ple, Strang - ers  
 4 Church of God, e - lect and ho - ly, Be the



na - tion, cho - sen race; Called as God's own  
 His most mar - v'ulous light; Brought His truth to  
 to God's heart of love; But He brought you  
 peo - ple He in - tends; Strong in faith and



spe - cial peo - ple, Roy - al priests and heirs of  
 life with - in you, Turned your blind - ness in - to  
 home in mer - cy, Cit - i - zens of heav'n a -  
 swift to an - swer Each com - mand your Mas - ter



grace: Know the pur - pose of your call - ing,  
 sight. Let your light so shine a - round you  
 bove. Let His love flow out to oth - ers,  
 sends: Roy - al priests, ful - fill your call - ing



Show to all His might - y deeds; Tell of love that  
 That God's name is glo - ri - fied And all find fresh  
 Let them feel a Fa - ther's care; That they too may  
 Through your sac - ri - fice and prayer; Give your lives in

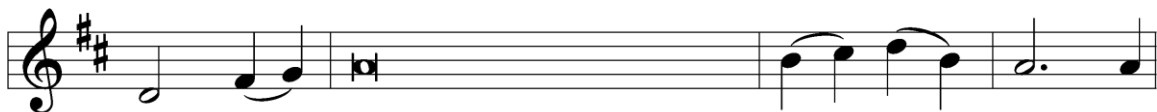


knows no lim - its, Grace that meets all hu - man needs.  
 hope and pur - pose In Christ Je - sus cru - ci - fied.  
 know His wel - come And His count - less bless - ings share.  
 joy - ful ser - vice— Sing His praise, His love de - clare.

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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,



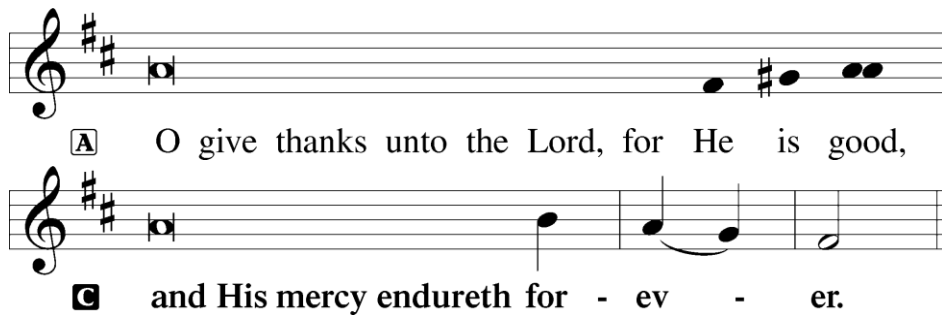
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,





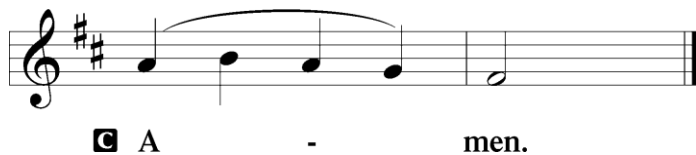
a light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the glo-ry of Thy  
 peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo-ry be to the Father and  
 to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
 is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

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



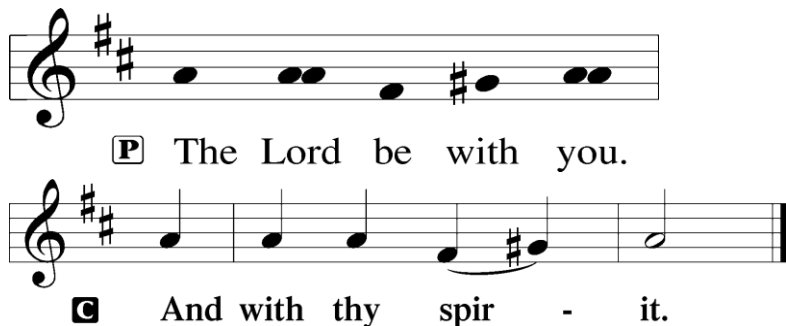
**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**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*

**Benediction**..... *page 202*

# Sending Hymn ..... "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" #411



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.  
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.  
I want to look at Je - sus.  
I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.  
Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,  
When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.  
And show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

## *Refrain*



In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.



The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

## 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.: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:20-28;  
Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46**

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**Attendance Last Saturday: 38**

**Total Offering: \$4,094.00**

**Home Use: \$4,062.00**

**Attendance Last Sunday: 75**

**Missions: \$32.00**

**Benevolences: \$0.00**

**Ukraine Benefit Concert: \$1,606.00**

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## Serving us today:

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

Musicians ..... Gary Moege, Lorraine Miller (Sat), Cody Clemons (Sun)

Soloists ..... Stephanie Schumaker (Sat), Lorraine Miller (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 *Cindy's Vacation Day*

NO EXERCISE CLASS THIS WEEK

2:00 p.m. Christmas Store Meeting

2:00 p.m. Moms and Tots at the Park

Wednesday NO BIBLE CLASS

7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service

8:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday *Office Closed-Thanksgiving Holiday*

Friday *Office Closed-Thanksgiving Holiday*

Saturday 5:30 p.m. Worship

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Sunday School

9:15 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

## Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar this weekend have been provided by Carol Kurz to celebrate **Pr. Joel's birthday on November 25.**

## Prayers

**For the Hillsman Family** on the loss of their daughter-in-law and mother, Vanna. May the Lord continue to surround you all with his unbounded love, mercy, and grace as you give thanks for the gift of her life, entrust her to Christ's eternal keeping, and carry on with yours in Christ's sustaining peace!

**For the baptism of Charlotte Kelley**, daughter of Chris and Rebekah Kelley (Debbie and Luke Hagle's granddaughter) who will be baptized next Saturday the 25th. May the Holy Spirit lead us all to fuller life together as the Body of Christ!

**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, Tom Fatka (Tommy Fatka's dad), Wilma Gertz, Peggy Forstad, Winnie & George Goldsmith (Steve's parents), Karen Haase, Ken Hoemann, 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!

## Thank You

I very much appreciate the many positive comments about me at our annual meeting. I appreciate being the office manager at Bethlehem. I am a servant of my Lord Jesus Christ and I offer my services by the grace of God! Pastor Joel, Head elder, Willie Crespo and my dad make my job easier and enjoyable. In all things that I do, I give to all the glory to God. In our Savior's name. **Cindy Smith.**

## Special Days for Members This Week

**Birthdays**—Charlene McCarter-18<sup>th</sup>, Lorraine Miller-19<sup>th</sup>, Delia VanWey-19<sup>th</sup>, Bryce VanWey-20<sup>th</sup>, Roy Schache-21<sup>st</sup>, Mark Schlueter-21<sup>st</sup>, Lynn Miller-22<sup>nd</sup>.



## 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](http://blchurch.com).

**Thanksgiving Eve Service**—Gather together with others in our sanctuary on **Wednesday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m.** to ground ourselves anew in a life of gratitude and grateful living. ***This service will also be livestreamed.*** Please join us!

**Looking toward Advent!**—Our theme for the three Wednesday midweek Advent services this year—**December 6, 13, & 20**—will be *Light in the Darkness. (1) Darkness & Light, (2) Living & Dying in Darkness and (3) Christ the Light Come in the Dark.* Keep your eyes open for more details to come!

## 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*. **We start at 9:15 a.m.** (in the conference room).

**Sunday School Christmas Preparation**—**Beginning November 12<sup>th</sup>—December 17<sup>th</sup>,** Sunday School will start at **9:00 am** to give us time to practice for this year’s 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](http://lcms.org/worship/memory-verse-challenge) to find the weekly verse.

**Wednesday Bible Study** will not be meeting this week and next due to Pr. Joel’s absence and Thanksgiving. Join us as we start anew on **November 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.** in the conference room—just in time for Advent and the new Church Year! We’ll be looking at the Apocrypha and the time between the two Testaments.

**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](http://www.everymomentholy.com)). Plan on coming for this beneficial time together!

**Thursday Bible Study starts at 7:00 p.m.** Pastor Bertels will continue his study on the book of Ezekiel, beginning with Chapter 20. This meets in the conference room and is open to all who have the interest and time available.

### Music

**Choir meets on Wednesdays at 6:30p.m. for fellowship time and rehearsal 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 **2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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

**Mary Martha Guild**—Remember our **December meeting** will be the observance of Hanging of the Greens on **November 27 at 6:00 pm**. All Guild members (as well as all in the congregation) are urged to come and help decorate the sanctuary.

**Poinsettias**—The Mary Martha Guild will be purchasing Poinsettia this year. The cost for each Poinsettia will be **\$10.00**. If you would like to purchase one in memory or honor of someone or to the Glory of God, please complete the forms that are located at each entrance. **Make checks payable to Mary Martha Guild.**

**Christmas Centerpieces**—the Mary Martha Guild will be putting together the Christmas Centerpieces on **Friday, December 1 at 1:00 p.m.** The centerpieces will then be sold at the church services during the weekend.

Bethlehem will be participating in the **Annual Holiday Parade on Friday, December 1st, starting at 6:00 p.m.** **Look for more details regarding decorating.** Everything has to be lit, even the walkers. If you would like to help with the float, walk or ride on the float please call the office at 747-6742 so we can get a group together to plan. **We need children and adults to participate.**

**Thrivent will be meeting on December 10** right after the service to prepare the sacks for the Children's Program which will be held on December 17.

**Thrivent is holding 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!

**Children's Art Supplies for Survival**—Mid-Missouri Artists is collection donations of children's art supplies to be donated to Survival prior to Christmas. **Look for the decorated box at the north entrance.** New or gently used items that can be used to create art are welcome—things to paint or draw on or with—scissors, glues, glitters, markers, coloring books, kits. Art supplies are so useful there for art therapy, activities, school supplies, and even Christmas gifts. Cash donations are also accepted so that Survival can purchase needed materials. Questions—contact Rebecca Limback at [rlimback@gmail.com](mailto:rlimback@gmail.com).

**The 50th year of Christmas Store** has officially begun with Bethlehem being the host church. We have already started signing people up! 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

**Exercise Class** will not meet this coming week.

**The Games and Card Group** will not meet this coming week.

**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.

**The Annual Progressive Dinner** will be held on **Sunday, December 3, 2023**. We will start at **4:00 p.m.** with appetizers at the Crespo's home (1301 Countryview Lane) and then head to the VanWey's home for desserts (429 Grover). **Please sign up near the mailboxes to bring an appetizer or dessert.** If you need a ride or want to carpool please contact the church office.

**Friday Family Fun Night has been moved to Friday, December 8 at 6:00 p.m. due to the holiday parade being on the 1<sup>st</sup>.** The theme is "Christmas Around the World". Bring a dish from another country that may be your heritage or something you just really like from somewhere else.

### **This and That**

**The 4th Annual Saint Paul Christkindlesmarkt** is less than 1 month away! Join us on **Friday, December 8th from 4-8pm and Saturday, December 9th from 11am-7pm** for this festive, family-friendly, outdoor event on the campus of Saint Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, MO. Enjoy traditional German Christmas Market food like Bratwurst, Kartoffelpuffers (*potato pancakes*), Pommes Frites (*french fries*), Crêpes, Mutzen (*fried donuts*), and more! Plus, traditional drinks including Kinderpunsch (*hot kids' punch*), Heiße Schokolade (*hot chocolate*), Kaffee (*coffee*), Glühwein (*mulled wine*), Bier (*beer*), and more! Shop amongst the vendors offering their handmade goods and wares, listen to the live entertainment on the main stage, take a carriage ride around campus, plus activities for children, including a coloring contest, scavenger hunt, story time with the Christkind, and a visit from St. Nikolaus. **Some of our own Bethlehem members also have booths and are involved with entertainment, along with some of our own Warrensburg vendors! Come and support and celebrate!**

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:crespo6fam@gmail.com)

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

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

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



*Wednesday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m.*

*This service will also be livestreamed*

## 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](mailto:jkurz@blchurch.com)

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

#### **Office Manager**

Cindy Smith

Monday–Friday: 8am-5pm

660-747-6742

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

#### **Congregation Life Facilitator**

Rebecca Holland-VanWey

Wednesday: 1pm-5pm

Thursday: 1pm-5pm

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

#### **Bookkeeper**

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 9am-11am

Thursday: 9am-11am

[thillsman@blchurch.com](mailto: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.