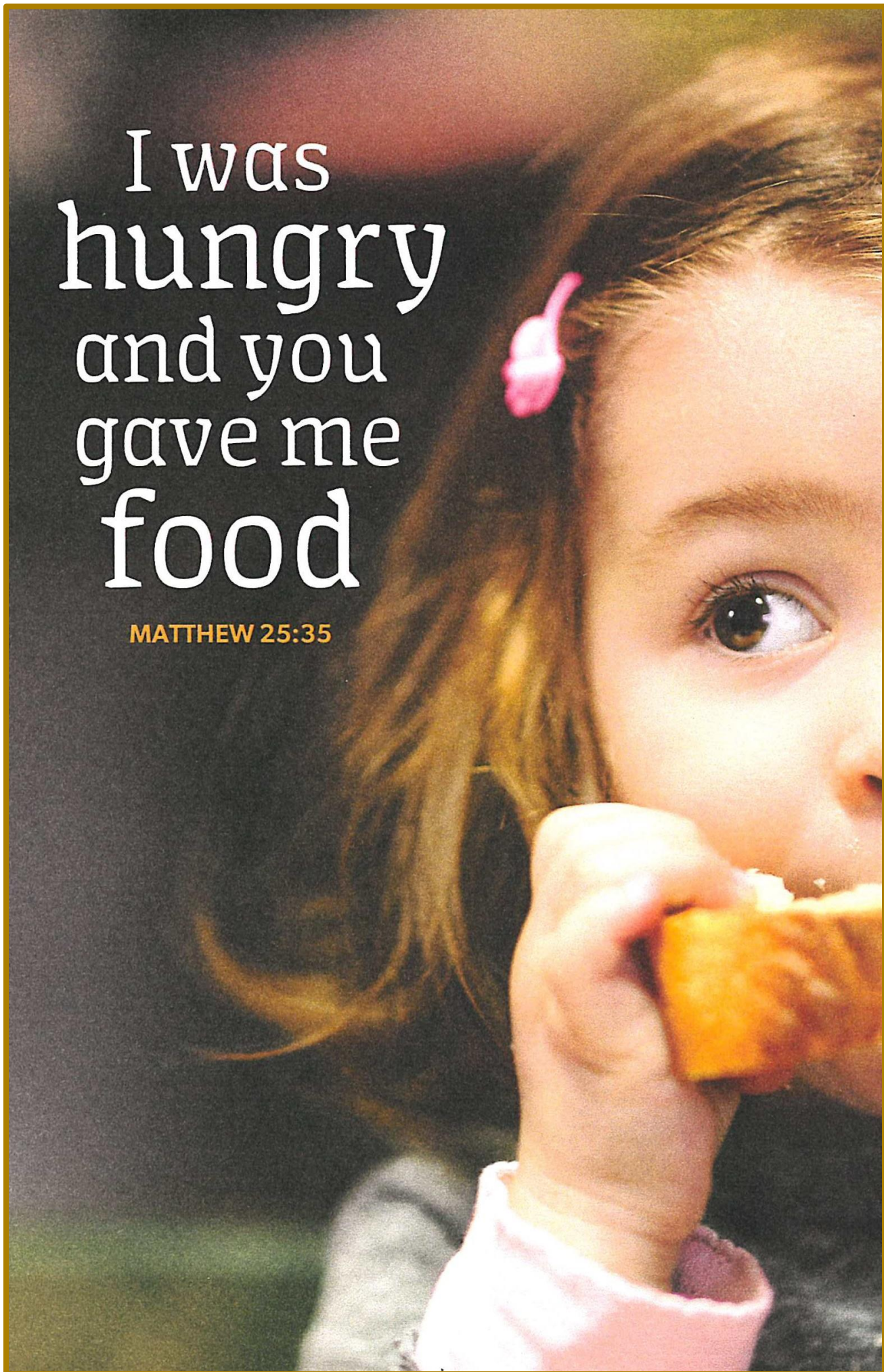


I was
hungry
and you
gave me
food

MATTHEW 25:35





+ Christ The King +
November 26, 2023

AS WE GATHER

Preparing for Christ's return means loving the people around us. Today's Readings reveal that also means living the orthodox life today. Orthodox means "right glory," and today we glorify God for sending His Son, David's descendant, to fulfill the promise in Ezekiel and to care so deeply for us that He died for us. In essence His cross was His throne, loving us to death. We dare not wait to share that news, for Christ has already risen, Paul reminds in the Epistle. Right now the end time in which we live has multiple opportunities to share God's love. In the Gospel, Jesus explains that means caring for the "least of these My brothers" (Matthew 25:40) in their hunger, poverty, and even separation from society. Why? Because the Kingdom has already been graciously prepared for us. Today's Readings encourage us to give God "right glory" by sharing His love.

The pottery vessels on the altar remind us that although Holy Communion is not celebrated today, our Lord's sacred gifts are still central to our life of faith. Holy Communion is celebrated every 1st, 3rd, and 5th weekend (and major festivals).

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

Pastoral Welcome

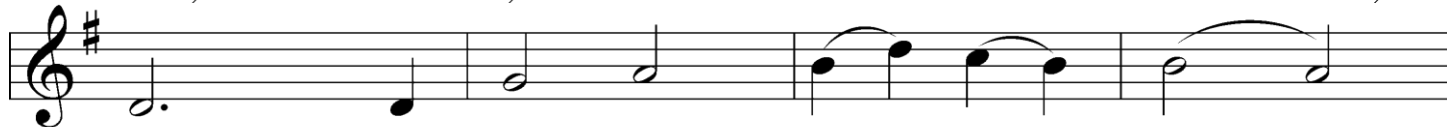
(Prayer request cards will be collected by an usher passing through the aisle.)

All will be asked to rise and turn to face the processional cross at the back of the Nave.

Processional Hymn....."Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending," #336



1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold Him
 3 Those dear to - kens of His pas - sion
 4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore Thee,



Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
 Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
 Still His daz - zling bod - y bears,
 High on Thine e - ter - nal throne;



Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 Those who set at naught and sold Him,
 Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



Swell the tri - umph of His train:
 Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
 To His ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
 Claim the king - dom as Thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
 With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 wail - ing, Shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
 rap - ture Gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou a - lone!

Morning Prayer

Opening Verses..... *page 235*

L O Lord, o - pen my lips,
C and my mouth shall de - clare Your praise.
C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.
C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Psalmody

Antiphon..... *page 235*

L Give glory to God, our light and our life.
C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Venite..... *page 236*

C O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joy - ful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.



I Let us come in - to His pres - ence with thanks - giv - ing;



let us make a joy - ful noise to Him with songs of praise.



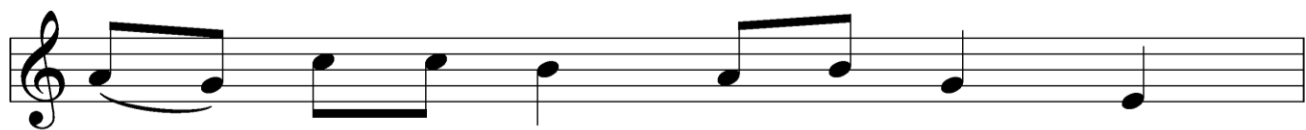
II For the Lord is a great God and a great king a - bove all gods.



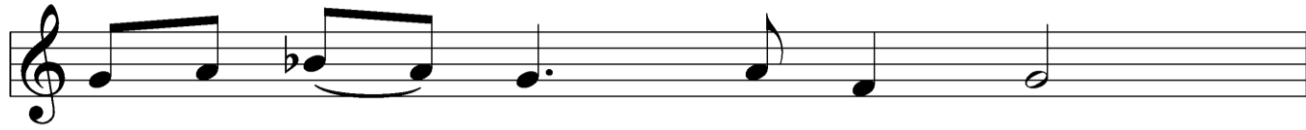
I In His hand are the depths of the earth;



the heights of the moun - tains are His al - so.



II The sea is His, for He made it;



and His hand formed the dry land.



I O come, let us wor - ship and bow down;



let us kneel be - fore the Lord, our mak - er.



II For He is our God, and we are the peo - ple



of His pas - ture and the sheep of His hand.

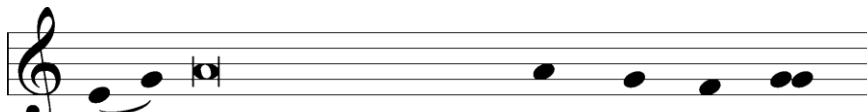


C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;

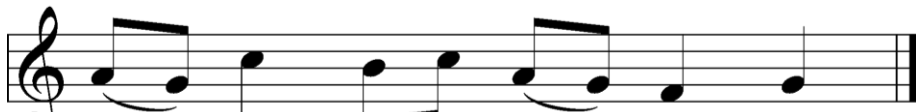


as it was in the be-gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A-men.

Antiphon.....page 237



L Give glory to God, our light and our life.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Psalm 95.....(*front of hymnal, spoken responsively*)

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the LORD is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth;

the heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it,

and his hands formed the dry land.

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture,

and the sheep of his hand.

Today, if you hear his voice,

do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,

as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
 when your fathers put me to the test
 and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.
 For forty years I loathed that generation
 and said, "They are a people who go astray in their heart,
 and they have not known my ways."
 Therefore I swore in my wrath,
 "They shall not enter my rest."
 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.

Please be seated.

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



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



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



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

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Readings

Old Testament Reading..... Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

"For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep

that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. . . .

“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Anthem *“Redeemer of My Heart” (Williams & Martin)*

Epistle Reading **1 Corinthians 15:20-28**

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Please rise.

Holy GospelMatthew 25:31-46

P Oh Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

[Jesus said:] “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

P In many and various ways, God Spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

Apostles’ Creed..... (back cover of hymnal)

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated.

Children's Message

Sermon..... "Our Reliable Shepherd-King"

Please rise, as able.

Hymn of Praise "Crown Him with Many Crowns", #525



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



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



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



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

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Please be seated.

Offering

Please rise.

Prayer

Collect of the Day *(spoken in unison)*

Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving)

Collect for Gracepage 241

P O Lord, our heavenly Father, . . . who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer.....page 241

Benedicamus and Benediction.....page 241-242

Sending Hymn..... “Christ, Our Human Likeness Sharing”, #847



1 Christ, our hu - man like - ness shar - ing, Heav - en's love on
 2 Hear the word that Christ has spo - ken, Help the weak, the
 3 Christ, in ev - 'ry con - gre - ga - tion Build Your tem - ple,
 4 Come, O liv - ing Christ, re - new us, As of old in



earth por - trayed; Christ the Shep - herd, tend - ing, car - ing,
 hun - gry feed; See the pow'rs of dark - ness bro - ken,
 stone by stone, With Your word as firm foun - da - tion
 wind and flame; With the Spir - it's pow'r en - due us,



In His death our ran - som paid: Christ the Sav - ior,
 Sin - ners par - doned, cap - tives freed: Christ the Sav - ior,
 For a faith ma - tured and grown: Christ the Sav - ior,
 Ser - vants of Your sav - ing name: Christ the Sav - ior,



Christ the Ser - vant, Be Your life in us dis - played.
 Christ the Ser - vant, Help us meet our neigh - bor's need.
 Christ the Ser - vant, Make in us Your Gos - pel known.
 Christ the Ser - vant, Christ whose king - dom we pro - claim.

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Dismissal (Bethlehem's Mission)

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

Postlude

Evening Prayer from Lutheran Service Book. Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from ESV Bible (*The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*) copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

Next week's readings:

OT: Isaiah 64:1-9; Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

Attendance Last Saturday: 39
Total Offering: \$5,625.45
Home Use: \$4,809.09

Attendance Last Sunday: 54
Benevolences: \$539.00
Non-Offering: \$277.36

Serving us today:

ElderWillie Crespo
Musician Jerrode Marsh, Lorraine Miller, Gary Moege
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

Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	2:00 p.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park
	6:00 p.m.	Hanging of the Greens
Tuesday	9:30 a.m.	Quilting
	5:15 p.m.	Education Board Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Fellowship and Practice
Thursday	3:30 p.m.	Adult Catechesis
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:00 a.m.	Creation School
	6:00 p.m.	Holiday Parade
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	9:15 a.m.	Adult Bible Class
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	1:00 p.m.	Youth Catechesis
	4:00 p.m.	Progressive Dinner

Thank You

We would like to thank you for all the cards, calls, food and most importantly prayers during the last two weeks as we laid Vanna to rest. You will never know how much it has meant to us. **Don & Teresa Hillsman and family.**

Prayers

For the Baptism of Charlotte Grace Kelley, daughter of Chris and Rebekah Kelley (also Debbie and Luke Hagle's granddaughter) who was baptized into Christ in last night's service. May the Holy Spirit lead us all to fuller life together as brothers and sisters in Him!

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, Rev. 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!

Special Days for Members This Week

Birthdays—Paula Easterwood 25th, Pr. Joel-25th, Richard Hoyer-26th, Diane McComas-26th, Esther Keseman-26th, Erika Freeman-1st, **Anniversaries**—Ron and Diane McComas-25th, Ken and Diana Hoemann-27th, Seth and Crystal Hartwig-1st.

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).

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 Light* and (3) *Christ the Light Comes in the Dark*. Once again, we'll be using the beautiful and contemplative Holden Evening Prayer. Join us in our sanctuary on **Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.**

Advent Booklets from Lutheran Hour Ministries and Society of St. Andrew will be available at the entrance by the mailboxes and the west entrance of the church.

Sunday School and Christian Education

Children's Advent Devotions—Rebecca Holland will be holding Advent time here at Bethlehem for children (up to age 8) on Wednesday's (starting November 29), from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Come learn with us many ways the Old Testament pointed to God sending His son Jesus for our salvation. We will have a story, coloring, snack and crafts. Parents should stay to learn alongside the children.

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. Pr. Joel is drawing from David Coe’s *Provoking Proverbs*. **We start at 9:15 a.m.** (in the conference room) and still have a lot of ground to cover!

Sunday School Christmas Preparation—**Beginning November 12th—December 17th**, 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 to find the weekly verse.

Wednesday Bible—Join us as we start anew on **November 29th 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 (**December 6th is next**) 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). Plan on coming for this beneficial time together on St. Nicholas Day!

Thursday Bible Study—Pastor Bertels’ study on the book of Ezekiel meets in the conference room and is open to all who have the interest and time available. **It starts at 7 p.m.**

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 **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

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.** (and Pr. Joel gets to be the Grand Marshal this year). 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.

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 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.

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 1st.** 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 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

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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.