

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 16, 2024 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 10



Prelude Music

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C: Amen.

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God, our provider,

C: ...help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

ELW #774

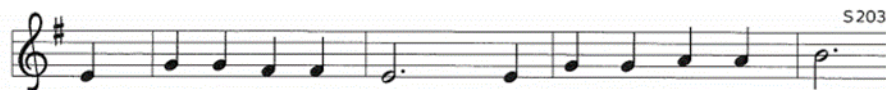
Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all!

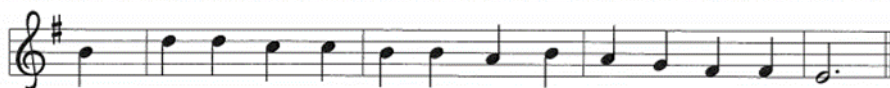
C: And also with you!

Kyrie

p. 203



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

C: O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24

Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the Lord will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.

22 Thus says the Lord God: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. 23 On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. 24 All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Second Reading: 1 Samuel 15:34—16:13

Saul, anointed by the prophet Samuel as the first king of Israel, displeases the Lord. The Lord therefore sends Samuel to Bethlehem, where he anoints David, the youngest of the sons of Jesse, to succeed Saul as king.

34 Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. 35 Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel. 16:1 The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." 2 Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." 4 Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" 5 He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. 6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 10 Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." 11 Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." 12 He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

S205a

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.

P: A reading from... **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

26 Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, 27 and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. 28 The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. 29 But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." 30 He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? 31 It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; 32 yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." 33 With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; 34 he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

ELW #680

Commissioning of Vision Team

You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good words and give glory to your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:14, 16)

L: The following members have been selected to disciple in our midst this year: Pastor Paul Busekist and Sherri Helman serving as co-chairs along with Tim Goebel, Kelly Thomson, Kathie Bair, Craig Bauer, and Jana Rockne.

L: The Apostle Paul tells us in Ephesians 4 that "each of us has been given grace according to Christ's measure... some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry and for building up the body of Christ," which is the church (4:7, 11-12)

(continued on next page)

Our Lord Jesus commands us to make disciples of all people. We understand from the teachings of Jesus that a disciple is a faithful follower of God who is seasoned with love, empowered by forgiveness, committed to serving others, and bold in giving witness to faith in Jesus. Do you accept the responsibility to use your gifts to teach the Word of God, to encourage faith, maturity and obedience to our Lord?

Vision Team: I accept this responsibility, with the help of God!

L: (to the congregation) These people are willing to give witness to the Good News of salvation and make disciples through our congregation's visioning ministry. Will you commit yourselves to them in your daily prayers?

C: I will support them with my prayers and encouragement.

L: Let us pray. Most gracious God, you have blessed your church with many gifted people. We thank you now for these members who have dedicated themselves in service to you. May their words be your words. May their hands be your hands. May their hearts be filled with your compassion and love. Give them insight through your Holy Spirit so that your church may be equipped and built up to witness and serve our world for your purposes. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of Heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Prayers of the Church / Sign of the Peace *(Let us give one another a sign of peace according to your comfort level.)*

Offering

Offering Song:

Zeke Clemons

Offertory:

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble



with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray together.

C: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Communion *(Please note: gluten-free wafers and white grape juice cups are available)*

Communion Songs:

***Build Us Up, Lord
By Your Hand You Feed Your People***

ELW #670

ELW #469

Final Blessing

P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Song:

We Walk By Faith

ELW #635

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem June 16, 2024
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1050 Peninsula Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 947-9880
www.bethlehemtc.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

6/16—Grayson Vincke
6/19—Rita Kucera

6/19—Jessilyn Wallington
6/19—Forrest Bowling

6/22—Nancy Schmidt
6/23—Sherri Helman

Worship Servants for June 16

Assisting Minister—Cindy Monroe

Lector—Tim Goebel

Musicians: David Husser, Zeke Clemons, Phil & Denice Bossardet, Pr. Paul

Today's altar flowers are donated: *In Memory of Bill & Dee Springer and*

by John & Jan Stretlien in Celebration of 60 years married on June 20th.

Hospitality—Phil Anderson / Susie Burton

A/V—Jim Monroe / Barbara Oster / Acker Family

Cookies/Coffee—VOLUNTEER / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Front Door Monitors—John Halstead

Altar Guild—Patty Leibenguth / Erin Word

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Forrest Bowling / Jim Monroe

Today's Rose on the baptismal font is: in Celebration of Orson Boone Fouts, born on June 4, 2024 (his great grandpa's birthday!). He is the son of Joshua & Amy Fouts; grandson of Theresa Graf Fouts; and great grandson of Leonard & Barbara Graf.

BLC annual meeting: Hope to see as many of you as possible at our meeting right after today's service. Send the kids home to get the grill going and join them after you have exercised your right to voice your opinion on church matters.

Are you grieving something from a death or something else? It could be any kind of loss, and it hurts. We have a place for you here at Bethlehem on **the 3rd Monday of the month from 6:00 to 7:00 in the library which is tomorrow.** If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Burns at 231 392-6913.

Chair Yoga: Bethlehem Lutheran Church will be having Chair Yoga again. We have a new instructor, Janet Weaver who is a nurse and teaches Chair Yoga independently and at The Village of Bay Ridge and the Traverse Area District Library. There are two free classes in the area: one at East Bay Township Hall on 3 Mile on June 21st at 11:00am and the Traverse City District library on June 28th at 11:00am. **We will have the class on Mondays at 3:00 in the Fellowship Hall beginning on June 17th. The group will meet each Monday through July – except for July 1st during Cherry Festival.** The cost will be \$5.00 per class. There is no need to sign up, just attend the class. If there are any questions, contact Gail Goldsmith 231-633-2630.

FOR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS: The book club will discuss *What Alice Forgot* by Liane Moriarty during a dinner meeting at 5:30 on Tues June 25 at church before taking a summer vacation. We will chip in money for a pizza dinner. Look for extra copies of the book on the counter below the mailboxes. Just sign your name on the sheet by the corresponding number of your book. If you cannot come to church when it is open please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net and we will make other arrangements such as a book in the wooden STAR box attached to the outdoor mailbox post.

Parking Lot Fundraiser Volunteers Needed! We will be holding our annual Parking Lot Fundraiser on Saturday June 29th, Sunday June 30th, and Thursday July 4th. This event is the biggest fundraiser of the year for our youth program, and our kids will be front and center working the fundraiser! While they'll be the stars of the show as they greet people entering the parking lot and accept payments, we also need adult volunteers to help with getting cars parked, and making sure the kids are safe at all times. Alanna or another assigned adult leader will be present at all of the shifts. We need you - Sign Up Now! See you weekly email for details, or reach out to Alanna at alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org

Parking For Worship on June 30th - Please note that due to the Parking Lot Fundraiser on Sunday, June 30th, ONLY the entrance on Peninsula Drive will be open to enter the parking lot during worship (same entrance you used during the roadwork from March to May!) Say hi to our parking lot volunteers as you make your way in!

VBS Volunteers Needed! Bethlehem will be partnering with Christ Church to hold VBS Scuba: Diving Into Friendship With Christ on July 29th, 30th, and 31st. Volunteers are what make VBS possible - WE NEED YOU! As we plan our schedule, knowing how many volunteers we have decides how many kids we can welcome into the program! Sign up to volunteer TODAY! Visit the link in your weekly email, or reach out to Alanna directly at alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org

Volunteers for Watching the Front Door During Worship: The Safety and Security Committee has the new sign up sheets available. We need volunteers who can be available to stay in the Gathering Space to lock the doors and let in late comers for Sundays in July and August. We appreciate all of the volunteers. If you have any questions, the committee members are Gail Goldsmith, Maureen Bauer, Jana Rockne and Jan Stretlien

Building and Office Hours are: 9:00am – 2:30pm, Monday – Thursday.

Offerings: Even though the offering plates are passed during the service, you may use the vase in the back of the Sanctuary if you prefer not to touch the offering plate.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: We often find the front door and/or the kitchen door unlocked when there is no one in the building. Please be sure that the doors are locked when you leave.

Please Note:

Barbara Oster/Administrative Assistant works 9:00am-2:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

Phil Anderson/Bookkeeper works 8:30am-12:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. This is a change for the summer months

Alanna Steffunick/Ministry Coordinator works 9:00am-2:30pm – in the office on Tuesday and Thursday and from home on Wednesday

The June issue of the STAR is now available. The July issue will be emailed on the morning of June 30th to all who have email addresses listed with us. The shut-ins will receive an issue by mail. There will also be a few copies available on the counter by the mailboxes. You may also contact the office at 947-9880 to request that mail delivery continues. For current issues of the Star, feel free to check online at www.bethlehemtc.org < About Us > “The Online Bethlehem Star” or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>.

The July / August / September Christ In Our Home is now available.

Taking a break for the summer: Wednesday Bible and Book Studies along with Sunday School, Adult Education, XYZ, our Third Thursday services and Tuesday morning Quilters will all pause for the summer. These activities will return in September.

Looking for a link to last month’s full Council minutes? Type this address/url into your web browser to get the latest approved minutes from Council: bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes OR you may call the office to request a copy.

Prayer Requests:

- Prayer Chain: Please contact Jan Stretlien at jstretlien@gmail.com or 231-947-3265
- Prayers read from the altar: Please call Administrative Assistant in the church office 231-947-9880

Celebrate a new child in your life with a rose on the baptismal font! Cost \$10.00 per rose. Contact Barbara Oster at beo6475@yahoo.com or 231.668.7038.

Norm Fred has helped a previously homeless couple for a few years. They are proud people and do not like to be given charity but they will accept help in the form of donated cans that they can recycle for money. Please bring in your recyclables in for them. Leave them in plastic bags by the garage. These are nice people. There, but for the Grace of our God, go we.

Spotlight on Zeke: So many of us enjoy Zeke’s talents with religious music, but did you know that he plays other kinds of music at various locations in the Traverse City area? Here is a list of his engagements in the next month that are close to TC:

Fri 6/28—Bel Lago Winery 5:00pm Cedar **Fri 7/05**—Hotel Indigo 6:00pm

GET A TREAT AND TAKE A SEAT!!! Remember that the final Sunday of each month we are moving our coffee hour into the Fellowship Hall. This allows each person to sit for a moment and perhaps visit with someone new. So, on that Sunday each month be sure to take a turn into the Fellowship Hall. We will have a reminder sign on the counter in the Gathering Space to help you remember. Thank you!

Are you looking for the Caring Table for your donations? It has been moved inside the coat room to the right. Also, the area for the Oleson and Family Fair receipts is in the lower cabinets below the mailboxes (under the A-B-Cs...). The cabinet door is marked with the receptacle inside.

LOST AND FOUND: If you lose something in the church building, please check our new Lost and Found box located in the Coat Room. Also, if you find something, please put it in the box.

Coffee and Cookies on Sunday: Remember that treats and a hot drink on Sunday are appreciated by all. Please take a moment to sign up to bring cookies or some other tasty treat on the Sunday that works best for you. Or sign up to prepare the coffee to give our loyal volunteer Mary Ann Tanis a day off. Please see the message elsewhere about having the final Sunday of the month be a time when we join in the Fellowship Hall for this activity. We can sit at a table and chat with someone new while we munch on a treat!!

Yarn Available: There is yarn available free for the taking located in the cabinets located under the mailboxes in the Narthex. Take what you need.

Name tags: Your name tags are in your mailboxes. Please retrieve them so you can proudly wear them on Sunday mornings. We often have visitors and with so many recent new members it helps them if they can see a friendly face and attach a name to it.

Food Pantry: It's SPRING, so hopefully we do not need to be concerned about the cold damaging any of our food in the outdoor pantry. Please start looking for staple items when they are on sale and bring your extras to the coat room. Your generosity is so appreciated.

A big thank you to all who have turned in Olesons' slips. On April 8th, we received a check from Olesons for \$206.60. Olesons' slips never expire. Please continue to turn in your Olesons receipts to Bethlehem. Thanks so much!!!

Have something important going on at Bethlehem that you'd like others to know about? Maybe a Small Group? A Club Event? Feature it on the Screen Announcements, weekly emails and on our Facebook Events Page! If there is something you'd like featured or included in any of these, please reach out to alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org **If you are not getting the weekly emails for any reason, please contact Alanna.**

Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers for a Sunday service. Please use the sign-up poster in the Narthex by signing on the date you request. Then fill out a pink slip with the necessary information and place it and a check for \$40 (payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church or BLC) in the offering plate on Sunday morning (Preferable) or during the week, in the Administrative Assistant's mailbox near the church office entrance. You may select either "in honor" or "in memory" or "to celebrate". If someone has already signed on the date you would like, feel free to add your name – we welcome more than one on a Sunday.

The church calendar is below. Please be sure to notify the office (admin@bethlehemtc.org or 231.947.9880) to be sure that your group is of the calendar.

Sunday, June 16

10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:15am—Congregational Assembly (S)

Monday, June 17

6:00pm—Grief Group (Library)

Tuesday, June 18

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group
11:00am—Gravesite – Robert Blume
6:30pm—Council Meeting (Library)

Wednesday, June 19

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

Thursday, June 20

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

Friday, June 21

STAR articles due

10:00am—Sew Pieceful
1:00pm—Lehto SG (Library)
4:30pm—Stowe/Henne Wedding Rehearsal (S)

Saturday, June 22

2:00pm—Stowe/Henne Wedding (S)

Sunday, June 23

10:00am—Worship Service (S)