

17th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 24, 2017

**Worship with Holy Communion  
Sundays at 9 a.m.**

**Faith Formation for all ages  
Sundays at 10:20 a.m.**

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**MISSION STATEMENT:** Transformed by the crucified and risen Jesus we are a loving community of disciples making disciples.

**WELCOME!** We welcome you to join us in worship, growth in faith and service.

**CHILDREN** are always welcome and encouraged to participate fully in worship. If needed, a cry room is available near the east exit.

**VISITORS**, please fill out a Visitor Connection Card. You may place the card in the plate during the offering. Please also take a gift bag (also at both entrances) to learn a little more about Bethlehem.

**FOR WORSHIP**, most of what you will need is in this bulletin or the weekly insert with readings and news. Pastor/leader parts are in plain typeface. Congregational parts are in **bold typeface** and indented.

**HYMNS** are indicated by number and may be found in the back part of the red hymnal.

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS** are available from the ushers.

**FAITH FORMATION** (Sunday School):

Preschool—5th Grade and Catechism, Basement

High School—Gr.9-12, Room 209-211    Adults, Fellowship Hall

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## Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Phone: 419-287-4182

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<http://bethlehempemberville.org>

Ministers: All the People

Pastor: Matthew Musteric

Bishops: Elizabeth Eaton, Daniel Beaudoin

Intern: Vicar Janelle Hennager

**Scripture Readings for Next Sunday**  
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 • Psalm 25:1-9  
Philippians 2:1-13 • Matthew 21:23-32

# + GATHERING +

*The Holy Spirit gathers us for worship.*

## **Prelude and Announcements**

### **Invocation**

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Let your light so shine before others, so that they may see your good works  
and give glory to your Father in heaven. +Matthew 5:16

Let us confess our sins.

*Silence for reflection*

Compassionate God,

**We confess that we have isolated ourselves from you and our  
neighbors. We know that we alone cannot free ourselves from  
our selfish desires that lead us to sin against you, ourselves,  
and the world around us. In your abundant love and justice,  
forgive us. Welcome us again into your loving family, so that  
we may glorify You and serve others in the name of Jesus.**

In compassion, God has redeemed us through Jesus Christ. By grace your  
sins are forgiven! **Amen!**

**Gathering Hymn** *When Moring Gilds the Skies* #853

### **Apostolic Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of  
the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:13

**And also with you.**

### **Hymn of Praise**

*Next page...*

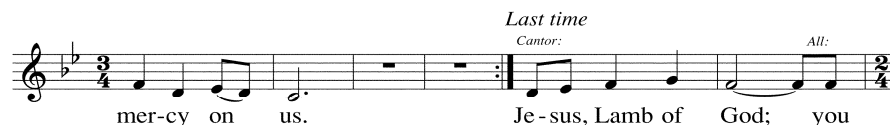
## Communion Songs *Lamb of God*



- Cantor:*
1. Je-sus, Lamb of
  2. Je-sus, Bread of
  3. Je-sus, Prince of



God,  
Life, you take a-way the sins of the world: have  
Peace,



mer-cy on us. Je-sus, Lamb of God; you



take a-way the sins of the world: grant us your peace.

Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc.

*Eat This Bread* #472

*We Are Called* #720

## + SENDING +

*The Holy Spirit sends us forth to serve in Jesus' name.*

*We stand for the blessing.*

### Blessing

**Sending Hymn** *Lord of Light* #688

### Dismissal

What is our mission?

**Transformed by the crucified and risen Jesus we are a loving community of disciples making disciples.**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

### Postlude

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- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## + WORD +

*The Word of God, Jesus Christ, speaks to us.*

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray...

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer, a time for us to pray silently to God.*  
Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual loving kindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

### Children's Sermon

**Old Testament Reading** Jonah 3:10—4:11

A reading from Jonah:

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God

changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

<sup>Chapter 4:1</sup> But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" <sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

<sup>6</sup>The Lord GOD appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup>Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 145:1-8

*We begin by singing the refrain below, and then we will read the verses responsively, singing the refrain where indicated with the word **Refrain**.*

Hal - le - lu - jah! Praise the Lord!

Hal - le - lu - jah! Praise the Lord!

**Refrain text:** Traditional (PD)

**Music:** Hal H. Hopson, and copyright © 2008 Birnamwood/MorningStar Music Publishers.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc.

### Eucharistic Prayer

*Salvation History, Words of Institution, Prayer for the Holy Spirit*

### Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

### Invitation to Communion

*We remain standing as the bread is broken and for the invitation.*

*Spoken together in unison:*

**Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as once you revealed yourself to your apostles.**

### Distribution of Holy Communion

*Holy Communion is our Lord's thanksgiving feast of victory shared among his baptized people. We believe, teach and confess that Christ is truly present in this meal...his body and blood given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. With this understanding, baptized Christians who usually commune in other Christian congregations are welcome to join us at the Lord's table. Those who are not yet communing (of any age) are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

*We receive the bread at the head of the aisle. Wine is available in individual glasses (in trays) or you may drink from the common cup. White grape juice is available in the center of each tray. If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know and Communion will be brought to you.*

them to set a table that will heal the whole creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### The 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.

It is indeed right... ..and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
God of pow - er, God of might, heav - en 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.

<sup>1</sup>I will extol you, my God and King,  
and bless your name forever and ever.

<sup>2</sup>Every day I will bless you,  
and praise your name forever and ever.

<sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;  
his greatness is unsearchable.

<sup>4</sup>One generation shall laud your works to another,  
and shall declare your mighty acts.

*Refrain*

<sup>5</sup>On the glorious splendor of your majesty,  
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

<sup>6</sup>The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,  
and I will declare your greatness.

<sup>7</sup>They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,  
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

*Refrain*

### New Testament Reading Philippians 1:21-30

A reading from Philippians:

<sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup>but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup>Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>27</sup>Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

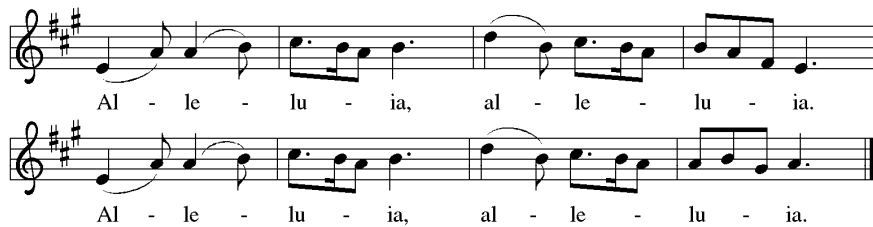
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### Gospel Acclamation

Next page...

## Celtic Alleluia



*Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.*

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker  
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The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel** Matthew 20:1-16

<sup>1</sup>For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' <sup>7</sup>They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

*The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon. Following time for reflection, we stand to respond in song:*

Hymn of the Day *All Who Love and Serve Your City* #724

## 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 People

*Each petition ends:* Lord, in your mercy.

*We respond:* **Hear our prayer.**

+ MEAL +

*We gather at the Table of our Lord to share his Supper.*

## Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

John 20:21

*We share a sign of peace by greeting those around us with the words "Peace be with you."*

**Offertory** *Prelude Op. 28, No. 6 -F. Chopin*

*Today's loose offering will go to the general fund.*

*We stand and sing as the gifts are brought forward:*

**Offering Hymn** *Come to the Table* #481

**Come to the table of mercy, prepared with the wine and the bread.**

**All who are hungry and thirsty, come, and your souls will be fed.**

**Come to the Lord's invitation; receive from his nail scarred hand.**

**Eat of the bread of salvation; drink of the blood of the Lamb.**

## Offering Prayer

Let us pray...

God of life,

**you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in thanksgiving, and use**