



*Bethlehem Lutheran Church—William Penn*  
*Founded 1860—Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*

## **FESTIVAL OF ST. MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2025**

**10:15 A.M.**



Pastor

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Organist

Ann Sommer

Ushers

Brian Crabb  
Daryl Dahman  
Doyle Dahmann  
Tyler Gandy

Acolyte

Norman Krieg

Crucifer

Michael Hinze

Greeter

Sheryl Schroeder

*Festival of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist*  
*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
*September 21, 2025 – 10:15 AM*

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Representing God's Love  
To our Congregation,  
Community, and the World

Divine Service: Setting III with Holy Communion

Order of Service: *Lutheran Service Book, pp 184-202*

*Pre-Service Music*

**September Bible Verse**

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

*Hebrews 13:8*

**Our Mission Statement**

Representing God’s Love to Our Congregation, Community, and the World!



COMMUNION STATEMENT

In Light of 1 Cor. 11:23-26, Bethlehem Lutheran Church maintains the historical practice of “closed” communion in the belief that the Sacrament requires faith in Christ’s words that His body and blood are truly present. Furthermore, participation in the Sacrament is a sign of our unity in the faith with all those who join us at the altar. *For that reason, we ask that those visitors desiring to commune be members in good standing of a congregation of the LCMS and speak to the pastor or an elder before the beginning of the service.* Our denial of admission to those who are members of another confession is not a judgment upon their faith but a recognition that we hold to different confessions concerning God, salvation, and the Sacrament itself. Such individuals are invited to speak with the pastor following the service.

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*Ring of the Church Bell*

*Stand and turn to face the Cross for the Processional Hymn*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*By All Your Saints in Warfare*

*LSB 518 (sts. 1, 25, 3)*



|     |         |       |      |        |       |     |   |       |      |
|-----|---------|-------|------|--------|-------|-----|---|-------|------|
| 1   | By      | all   | Your | saints | in    | war | - | fare, | For  |
| 2   | Praise, | Lord, | for  | him    | whose | Gos | - | pel   | Your |
| △ 3 | Then    | let   | us   | praise | the   | Fa  | - | ther  | And  |



all Your saints at rest, Your ho - ly name, O  
 hu - man life de - clared, Who, world - ly gain for -  
 wor - ship God the Son And sing to God the

Je - sus, For - ev - er - more be blest! For  
 sak - ing, Your path of suf - f'ring shared. From  
 Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One, Till

You have won the bat - tle That they might wear the  
 all un - righ - teous mam - mon, O raise our eyes a -  
 all the ran - somed num - ber Fall down be - fore the

crown; And now they shine in glo - ry  
 new That we in our vo - ca - tion  
 throne, As - crib - ing pow'r and glo - ry

Re - flect - ed from Your throne.  
 May rise and fol - low You.  
 And praise to God a - lone.

Text: Horatio Bolton Nelson, 1823–1913, alt. Tune: English; coll. and arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958 Text: Public domain Tune: Public domain

*Stand.*

INVOCATION

*LSB 184*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*LSB 184*

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of 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** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

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INTROIT

*Psalm 92:1–5; antiphon: Matthew 9:13b, c*

I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.

**For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

**to sing praises to your name, O Most High;**

to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

**and your faithfulness by night,**

to the music of the lute and the harp,

**to the melody of the lyre.**

For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;

**at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

How great are your works, O Lord!

**Your thoughts are very deep!**

**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.**

I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.

**For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.**

# GLORIA PATRI

LSB 186



**C** Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



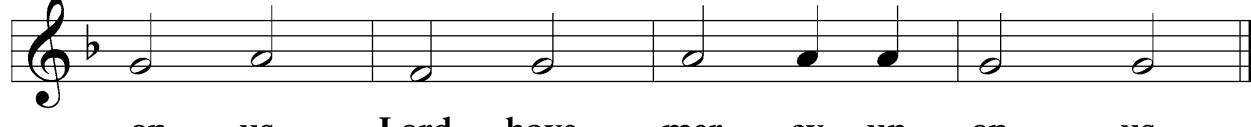
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

# KYRIE

LSB 186



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



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

# HYMN OF PRAISE

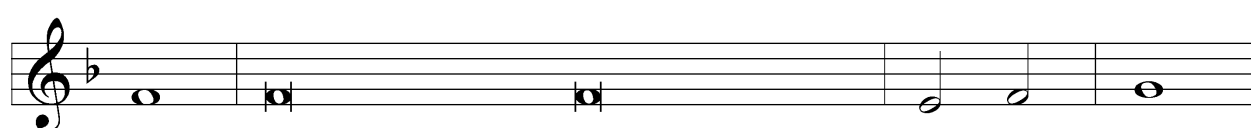
*Gloria in Excelsis*

LSB 187

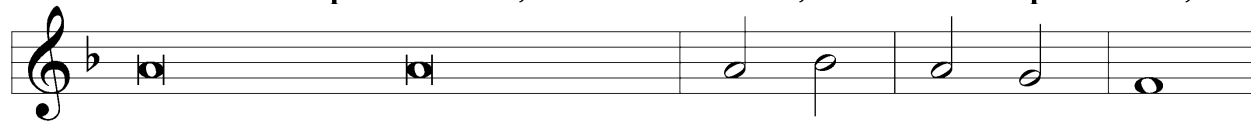
**P** Glory be to God on High,



**C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



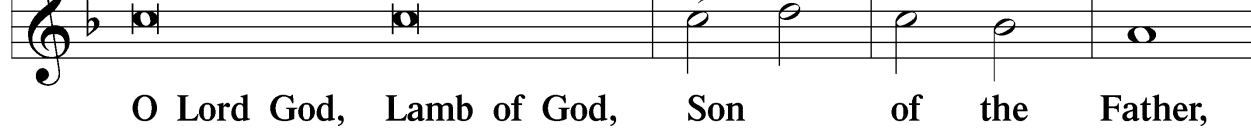
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



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.

#### COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.



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

**P** Let us pray.

**C** O Son of God, our blessed Savior Jesus Christ, You called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist. Through his faithful and inspired witness, grant that we also may follow You, leaving behind all covetous desires and love of riches; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Sit.*

#### OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Ezekiel 2:8—3:11*

<sup>8</sup>“But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Be not rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.” <sup>9</sup>And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it.

<sup>10</sup>And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and

there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

<sup>1</sup>And he said to me, “Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.” <sup>2</sup>So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat. <sup>3</sup>And he said to me, “Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it.” Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey.

<sup>4</sup>And he said to me, “Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with my words to them. <sup>5</sup>For you are not sent to a people of foreign speech and a hard language, but to the house of Israel— <sup>6</sup>not to many peoples of foreign speech and a hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to such, they would listen to you. <sup>7</sup>But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me. Because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart. <sup>8</sup>Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead as hard as their foreheads. <sup>9</sup>Like emery harder than flint have I made your forehead. Fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house.” <sup>10</sup>Moreover, he said to me, “Son of man, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears. <sup>11</sup>And go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD,’ whether they hear or refuse to hear.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

*Ephesians 4:7–16*

<sup>7</sup>But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. <sup>8</sup>Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,  
and he gave gifts to men.”

<sup>9</sup>(In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup>He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup>And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup>so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup>Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with

which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand.*

ALLELUIA

*LSB 190*



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 9:9–13*

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

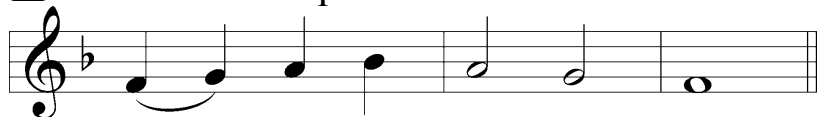


**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>9</sup>As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him.

<sup>10</sup>And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. <sup>11</sup>And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” <sup>12</sup>But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup>Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

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



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.



**☩ 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.**

# HYMN OF THE DAY

## *What Is the World to Me*

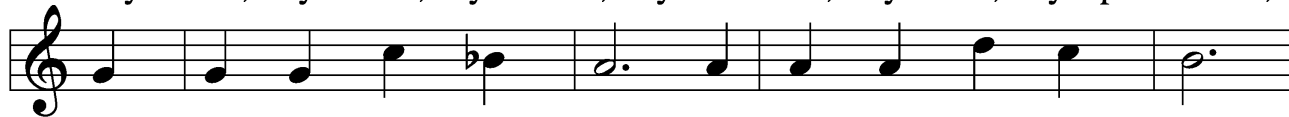
LSB 730



1 What is the world to me With all its vaunt - ed plea - sure  
2 The world seeks to be praised And hon - ored by the might - y  
3 The world seeks af - ter wealth And all that mam - mon of - fers  
4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,



When You, and You a - lone, Lord Je - sus, are my trea - sure!  
Yet nev - er once re - flects That they are frail and flight - y.  
Yet nev - er is con - tent Though gold should fill its cof - fers.  
My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my plea - sure,



You on - ly, dear - est Lord, My soul's de - light shall be;  
But what I tru - ly prize A - bove all things is He,  
I have a high - er good, Con - tent with it I'll be:  
My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss e - ter - nal - ly.



You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!  
My Je - sus, He a - lone. What is the world to me!  
My Je - sus is my wealth. What is the world to me!  
Once more, then, I de - clare: What is the world to me!

Text: Georg Michael Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701. Text and tune: Public domain

## SERMON

### *The Gift of God at the Tax Booth – Matthew 9:9-13*

*Stand.*

## OFFERTORY

LSB 192



☐ 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.

## OFFERING PRAYER

*Sit.*

## OFFERING

*Stand.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

### PREFACE

*LSB 194*

**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 unto the Lord our God.



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; for You have mightily governed and protected Your holy Church, in which the blessed apostles and evangelists proclaimed Your divine and saving Gospel. Therefore with patriarchs and prophets, apostles and evangelists,

with Your servant Matthew, and with all the company of heaven we laud  
and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 195

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 196

**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** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## PAX DOMINI

LSB 197

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



**C** A - men.

## AGNUS DEI

LSB 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.

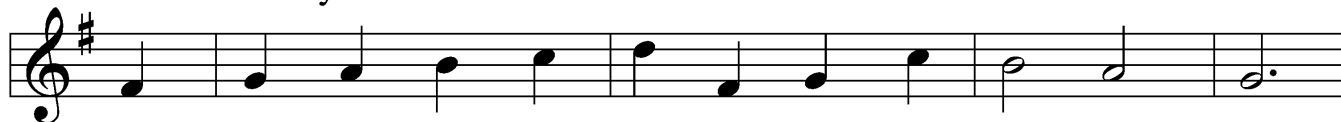
*Sit.*

*Christ Sits at God's Right Hand*

LSB 564



1 Christ sits at God's right hand, His sav - ing work com - plete,  
 2 Christ was that priest God swore, U - nique - ly First and Last,  
 3 Christ's al - tar was the tree, Where on the world's be - half  
 4 What cost - ly sac - ri - fice To cov - er hu - man sin!



To reign till ev - 'ry foe will lie Be - neath His feet—  
 Who would in righ - teous - ness and love Be un - sur - passed:  
 He shed a blood, un - like the blood Of goat or calf,  
 Who but Christ Je - sus had the right To en - ter in?



All that the Fa - ther planned, The Son sought to ful - fill,  
 "A priest for - ev - er - more," An oath God would not break,  
 To seal God's guar - an - tee Of grace that can - not fail;  
 His blood, that sprin - kled price, So we might be as - sured



When first He said, "Lord, here am I To do Your will."  
 "A priest with - in the or - der of Mel - chiz - e - dek."  
 With blood He en - tered for our good Be - hind the veil.  
 That our in - her - i - tance in light Has been se - cured.

5 Then let us now draw near,  
 Washed in that precious flood  
 And enter the Most Holy Place  
 By Jesus' blood.  
 From hearts that are sincere,  
 Let tongues our hope profess,  
 And trust anew God's faithful grace  
 That we confess.

△ 6 All praise to Christ we bring,  
 Our Lord who intercedes,  
 Our great High Priest enthroned above  
 Who knows our needs;  
 And to the Father sing  
 Our songs of thankful praise,  
 Who with the Spirit reigns in love  
 For endless days.



1 The gifts Christ free - ly gives He gives to you and me  
 2 The gifts flow from the font Where He calls us His own;  
 3 The gifts of grace and peace From ab - so - lu - tion flow;  
 4 The gifts are there each day The ho - ly Word is read;



To be His Church, His bride, His cho - sen, saved and free!  
 New life He gives that makes Us His and His a - lone.  
 The pas - tor's words are Christ's For us to trust and know.  
 God's chil - dren lis - ten, hear, Re - ceive, and they are fed.



Saints blest with these rich gifts Are chil - dren who pro - claim  
 Here He for - gives our sins With wa - ter and His Word;  
 For - give - ness that we need Is grant - ed to us there;  
 Christ fills them with Him - self, Blest words that give them life,



That they were won by Christ And cling to His strong name.  
 The tri - une God Him - self Gives pow'r to call Him Lord.  
 The Lord of mer - cy sends Us forth in His blest care.  
 Re - stor - ing and re - fresh - ing Them for this world's strife.

5 The gifts are in the feast,  
 Gifts far more than we see;  
 Beneath the bread and wine  
 Is food from Calvary.  
 The body and the blood  
 Remove our ev'ry sin;  
 We leave His presence in  
 His peace, renewed again.

6 All glory to the One  
 Who lavishes such love;  
 The triune God in love  
 Assures our life above.  
 His means of grace for us  
 Are gifts He loves to give;  
 All thanks and praise for His  
 Great love by which we live!

## O Christ, Who Called the Twelve

LSB 856



1 O Christ, who called the Twelve To rise and fol - low You, For -  
2 O Christ, who taught the Twelve The truth for a - ges sealed, Whose  
3 O Christ, who led the Twelve A - mong the des - o - late And  
4 O Christ, who sent the Twelve On roads they'd nev - er trod To  
5 O Christ, th'a - pos - tles' Lord, The mar - tyrs' strength and song, The



sak - ing old, fa - mil - iar ways For ven - tures bold and new:  
words and works a - wak - ened faith, The ways of God re - vealed:  
broke as bread of life for all Your love com - pas - sion - ate:  
serve, to suf - fer, teach, pro - claim The near - er reign of God:  
cru - ci - fied and ris - en King To whom the saints be - long:



Grant us to hear Your call To risk se - cu - ri - ty And,  
In - struct us now, we pray, By Your em - pow'r - ing Word. True  
Lead us a - long the ways Where hope has near - ly died And  
Send us on ways where faith Tran - scends ti - mid - i - ty, Where  
Though gen - er - a - tions pass, Our trib - ute still we bring, Our



bound in heart and will to You, Find per - fect lib - er - ty.  
teach - er, be for all who seek Their light, their life, their Lord.  
help us climb the lone - ly hills Where love is cru - ci - fied.  
love in - forms and hope sus - tains Both life and min - is - try.  
hymns a sac - ri - fice of praise, Our lives an of - fer - ing.

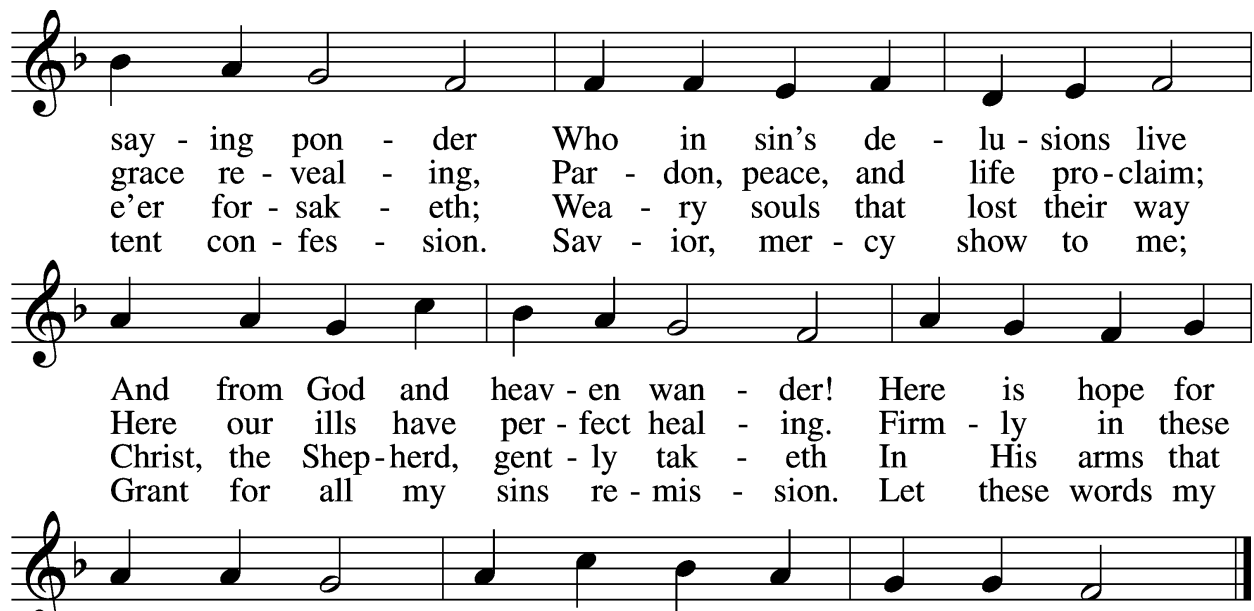
Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007. Tune: English; adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852–1930. Text: © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013. Tune: Public domain

## Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

LSB 609



1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this  
2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich  
3 Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shep - herd  
4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live  
 grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;  
 e'er for - sak - eth; Wea - ry souls that lost their way  
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;

And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for  
 Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly in these  
 Christ, the Shep - herd, gent - ly tak - eth In His arms that  
 Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my

all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 they may live: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

5 Oh, how blest it is to know:  
 Were as scarlet my transgression,  
 It shall be as white as snow  
 By Thy blood and bitter passion;  
 For these words I now believe:  
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

6 Now my conscience is at peace;  
 From the Law I stand acquitted.  
 Christ hath purchased my release

And my ev'ry sin remitted.  
 Naught remains my soul to grieve:  
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

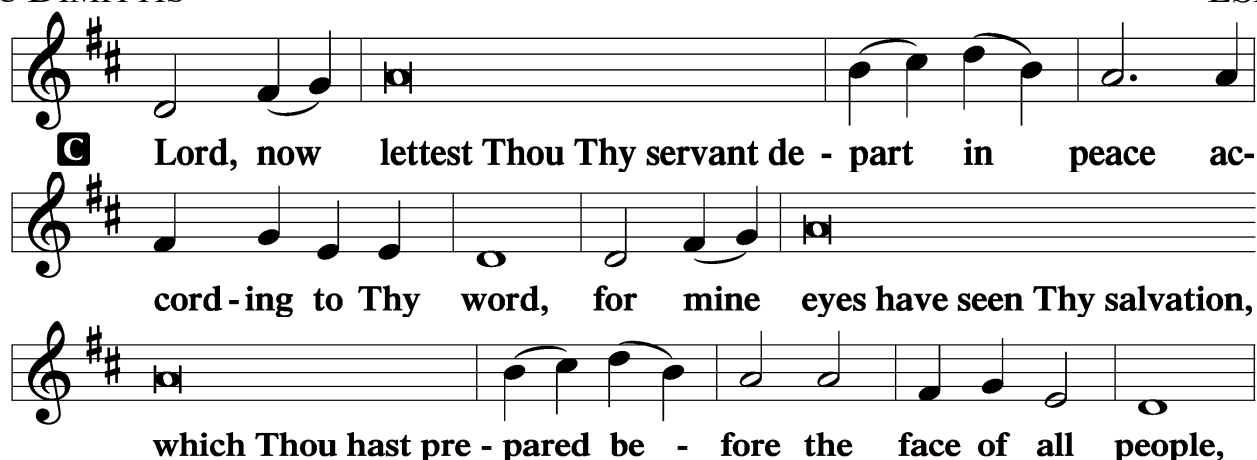
7 Jesus sinners doth receive;  
 Also I have been forgiven;  
 And when I this earth must leave,  
 I shall find an open heaven.  
 Dying, still to Him I cleave:  
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

Text and tune: Public domain

*Stand.*

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 199



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

LSB 200

**P** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

# SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

LSB 201

**P** The Lord be with you.

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

**P** Bless we the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

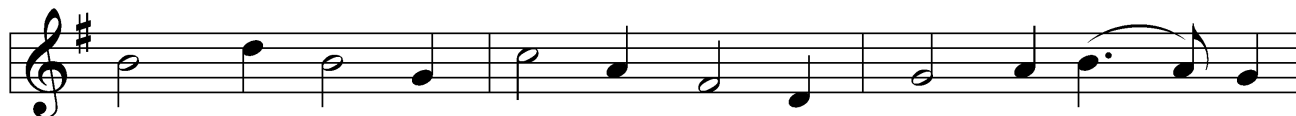
*Sit.*

*Stand and face the cross for the Closing Hymn.*

## CLOSING HYMN

*Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

LSB 909



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and  
2 To this tem - ple, where we call You, Come, O Lord of  
3 Grant, we pray, to all Your faith - ful All the gifts they  
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, Cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,  
hosts, and stay; Come with all Your lov - ing - kind - ness,  
ask to gain; What they gain from You, for - ev - er  
to the Son, Praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



Bind - ing all the Church in one; Ho - ly Zi - on's  
Hear Your peo - ple as they pray; And Your full - est  
With the bless - ed to re - tain; And here - af - ter  
Ev - er three and ev - er one: One in might and



help for - ev - er And our con - fi - dence a - lone.  
ben - e - dic - tion Shed with - in these walls to - day.  
in Your glo - ry Ev - er - more with You to reign.  
one in glo - ry While un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: Henry Purcell, 1659–95, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain



## POSTLUDE

*Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, where we worship in the name of the crucified and risen Lamb of God, Jesus Christ our Lord.*



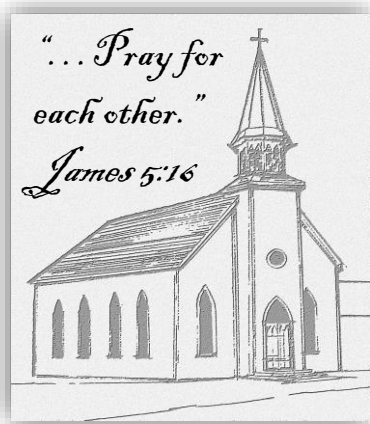
**Congregation:** for Lisa Ketter (JR Kettler's mother, for healing from sickness; for Tom Hayden's recovery after surgery and continued healing; for Adeline Platt's health; for health and healing for Lathel Norris; for Milton Schwartz, Blake Powers, Edith Erwin, and

Deloris Griffin; for our shut-in members: Renee Brinkmann, Mildred Holle, Lathel Norris, Elvera Schroeder, and others who are unable to come to church

**Community:** may our Lord continue to deliver to us favorable weather; for Brenham Pregnancy Center and those whose lives they touch; Faith Mission; families and individuals cared for by Child Protective Services

**World:** for all those suffering through war, may God watch over and protect His children, and by His Holy Spirit, may they all come to know Christ as their Savior and thus enjoy eternity with Him, for those who have been led astray into false belief; for those facing crisis pregnancies, that they would find the strength to choose life for their unborn child; for the leaders of the nations, that they would make godly decisions for their people and countries

### *Bethlehem at Prayer*



Prayer is a vital part of our life together in Christ. To that end, *Bethlehem at Prayer* is a means to encourage more intentional prayer for one another. This is an opportunity for us to support one another in faith, lifting up each household by name before our gracious God. While members can always request prayers at any time, this effort ensures that every family at Bethlehem is prayed for regularly. We invite you to join us in encouragement and intercession, praying for our brothers and sisters in Christ each week.

*Please remember these families in your prayers this week:*

- Boenker– David, Pat
- Boggan– Ethan, Lacey, Hoyt, Coby
- Jaehne– Diane
- Janner– Ryan, Cheri, Lane, Reid, Wyatt
- Pohlmeier – Geraldine
- Pohlmeier– Destry

*May the Lord bless and strengthen them in faith and life.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **This Week's Schedule** **September 21 – September 28**

#### **Today:**

#### ***St Matthew the Apostle***

**9:00 AM** Sunday School & Adult Bible Class  
**10:15 AM** Divine Worship: Setting III with Holy Communion  
Acolyte: Norman Krieg  
Crucifer: Michael Hinze  
Ushers: Brian Crabb Daryl Dahman  
Doyle Dahmann Tyler Gandy

#### **Next Sunday:**

#### ***Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost***

**8:00 AM** Outdoor Amphitheater Worship Service  
**9:00 AM** Sunday School & Adult Bible Class  
**10:15 AM** Divine Worship: Setting I  
Acolyte: Wyatt Schramme  
Ushers: Glen Foster Kevin Goessler  
Delwin Gaskamp Connor Gresham

**Serving in September: Elder – Brad Molitor/Trustee – Mike Schroeder**

*If you have a question or thought concerning spiritual care or the church property, please contact the appropriate elder or trustee.*



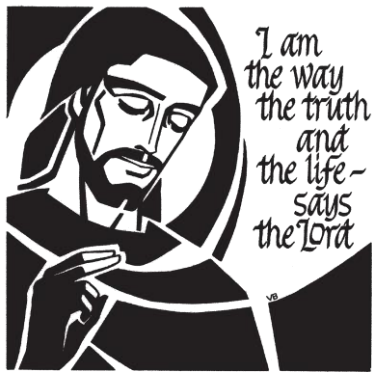
*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God by  
Albin and Brenda Flisowski, celebrating their 45<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.*



#### **September 21 – St. Matthew (Proper 20C)**

– First-century tax collectors like Matthew exploited their neighbors, their own kin, for personal profit. Yet Jesus in forgiveness and fellowship made them an illustration of how family ought to be treated (even when embryos or elderly relatives make us uncomfortable). Let us, like the repentant evangelist, proclaim how Christ crucified can release even from abortion's guilt.

## *Sunday School Corner*



In our Fall unit, we begin our study of the New Testament, beginning with the announcement of Jesus' birth and continuing through the sending of the seventy-two. This morning, the kids studied the lesson "The Temple Testimonies: Jesus' Birth and Presentation." God fulfills His promise as Jesus is born in Bethlehem. Forty days later, in keeping with the law, the family travels to Jerusalem's temple for Mary's purification and Jesus' presentation. There, they encounter Simeon, a devout Jew whose song of praise lives on in the Church today. Likewise, Anna, the aging prophetess, rejoices at the coming of the Savior. To reinforce this lesson with your kids, as a family, discuss, "What are your favorite parts of this true narrative of Jesus' birth? Why? If you had a chance to tell this true Bible story to someone who had never heard it, what would you tell about? Christmas wasn't always celebrated with stores full of decorations and lights everywhere and giving lots of presents. Those things aren't necessarily bad, but sometimes they can get in the way of the true message of the birth of Jesus. If you had to make up new Christmas traditions, what might those be? The name Anna means "grace." How did Anna receive God's grace? How does God show His grace to us by sending His Son as a human baby? How can we show God's grace to others in our lives?" Also, parents, you can join Pastor Krieg in the adult Sunday School class. See you next week!

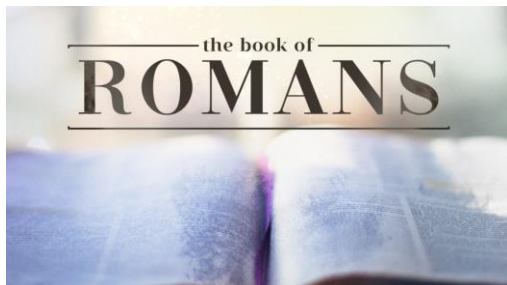
## *High School Lesson*

The high school youth have begun a new study focused on the Word of God. This study will help the kids gain a better understanding of the accuracy and reliability of the text we use today as the inspired Word of God. Over the next nine lessons, the students will focus on the following:

- Jesus Christ: The Center of the Bible
- The Holy Scriptures – God's Word
- The Canon – God Preserves His True Word
- Understanding God's Word
- Figurative Language – The Richness of Scripture
- Biblical Types, Symbols, and Poetry
- Recognizing False Teaching
- Bible Translations

Today, our high school class studied the lesson, *Biblical Types, Symbols, and Poetry*. This lesson focuses on how God's Word includes types, symbols, and poetry. These elements of literature give Scripture a richness in meaning and, like the rest of the Bible, point us to Christ Jesus, the way of salvation.

## *Adult Sunday School Lesson*



St. Paul's letter to the Romans is often called the "chief part of the New Testament." Romans clearly lays out the heart of the Christian faith: we are justified by grace alone through faith alone on account of Christ alone. In this rich epistle, Paul teaches on sin and righteousness, law and Gospel, baptism, the struggle against the old Adam, and life lived in the

freedom of the Gospel. Whether you've been attending or have yet to join us, this is a wonderful time to dig into God's Word together and grow in our understanding of His mercy in Christ. Come and be strengthened in the faith that saves and learn how the Gospel shapes our daily lives. We look forward to studying this treasure of Scripture with you! If you could not attend today, please join us next Sunday during the Adult Bible Study hour before church, starting at 9 a.m. Now is the time to commit yourself to a deeper and more meaningful understanding of God's Word and your relationship with Him. I hope to see you all next Sunday as we continue our studies.



### *Online Giving*

You may give tithes and offerings online by clicking the "Give" tab on our website (<https://www.bethlehemwmpenn.org/>), or just scan the QR code to the left.

### **Last Week at Bethlehem**

| DATE     | SERVICE           | ATTENDANCE | GIFTS IN RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL |
|----------|-------------------|------------|---------------------------------|
| Sept. 14 | Sunday School     | 15         | \$100.00                        |
|          | Youth Bible Class | 2          |                                 |
|          | Adult Bible Class | 22         |                                 |
| Sept. 14 | Worship Service   | 120        | \$6,411.63                      |