

# Bethlehem Lutheran & St. Stephen's Episcopal



5th 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.

**We welcome Pastor Peter Christ as our leader for our service today.  
Pastor Christ is the President of the St. John's Foundation  
and Vice President of Mission Advancement at St. John's.**

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 [office@ststephensbillings.org](mailto:office@ststephensbillings.org) or call Father Stephen at (307)633-6454.

**Flowers today are given by Joan Hesar in  
honor of Sharon U's birthday on July 2nd.**

There is a Congregational Council Meeting today after the service.  
Women's Bible Study and WELCA will meet July 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00.

The next rotation for Family Promise is July 19 & 20. Please let Dennis or Jeanne know if you are willing to do dinners or overnights. Thank you!

Special Offering for June is Global Refuge

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

5th Sunday after Pentecost

June 28, 2026

9:30 Worship

WOV Bread of Life

### Introduction

*The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.*

### Confession and Forgiveness *please stand as you are able*

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

**C: Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**C: Amen**

**Gathering Song:** *ELW #641 All Are Welcome v. 1,3,5*

## 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:*

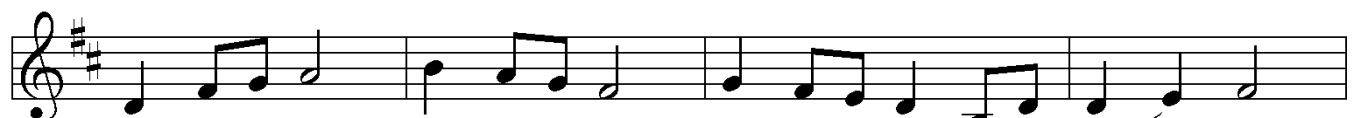


**A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son:      **G** Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**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;



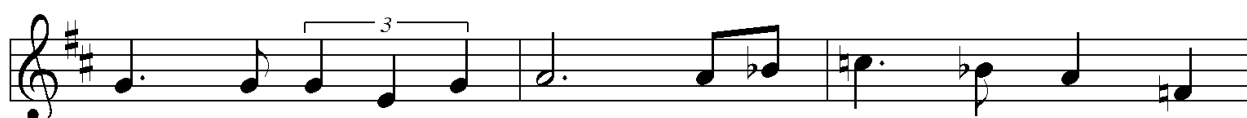
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



☒ 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

Let us pray.

**C:** O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

*Congregation may be seated*



## WORD

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

### **First Reading: Jeremiah 28:5-9**

*Through a symbolic action Jeremiah insisted that Judah and all the surrounding nations should submit to the king of Babylon (Jer. 27). Hananiah contradicted the word of Jeremiah, who in reply insisted that Hananiah's rosy prediction should not be believed until it came true. God confirmed the word of Jeremiah and sentenced the false prophet Hananiah to death (vv. 16-17).*

<sup>5</sup> The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, <sup>6</sup> and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD and all the exiles. <sup>7</sup> But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. <sup>8</sup> The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. <sup>9</sup> As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

R: Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God**

### **Psalm: Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18**

*Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing. (Ps. 89:1)*

<sup>1</sup> Your love, O LORD, forever | will I sing;

from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

<sup>2</sup> **For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever;  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**

<sup>3</sup> "I have made a covenant with my | chosen one;

I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

<sup>4</sup> **'I will establish your | line forever,  
and preserve your throne for all | generations.'** "

<sup>15</sup> Happy are the people who know the festal shout!  
They walk, O LORD, in the light of your presence.

<sup>16</sup> **They rejoice daily in your name;  
they are jubilant in your righteousness.**

<sup>17</sup> For you are the glory of their strength,  
and by your favor our might is exalted.

<sup>18</sup> **Truly, our shield belongs to the LORD;  
our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

## Second Reading: Romans 6:12-23

*Sin is an enslaving power which motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin's final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin's slavery to live obediently under God's grace, whose end is the free gift of eternal life.*

<sup>12</sup> Do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires. <sup>13</sup> No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. <sup>14</sup> For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

<sup>15</sup> What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup> Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted <sup>18</sup> and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness. <sup>19</sup> I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification.

<sup>20</sup> When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup> So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup> But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

R: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

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

*Alleluia.* You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. *Alleluia.* (1 Peter 2:9)



P. The Gospel according to Matthew, the 10th Chapter

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

**Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42**

*When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.*

[Jesus said to the twelve:] <sup>40</sup>“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup>Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, <sup>42</sup>and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon** Pastor Peter Christ

**Hymn of the Day** ELW #523 *Let Us Go Now to the Banquet*

**Prayers of Intercession**

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

*A brief silence.*

Faithful God, establish your church to offer welcome and proclaim your peace. Nourish us so we can proclaim your hope to the world. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

Creator God, bring life to places experiencing drought, deforestation, and pollution. Help us to cultivate and care for the natural world around us. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

Loving God, bring an end to conflict and division. Sustain the work of prophets in our time, and work through world leaders to foster understanding, justice, and peace. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

Provider God, give your children what they need physically, emotionally, and spiritually. We pray especially for **Dennis, Laura, Barb, Kay, Sylvia & family, Lyle, Lisa & Lindsey, Pastor Kim & Terri, Eva, Josh, Joyce, Howard & Donna**. Bless caregivers as they show God's hospitality through their generous service. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

Living God, lead us from death to life. Inspire new ministries and endeavors, renew established ones, and strengthen our welcoming presence to our neighbors. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we remember the faithful departed of this community and of the wider church and world. We give thanks for saints of all times and places.

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**

Loving God,

**C: we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.**

**Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving *please stand as you are able*

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
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. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **Words of Institution**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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 for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit,  
that by this Holy Communion we may know  
the unity we share with all your people  
in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

## **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 #781 Children of the Heavenly Father*

## 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#576 We All are One in Mission*

## 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!**

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