

# Bethlehem Lutheran & St. Stephen's Episcopal



3rd Sunday after Pentecost

## **Announcements**

**Welcome to all who came to Bethlehem & St. Stephen's 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.

Please remember in your prayers: Dennis, Laura, Barb, Kay, Sylvia & family, Lyle, Lisa & Lindsey, Pastor Kim & Terri, Eva, Josh, Joyce, Howard & Donna. If you are in need of pastoral leadership or spiritual counsel, or want to add a name to the prayer list, please email [bethlehembillings@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehembillings@gmail.com) or [ststephensmt@gmail.com](mailto:ststephensmt@gmail.com) or call Father Steve at (307)633-6454.

**Flowers today are given by Gayle in remembrance of Josh.**

Upcoming Dates to Remember:  
June 20 – 406 Pride Parade & Table  
June 28 - Congregational Council Meeting

Special Offering for June is Global Refugee

The online service is available at <https://www.youtube.com/@saintstephensbillings>

**Showers for our unhoused neighbors** – We at Bethlehem and St. Stephen's, in cooperation with St Vincent DePaul and the Salvation Army, provide showers for our unhoused neighbors on Mondays and Wednesdays. If you are willing to help, call Chelsea Meisner at 360-915-2762 or Terri Wilker at 406-425-3713

# Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

## St Stephen's Episcopal Church

40 10<sup>th</sup> Street West

Billings, MT 59102

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

June 14, 2026

9:30 Worship

WOV Bread of Life

### Introduction

*Moses tells the Israelites that they are called to be a priestly kingdom and a holy people. Jesus sends out the disciples as laborers into the harvest. In baptism we too are anointed for ministry, sharing God's compassion with our needy world. From the Lord's table we go forth to proclaim the good news, to heal the sick, and to share our bread with the hungry.*

### Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the **+** Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

**Gathering Song:** *ELW #526 God Is Here!*

## 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



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **G** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son:      **G** Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **G** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

## Canticle of Praise



**G** Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



**I** 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.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



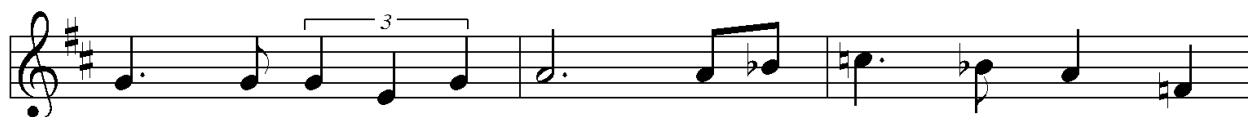
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



☐ 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.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



☐ 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.

☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,

and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

### Prayer of the Day

**C:** God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

### WORD

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

*Congregation May be Seated*

### First Reading: Exodus 19:2-8a

*At Sinai God assured Israel, "You shall be my treasured possession," and commissioned them to serve as mediating priests for the nations. The people commit themselves completely to God's will.*

<sup>2</sup> [The Israelites] journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain.<sup>3</sup> Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the Israelites: <sup>4</sup> 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup> Now,

therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, <sup>6</sup> but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.”

<sup>7</sup> So Moses went, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. <sup>8a</sup> The people all answered as one, “Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do.”

R: Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God**

### **Psalm: Psalm 100**

*We are God’s people and the sheep of God’s pasture. (Ps. 100:3)*

<sup>1</sup> Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all you lands!

<sup>2</sup> Serve the LORD with gladness; come into God’s presence with a song.

<sup>3</sup> **Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom we belong;  
we are God’s people and the sheep<sup>1</sup> of God’s pasture.**

<sup>4</sup> Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving and the courts with praise;  
give thanks and bless God’s holy name.

<sup>5</sup> **Good indeed is the LORD, whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from age to age.**

### **Second Reading: Romans 5:1-8**

*We are no longer God’s enemies but have peace with God because we were brought into a right relationship with God through Christ’s death.*

<sup>1</sup> Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

R: Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God**

### **Gospel Acclamation** Please stand, as you are able

*Alleluia.* The kingdom of God<sup>1</sup> has come near; repent, and believe in the good news. *Alleluia.* (Mark 1:15)

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

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

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P. The Gospel according to Matthew, the 9th Chapter  
**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]**

*The mission of Jesus' followers is to continue the mission of Jesus himself. Here, he instructs his first disciples as to how they might proclaim the gospel through their words and deeds.*

<sup>35</sup> Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup> therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

<sup>10:1</sup> Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. <sup>2</sup> These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee and his brother John; <sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup> Simon the Cananaean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

<sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town, <sup>6</sup> but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ <sup>8</sup> Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. [<sup>9</sup> Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, <sup>10</sup> no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff, for laborers deserve their food.

<sup>11</sup> Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. <sup>12</sup> As you enter the house, greet it. <sup>13</sup> If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. <sup>14</sup> If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. <sup>15</sup> Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

<sup>16</sup> “I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. <sup>17</sup> Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues, <sup>18</sup> and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the gentiles. <sup>19</sup> When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you at that time, <sup>20</sup> for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. <sup>21</sup> Sibling will betray sibling to death and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, <sup>22</sup> and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>23</sup> When they persecute you in this town, flee to the next, for truly I tell you, you will not have finished going through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”]

The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, Christ.**

**Sermon**    Father Stephen Day

**Hymn of the Day**    *ELW #712    Lord, Whose Love In Humble Service*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

*A brief silence.*

God of freedom, you ransomed Israel from slavery to be a holy people. As we observe Juneteenth this coming week, free us also to be a people who proclaim your liberating love. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

God of creation, you call all the earth to make a joyful noise to you. Let us join the chorus of the natural world in proclaiming your glory. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, you sent Jesus as peace for all of humankind. Bring an end to war and conflict, bring hope to places devastated by destruction, and sustain those who advocate for peace. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

God of grace, you pour hope and love into our hearts in times of shame and doubt. Protect those experiencing housing insecurity. Uplift anyone struggling with hopelessness, illness, or other worries especially: **Dennis, Laura, Barb, Kay, Sylvia & family, Lyle, Lisa & Lindsey, Pastor Kim & Terri, Eva, Josh, Joyce, Howard & Donna.** God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

God of all, you call your children to serve in a plentiful harvest. Give us the wisdom to know how best to serve our local community and our neighbors.

God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

God of faith, we give thanks for the saints who earnestly seek you. Guide us as we seek to follow those who have led your church. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

## **Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**Share a sign of peace with your neighbors.**

## **Offering**

The collection globe is available at the rear of the church. Online viewers may send donations to Bethlehem Lutheran Church/St Stephen's Episcopal Church at 40 10<sup>th</sup> Street West, Billings, MT 59102. Thank you for the support of our ministries.

## **Offering Prayer**

P: Merciful God,

**C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen**

## Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy, Holy



## **Words of Institution**

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you.

Through him you created all things, and in him you take delight.

He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.

He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will  
and won for you a holy people;  
he stretched out his hands in suffering  
in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted,  
in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,  
to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous,  
to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection,  
taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:  
Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,  
saying: This is my blood poured out for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we lift this bread and cup before you, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

And we ask you:

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church;  
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;  
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,  
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him all glory and honor are yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church both now and forever.

## Lord's Prayer

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

**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

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## 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.

## **Distribution**

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

**Communion Hymn:** *ELW #661 I Love to Tell the Story*

## **Prayer after Communion**

P: Let us pray.

**C: Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.**

**Amen**

## **Blessing**

P: Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Sending Song** *ELW# 825 Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaims*

## **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



## 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  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
40 10th Street West  
Billings, Mt 59102  
Office: (406) 248-6427  
[bethlehembillings@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehembillings@gmail.com)  
Web: [bethlehembillings.com](http://bethlehembillings.com)  
Facebook: BethlehemBillings