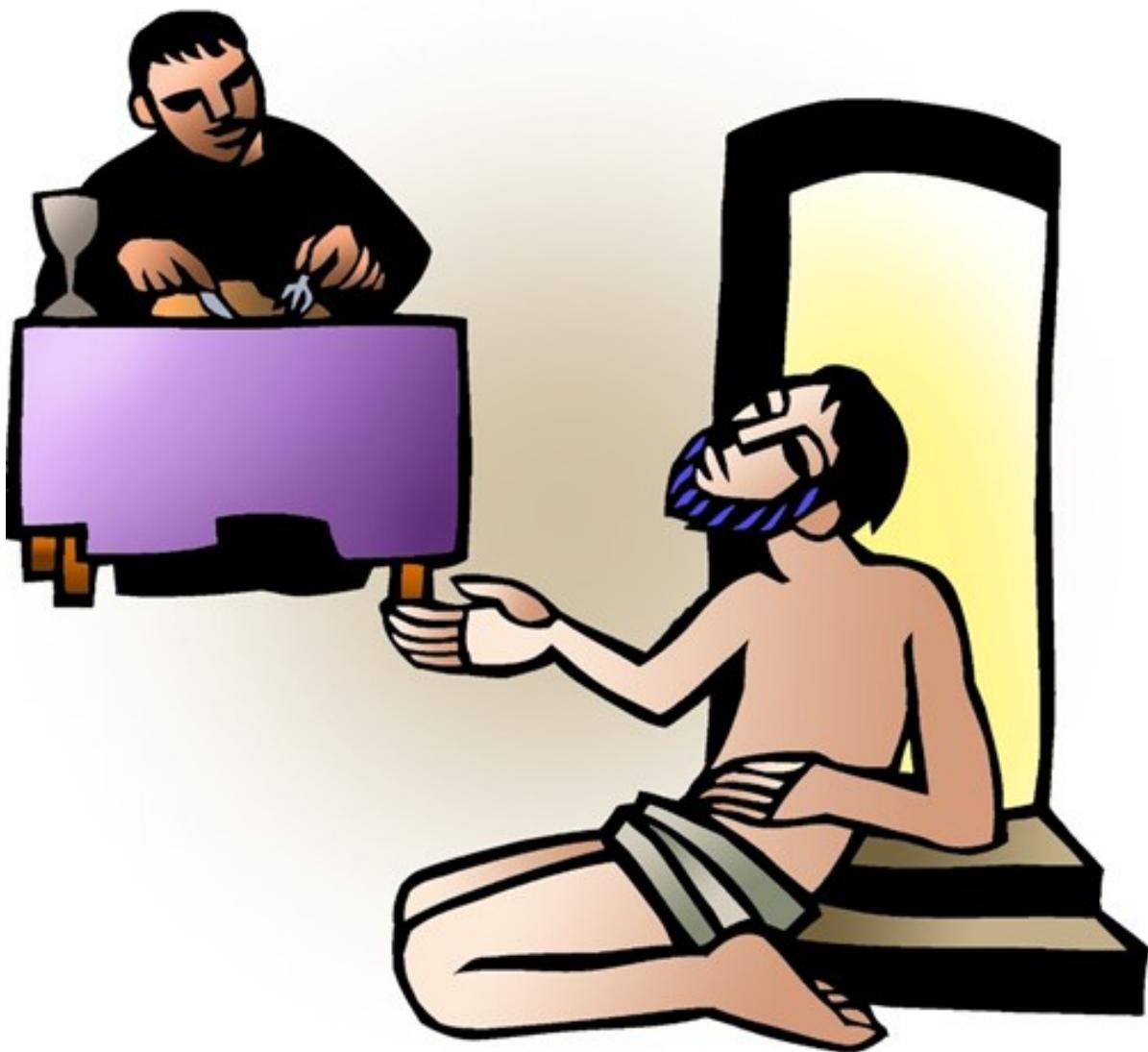


# Bethlehem Lutheran Church



16th Sunday after Pentecost

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Welcome to all who came to be Bethlehem Lutheran Church today!**

Holy Communion may be received at the altar with individual cups of wine/juice and bread; or if you choose to remain seated, individual cups of wine/juice and wafer are available in the narthex. Those at home, we welcome you to the table with your own bread and wine/juice.

**We welcome Father Steve and LMA Jim Reindollar as our leaders today.**

**Special offering for September is: United Campus Ministry—MSUB**

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

Pastor Kim W., Carl S., Dominic H., Mike & Janice P., Lyle Lisa & Lindsay S., Mary & Paul A., Virginia, Tammy, Kelly Eva & Josh W., Mike M. (Sharon K's brother-in-law), and Howard & Dona U.

Be with Joyce P. who is homebound.

If you are in need of pastoral leadership or spiritual counsel please contact Reverend Kim Wilker! Contact info: [klwrlj@aol.com](mailto:klwrlj@aol.com) or 406-425-3713 or leave a message at the church (406) 248-6427 or email [bethlehembillings@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehembillings@gmail.com).

The link for service is: [www.facebook.com/BethlehemBillings](http://www.facebook.com/BethlehemBillings)

Showers for our unhoused neighbors—Monday, September 29th Wednesday, October 1st. Willing to volunteer some time this week to comfort some of our neighbors? We at Bethlehem, in cooperation with St. Vincent de Paul and the Salvation Army, provide showers for our unhoused neighbors on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10am – 2pm. If you are willing to help provide this sweet comfort to our neighbors in need, call Chelsea @ (360) 915-2762 or Terri Wilker @ (406) 425– 3713. Thank you for considering this remarkable opportunity!

**ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS ON BACK PAGE!**

# *Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church*

*40 10th Street West \* Billings, Montana \* 59102*

16th Sunday after Pentecost                      September 28, 2025

9:30 Worship

ELW Setting 8

## Introduction

Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those “at our gate,” visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.  
C. Amen.

L. Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L. Merciful and loving God,

C. We are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

L. Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ✝ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C. Amen.

## GATHERING SONG:

“Gather Us In”  
(red book) ELW # 532

## GREETING:

L: 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

*Refrain*



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the

2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the



u - ni - ty of all; for  
hun - gry and the poor; that



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,

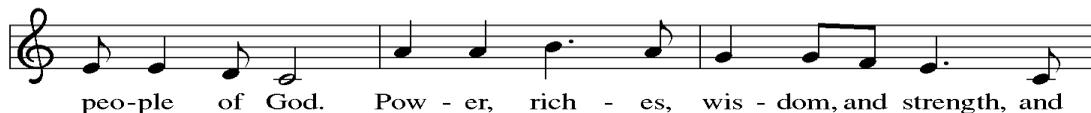
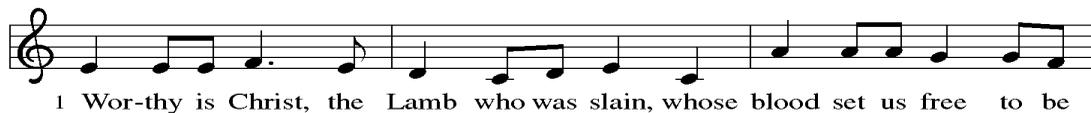
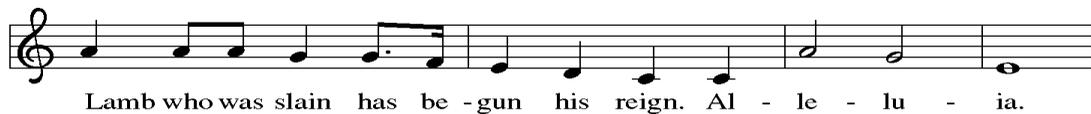


*Refrain*

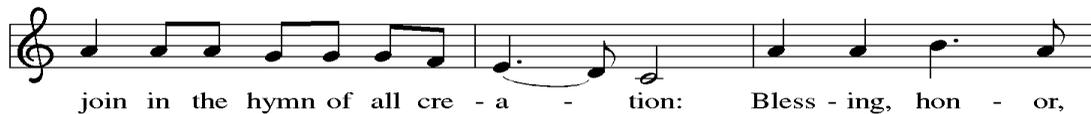
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

# HYMN OF PRAISE

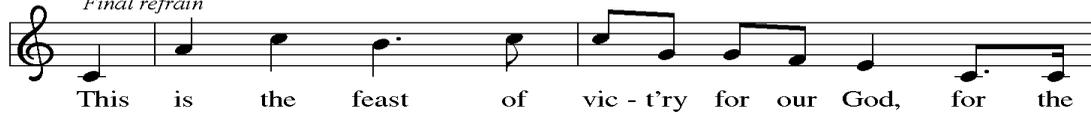
*Refrain*



*Refrain*



*Final refrain*



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## FIRST READING: AMOS 6:1A, 4-7

*The prophet Amos announces that Israel's great wealth is a cause not for rejoicing but rather sorrow, because God's people have forgotten how to share their wealth with the poor. The wealthy will be the first to go into exile when judgment comes.*

<sup>1a</sup> Woe to those who are at ease in Zion and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria. <sup>4</sup> Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and lounge on their couches and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the stall, who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David improvise on instruments of music, <sup>6</sup> who drink wine from bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away. Word of God, Word of Life.

C. Thanks be to God

## PSALM: PSALM 146

*The LORD gives justice to those who are oppressed. (Ps. 146:7)*

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup> **I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

<sup>3</sup> Put not your trust in rulers,  
in mortals in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup> **When they breathe their last, they return to earth,  
and in that day their thoughts perish. R**

- <sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- <sup>6</sup> **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;  
who keeps promises forever;**
- <sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.  
The LORD sets the captive free.
- <sup>8</sup> **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed  
down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.**
- <sup>9</sup> The LORD cares for the stranger;  
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- <sup>10</sup> **The LORD shall reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah! R**

## SECOND READING: 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-19

*Timothy is reminded of the confession he made at his baptism and of its implications for daily life. His priorities will be different from those of people who merely want to be rich.*

<sup>6</sup> Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, <sup>7</sup> for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, <sup>8</sup> but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. <sup>9</sup> But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

<sup>11</sup> But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. <sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup> In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you <sup>14</sup> to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. <sup>16</sup> It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

<sup>17</sup> As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup> They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, <sup>19</sup> thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

Word of God, Word of Life

### C. Thanks be to God

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia.* You know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. *Alleluia.*

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.  
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.  
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P. The Gospel according to Luke, the 16th Chapter

### C. Glory to you, O Lord

### GOSPEL: LUKE 16:19-31

*Jesus tells a parable in which the poor one is “lifted up” and the rich one is “sent away empty.” Jesus makes it clear that this ethic of merciful reversal is not new but is as old as Moses*

[Jesus said:] <sup>19</sup>“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup>And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup>who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. <sup>22</sup>The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup>In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup>He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ <sup>25</sup>But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup>Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ <sup>27</sup>He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house <sup>28</sup>for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ <sup>29</sup>Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ <sup>30</sup>He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ <sup>31</sup>He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’” The Gospel of the Lord

C. Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon Father Steve

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Open Your Ears, O Faithful People”  
(red book) ELW # 519

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church, that it would remain faithful to the gospel, always striving to serve the needs of those who are oppressed and rejecting the complacency that comes from wealth. God of grace,

C. Receive our prayer.

We pray for creation, that the nations work together to protect and restore the earth, preserving the beauty of the planet for future generations and honoring the gift of your creation. God of grace.

**C. Receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in positions of authority, that they govern with justice and compassion, recognizing the dignity of all people and working to promote peace and prosperity for all. God of grace,

**C. Receive our prayer.**

We pray for people in any need especially: **Pastor Kim, Carl, Dominic, Mike & Janice, Lyle Lisa & Lindsay, Mary & Paul, Virginia, Tammy, Kelly Eva & Josh, Mike, and Howard & Dona.** Give them your assurance and courage when the path forward is not clear. Liberate us from all that binds us, lift us up when we are bowed down, and show us your love. God of grace,

**C. Receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation, that we would be strengthened to build a world where all can thrive. Incite us to advocate for fair wages and just policies, and guide us in building a community of mutual support. God of grace,

**C. Receive our prayer.**

We remember in thanksgiving the faithful departed. Inspire us by their example to love and serve our neighbors, and bring us to eternal life. God of grace,

**C. Receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

**C. Amen.**

## **PEACE**

**L:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C:** And also with you.

**Share a sign of peace with your neighbor**

## **OFFERING:**

The Collection globe is available at the rear of the church. Online viewers may send a check to Bethlehem Lutheran Church— 40 10th Street West, Billings, Mt. 59102 Thank you for the support of our ministries.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

L. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

L. Lift up your hearts.

C. We lift them to the Lord.

L. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L. It is indeed right, . . .

..... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it to all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

## 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.

## AGNUS DEI (LAMB OF GOD)



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, Lamb of God.

### MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

## **DISTRIBUTION**

The Body of Christ given for you  
The Blood of Christ shed for you

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

## **COMMUNION HYMN**

**“We Come to the Hungry Feast”**  
**(red book) ELW #479**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

## **BLESSING**

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, † bless you now and forever.

**C. Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

**“Canticle of the Turning”**  
**(red book) ELW # 723**

## **DISMISSAL**

**L. Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.**

**C. Thanks be to God.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:

United Campus Ministry—Fall Fundraiser Dinner  
Tuesday—October 14th— @ 5:30 pm.  
Glacier Room of the MSUB Student Union Building.  
\$50 per person, \$50 to sponsor a student  
\$400 for a table of 6! \$500 for a table of 8!  
Live auction and basket raffle!

Lefse making—Saturday—October 11th—  
9:30 am until finished! Need help!  
If you have a lefse griddle or rolling pins—  
speak with Norma Severance!

Annual Chili/Pie Social coming to Bethlehem—Saturday  
October 18th—10:30 am to 2:30 pm. Sign up to bring chili,  
pies, baked goods, and raffle baskets. Also need help  
setting up and cleaning up afterwards!

**SIGNUP SHEETS IN THE NARTHEX!**

## All Are Welcome

Christian community should be a place of absolute welcome. Christ has welcomed us, whoever we are. Because of this, we at Bethlehem Lutheran Church are glad to welcome you. None of the distinctions that seem to divide our world apply here!

We welcome you if you are:

- \* young, old or in between;
- \* white, black, native, Hispanic, or whatever your ancestry;
- \* married, single, divorced, a single parent, or whatever your family of choice;
- \* rich, poor, middle class, employed or unemployed;
- \* a lifelong Christian, just now seeking faith, or not really sure;
- \* straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, questioning, or any other identity;
- \* healthy of mind and body, living with mental illness, disabled or sick;
- \* struggling with addiction, in recovery, or if you love those who are;
- \* liberal, conservative, or ambivalent;
- \* homeless, a former convict, or in any way someone longing for acceptance.

At Bethlehem, we offer safety, love and the ministry of Word and Sacrament to everyone who seeks it. Come and be part of this welcome, as an equal, as a free and beloved child of God!

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

40 10th Street West

Billings, Mt 59102

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