

**Sixteenth Sunday
after Pentecost
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
September 8, 2024
Sunday 10:00 a.m.**



Welcome to All! We are glad that you are able to worship with us today. **Please fill out a connection card in the pews if you like.** During the service, we will sit or stand in reverence to our Lord. Please do what is physically comfortable and reverent for you. For those who are unable to receive Communion near the altar and wish to have the Pastor administer it at your seat, please obtain a red and white card from one of the ushers and hold it up at Communion time to alert the Pastor. If you or a little one would like to receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion, we invite you to come forward and cross your arms at the time of Communion. Please feel free to introduce yourself to our Pastor and fill in your name, address, etc in the guest book near the entrance to the sanctuary.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 4, page 147

Bell Ringing/Welcome/Announcements

Prelude

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: ...have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

C: Amen.

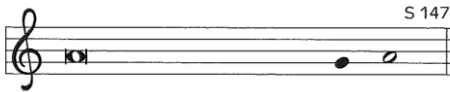
Gathering Hymn *Light Dawns on a Weary World*

ELW #726

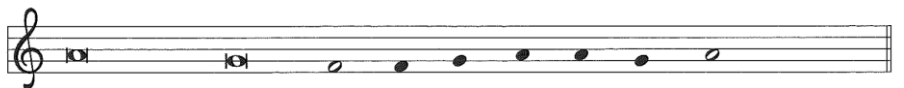
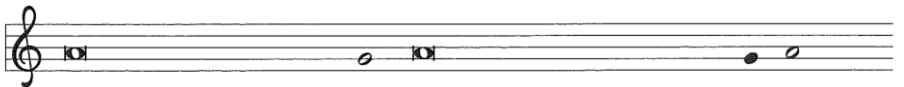
Greeting

A: 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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.





For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Hymn of Praise

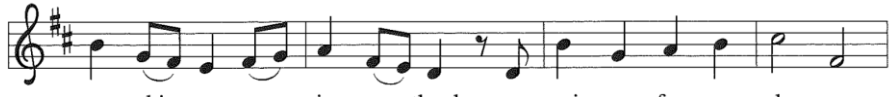
Glory to God



Assisting minister
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



All
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



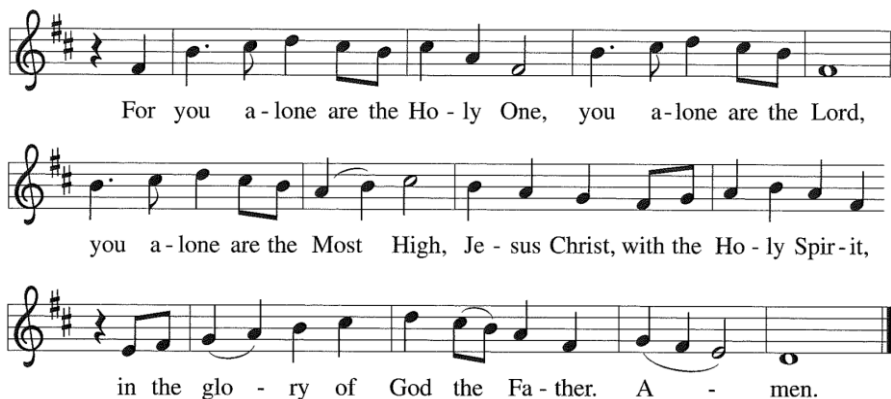
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

A: The Lord be with you C: **And also with you** A: Let us pray together...

C: Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

Christian Ed

WORD

First Lesson

Isaiah 35:4-7a

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6 then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; 7a the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody

Psalm 146

1 Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

2 I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

(continued on next page)

3 Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

4 When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.

5 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God;

6 who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;

7 who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The Lord sets the captive free.

8 The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

9 The Lord cares for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

10 The Lord shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Second Lesson

James 2:1-10, 14-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

1 My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? 2 For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, 3 and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," 4 have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? 5 Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? 7 Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? 8 You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 9 But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. 14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? 17 So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

L: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation**Alleluia**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel**Mark 7:24-37**

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

C: ...Glory to you, O Lord...

24 Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, 25 but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. 26 Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. 27 He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." 28 But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." 29 Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." 30 So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. 31 Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. 32 They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. 33 He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. 34 Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." 35 And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. 36 Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. 37 They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon**Pastor Paul Busekist****Hymn of the Day****Healer of Our Every Ill****ELW #612**

Apostle's 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 Intercession: response after each petition: **“Your mercy is great.”** (*Before prayer*) A: Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.... (*Conclusion*) P: We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. C: **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

MEAL

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: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

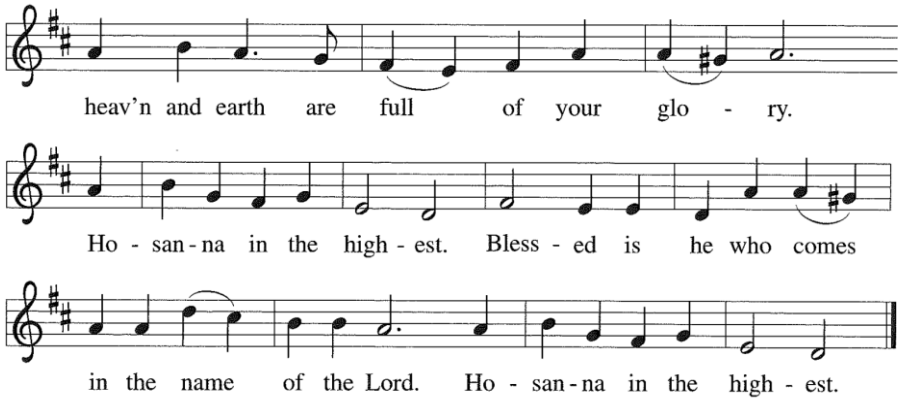
Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
(continued on next page)



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

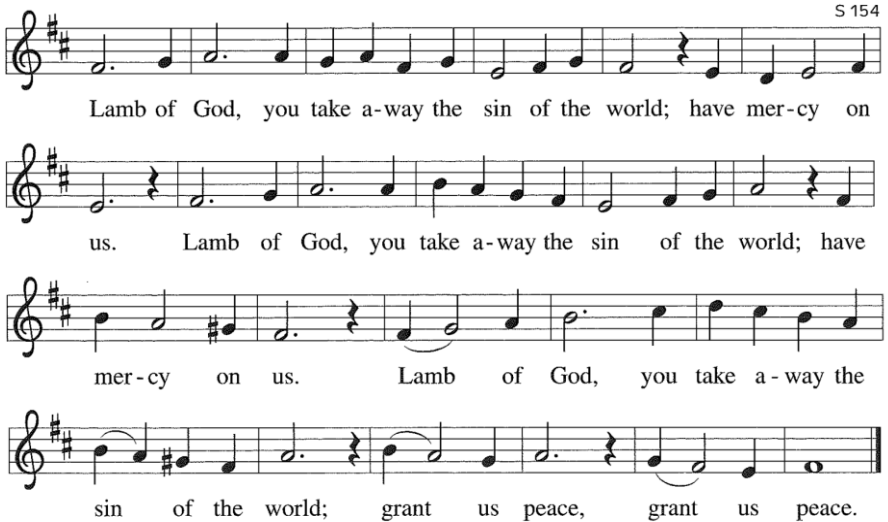
The Lord's Prayer

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.

P: The gifts of God for the people of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Communion

Lamb of God



S 154

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymns

*Let Us Break Bread Together
Rejoice, for Christ Is King!*

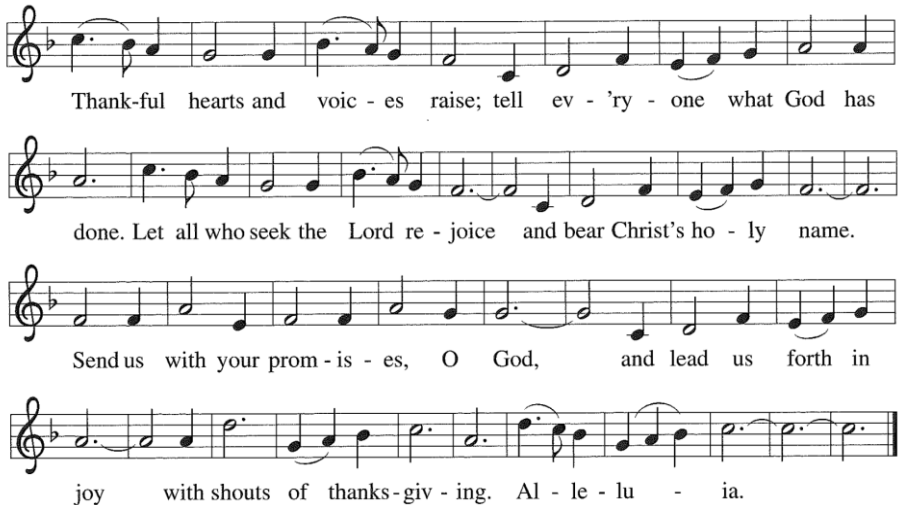
*ELW #471
ELW #430*

Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

Post-Communion Canticle

Thankful Hearts



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has
done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in
joy with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

P: God all mighty, God most merciful + bless you, keep you, and give you peace. **C: Amen.**

Sending Song *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* **ELW #886**

(continued on next page)

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Bethlehem September 8, 2024
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

9/8—Carole Luttinen

9/12—Jana Rockne

9/15—Cynthia Cuba

9/12—Monica Graf

9/13—Shelly Nellist

Worship Servants for September 8

Assisting Minister—Barbara Wright

Lector—Barbara Graf

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

Today's altar flowers are donated: *In thankfulness for all spiritual education opportunities*

Hospitality—Leonard & Barbara Graf

A/V—Paul Ton / Acker Family

Cookies/Coffee—Jacque Rossfeld / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Front Door Monitors—Maureen Bauer

Altar Guild—Kate Holtfreter / Barbara Oster

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Carl Lehto / Jim Monroe

Today is Rally Day and God's Work Our Hands Day! Join us after worship this morning to kick off all of our wonderful fall activities! Immediately after worship, we will be heading across the road to clean up Peninsula Drive and Bryant Park as our service project for God's Work Our Hands. Gloves and trash bags will be provided - let's keep God's Creation beautiful and cared for! If you are not able to join us for the clean-up but would like to enjoy the later activities, please feel free to stay in the Gathering Space to enjoy your normal coffee and cookies - the clean-up crew will be back shortly! We will be back inside at noon for a delicious lunch of hotdogs, chips, and cookies, followed by games and fun! This is not only for the little ones - we want the whole congregation to join us, as well as friends from the community! Plan to stay after church today to celebrate the start of the fall season!

CHOIR NEWS: Choir rehearsals have resumed on Thursdays at 7:00 – September 12th and 26th. If you are interested in joining the choir, give your contact information to Cindy Monroe or any member of the choir and have them pass it on to our choir director, Tony Bero and he will get in touch with you directly. Or you can simply arrive at choir rehearsal on Thursday and we'll figure out how best to use your talents.

You are Invited to Sunday Morning Adult Education: it is that time again, time to power up our learning and sharing of Scripture. Adult Education will resume on Sunday morning, September 15. We will meet in the Youth Room from 9:15 to 9:45 each Sunday to discuss the lessons for the day. This is a relaxed venue, with inquisitive sharing, practical application, and an opportunity to get better acquainted with your brothers and sisters in Christ! We hope you will join... All Are Welcome!!!!

XYZ Potlucks & Presentations resume on Friday, September 13th! After a delicious potluck lunch at 12pm noon, we will enjoy a presentation by Karie Lambert, the Grand Traverse Local Director of Single MOMM. Single MOMM is "a ministry that addresses the core issues of single motherhood and provides innovative and diverse solutions for families desiring to reach self-sufficiency." While predominantly geared toward seniors, XYZ gathering are open to anyone who is interested in attending!

BLC GOES TO THE THEATRE: Some of you have been asking if we could plan an outing to Old Town Playhouse. If we go as a group we can get a reduced price. The date which still had "good" seats was **Sun September 29 at 2:00pm** to see *Waitress*. We picked a matinee so no one had to be concerned about being out at night. Normal cost is \$33 per ticket. If we have 8-19 people the cost will be \$28. If we have 20 or more the cost is \$25 each. We need to confirm the number of seats we are going to use so please sign up on the sheet in the gathering space **BY SEPTEMBER 13** if you can join in the fun. Payment can be in cash or a check to Old Town Playhouse by the day of the event to Cindy Monroe.

WELCA FUN DAY: Ladies: Set aside Sunday, September 22nd for the next WELCA Fun Day. Our own BJ Christensen will be our guest speaker! We will have a NOON baked potato bar potluck. Please bring toppings for the potatoes or side dishes. Please join us!

Third Thursday Worship Service and Meal: Bethlehem will begin Third Thursday Worship Services and meal on September 19th. The meal will begin at 5:45 and the Fellowship Committee will be providing salad, dessert and beverages. A taco salad bar be served in September. Please come and enjoy a meal and social time before the Holden Evening Prayer service which begins at 7:00pm

CHANGE OF DAYS FOR BOOK CLUB: After years of meeting on Tuesdays the Book Club has found that it will be more helpful for some of its members if we move our meetings to **WEDNESDAY.** **In September the meeting will be the 4th Wed of the month, Sept 25 at 5:30.** We are reading *The Waters* by Bonnie Jo Campbell who is a well-known author who resides in Kalamazoo. **After Sept the meetings will occur on the 3rd WED OF THE MONTH.** Please join us in the Fellowship Hall if you like to discuss good books.