

Bethlehem Lutheran & St. Stephen's Episcopal



11th 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: Doug & Nick, Dennis, Laura, Barb, Kay, Sylvia & family, Lyle, Lisa & Lindsey, Pastor Kim & Terri, Eva, Josh, Joyce, Howard & Donna. We also pray for all who are impacted by wildfire, especially those tasked with fighting them on the ground. We also pray for all those in the Spokane area that are reeling from the destruction.

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

Women's Bible Study will be Aug 13 at 1:00
The next Congregational Council Meeting will be Aug 16

**Flowers today are given by Kevin and Joan in celebration
of the birthday of their daughter, Beth.**

Special Offering for August is for Clothing Drive & School Supplies

Collection of School Supplies!

We are again collecting school supplies and boxes of cereal in August. Sales of supplies have started, now is a good time to shop for them. Thank you for participating in this outreach to neighbors nearby and around the world.

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 10th Street West

Billings, MT 59102

11th Sunday after Pentecost

August 9, 2026

9:30 Worship

Chosen People

Introduction

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

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.

Gathering

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WE ARE GATHERED HERE

Larry Olson
Karol Baer
David Lee Brown

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of D major (indicated by two sharps), and common time (C). It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in parentheses indicating alternative phrasings. The first staff ends with a repeat sign. The second staff ends with a repeat sign. The third staff ends with a repeat sign. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

We are gath - ered here in the name (of the Maker).
(of the Savior)
(of the Spirit)

We are gath - ered here to sing God's praise.

We are gath - ered here in the name (of the Maker).
(of the Savior)
(of the Spirit)

Cho - sen by God's grace.

Confession and Forgiveness

Please rise if it is comfortable.

P: Merciful God,

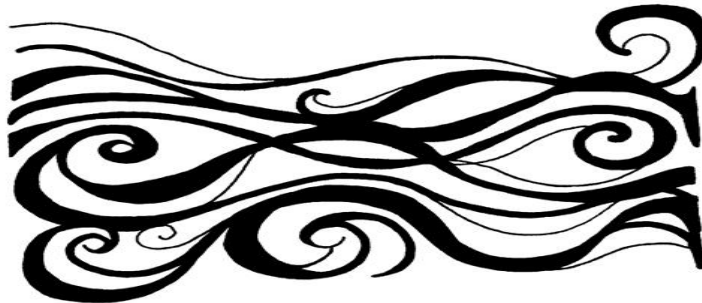
**C: We have not lived as your chosen people
We have not loved your daughters and sons.
We have not walked in the footsteps of others.
We have not followed the Servant your Son.**

**Sometimes I hate, sometimes I lie,
Sometimes I waste, sometimes I cheat.**

**We have not lived as your chosen people
We have not loved your daughters and sons.
We have not walked in the footsteps of others.
We have not followed the Servant your Son.**

**Sometimes I am selfish, sometimes I am prejudiced,
Sometimes I am uncaring, sometimes I am destructive.**

**We have not lived as your chosen people
We have not loved your daughters and sons.
We have not walked in the footsteps of others.
We have not followed the Servant your Son.**



KYRIE ELEISON

Larry Olson

Kyr-i - e E-lei - son on our wor-ld and on our way.

Kyr-i - e E-lei - son ev - 'ry day. For That For For your

peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the u - ni - ty of all.
 we may live out your im - passionate re-sponse to the hun - gry and the poor.
 peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and fam - i - ly.
 spir - it to guide, that you cen - ter our lives in the wa - ter and the word.

For this ho - ly house, for all who wor - ship and praise,
 That we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
 For life and for love, for our work and our play,
 That you nour - ish our souls with your bod - y and blood,

let us pray to the Lord! — let us pray to the Lord! —

Words of Forgiveness

C: Even though we are in bondage to sin, there is hope for freedom.
 Not by our own doing but because we are chosen by God to receive the gift
 of forgiveness. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we
 know this is true.
 Amen.

JOURNEY OF PRAISE

Larry Olson
David Lee Brown
Karol Baer

We are all on a jour - ney from the
We can feel suf - fer - ing. There is
cra - dle to the We are
some - one near in grave. need. We are
giv - en life through the price our
giv - en choice, heart, hands, voice. They
Sav - ior with had in to pay. Oh let our
are with - in our reach.
hearts praise the Lord. Oh let our hands praise the Lord. Oh let our
voices praise the Lord. Oh let our lives praise the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray

C: O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith 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: 1 Kings 19:9 - 18

At Horeb, the mount of God, Elijah came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

P: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 119:129-136

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. (Ps. 119:130)

¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰ **When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

¹³² **Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**

¹³³ Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶ **My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

Second Reading: Romans 10:5 - 15

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

P: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

(please rise if it is comfortable)

David Lee Brown
Larry Olson

LISTEN

Sing eighths with a triplet feel

PART 1 Lis - ten to the Wo - rd of the Lord.

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew the 14th chapter.

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

Gospel: Matthew 14:22 - 33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So, Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #763 *My Life Flows on an Endless Song*

Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way.

God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Romans 8:26

THE SPIRIT INTERCEDES FOR US

Larry Olson



The Spir- it in-ter- cedes for us with sighs too deep for words to ex-press oh, oh, oh.

God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated.

God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. We pray especially for **Doug and Nick, Dennis, Laura, Barb, Kay, Sylvia & family, Lyle, Lisa & Lindsey, Pastor Kim & Terri, Eva, Josh, Joyce, Howard & Donna.** We pray for the residents and staff at St. John's United.

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Romans 8:26

THE SPIRIT INTERCEDES FOR US

Larry Olson



The Spir- it in-ter- cedes for us with sighs too deep for words to ex-press oh, oh, oh.

God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us.

God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community's part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Romans 8:26

THE SPIRIT INTERCEDES FOR US

Larry Olson



Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.
C: Amen.

Peace

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you

Please share a sign of Peace with your neighbors!

Offering

The collection globe is available at the rear of the church. Online viewers can mail an offering to: Bethlehem Lutheran Church—40 10th Street West, Billings, MT. 59102. Thank you for your support in our ministries!

Offertory Prayer

P: 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

If it is comfortable, please stand.

P: Come and taste the joy of God!

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.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
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 all the choirs of angels,
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'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.

Thanksgiving At the Table

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.

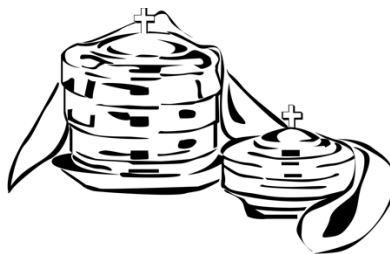
Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it to all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

P: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!



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.

Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Communion Hymn

EVERYBODY'S GOT SOMETHING TO OFFER

Larry Olson



Ev - ery - bo - dy's got some-thing to of - fer; young and old the
prince and the pau - per. Ev - ery - bo - dy's got some-thing to of - fer
in the name of the Lord.
To the lost and the low - ly ones the mes-sage it is
To the be - liev - ers gath - ered here the mes-sage it is
clear; we have all got a gift to give our hands,
true; we have all got a gift to give in all
our hearts, our tears. Ev - ery - bo - dy's got
we say and do. Ev - ery - bo - dy's got

P: The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray:

**C: Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.**

Blessing

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✝ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.
Amen.



Sending Hymn

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

David Lee Brown
Larry Olson
Karol Baer

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 4/4 time. It consists of nine staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a strong emphasis on the words 'We can make a difference'.

We can make a dif - ference in ev - 'ry - thing we do. —

We can make a dif - ference it's up to me and you.

Chil - dren of the light, the Spir - it shows us how. —

We can make a dif - ference now.

Some say — we should - n't be heard; we've got some - thing to say. —
He needs some - one to lean on; it just takes one shoul - der.

Some say — we are lost; we can find the way. —
She has a lone - ly heart; just takes one to hold her.

Some say — we don't care; we've got love to - day. —
They're a - fraid to take a chance; just takes one who's bold - er.

We can make a dif - ference.
You can make a dif - ference.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

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
Web: bethlehembillings.com
Facebook: BethlehemBillings