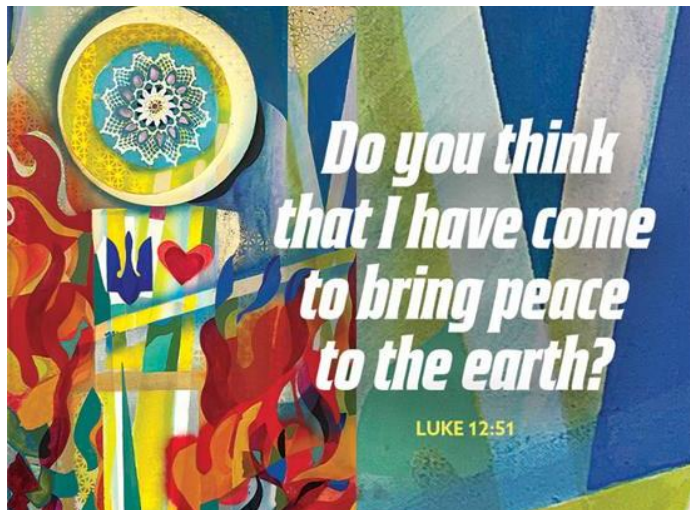




AUGUST 17, 2025
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Introduction

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses." In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING MUSIC

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD (ELW #504)



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
weap-ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

INVOCATION/CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.


Merciful God, **you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ✝ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**


APOSTOLIC GREETING

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **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:

HYMN OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

TEACHER AND BACKPACK BLESSING

WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READING

HEBREWS 11:29—12:2

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL READING

LUKE 12:49-56

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹“I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

VICAR LYNETTE MCSPADDEN



HYMN OF THE DAY

“GOODNESS OF GOD”

Music and lyrics: Ben Fielding, Brian Johnson et al.
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Publishing Australia; Bethel Music Publishing Admin: Bethel Music Publishing, Capitol CMG Publishing,
Essential Music Publishing LLC, Hillsong Publishing, LLC

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition will end with “Hear us, O God” and the response will be **“Your mercy is great”**

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

————— **MEAL** —————

OFFERING

Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting the ongoing ministry of Bethel Lutheran Church! In-person gifts may be placed in the offering plates, mailed to Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church (2077 N. Frederick Pike, Winchester, VA 22603), given online at www.bethelwinchester.com or using the adjacent QR code.



MUSIC FOR REFLECTION- HOW BEAUTIFUL-PERFORMED BY THE WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE WITH PIANO



LET THE VINEYARDS

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

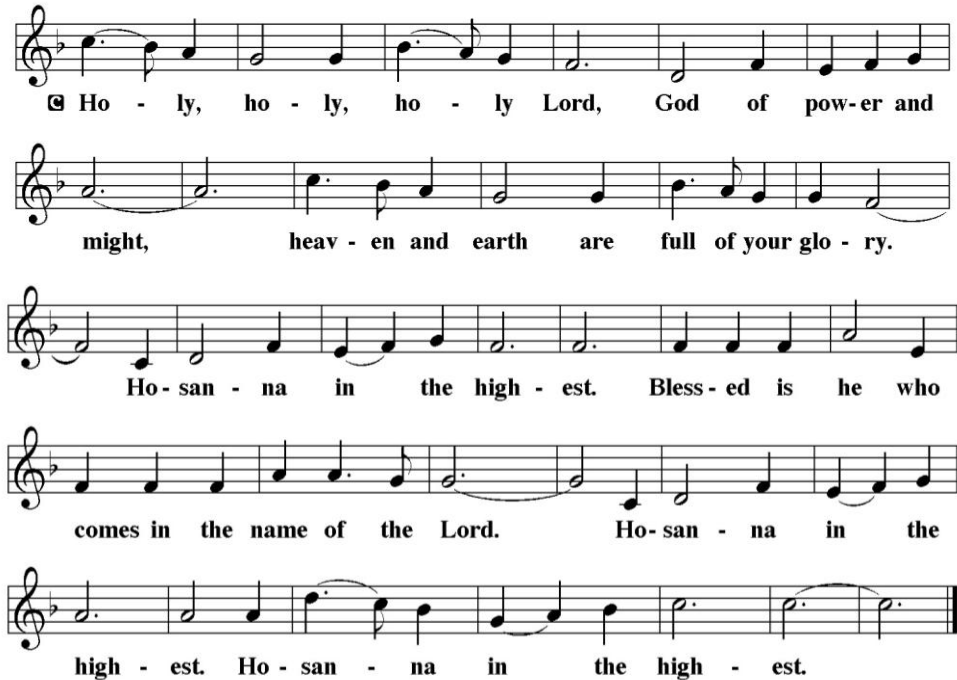
The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Let the Vineyards'. It consists of six staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.'

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



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.

JESUS' WORDS ABOUT COMMUNION

THE 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the Table.

For the Lord Jesus is with us, and all are welcome!

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

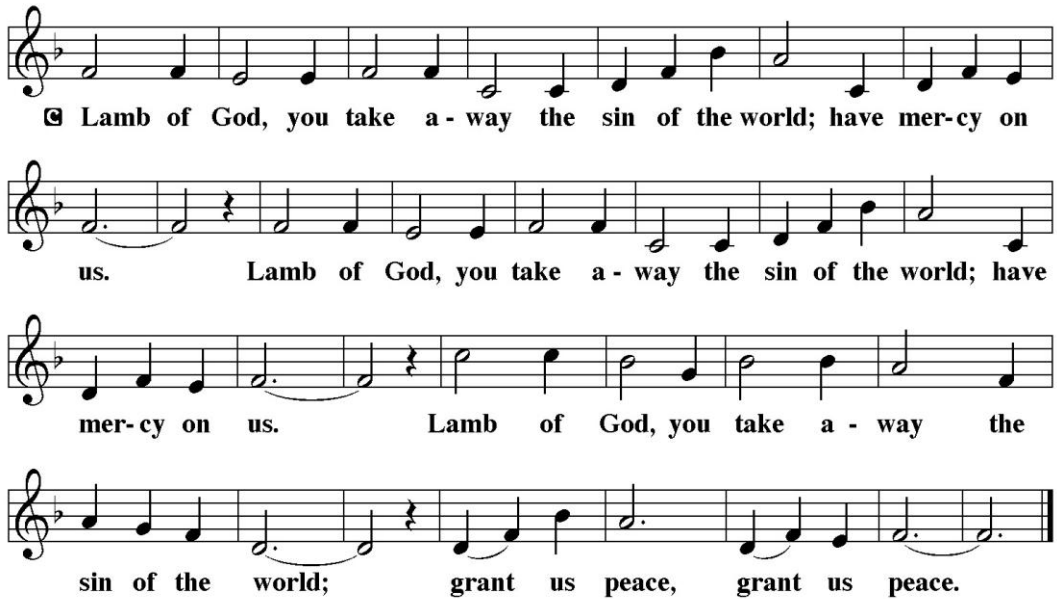
Welcome to the Lord's Table!

Everyone, regardless of age and denomination, is invited to join us for Holy Communion. If you prefer a blessing, simply inform the communion distributors. The ushers will direct your row when it is time to come forward.

You will receive the bread from the first Holy Communion distributor. You will pick up the cup of wine or juice from the tray held by the second distributor. For those who need gluten free a pre-packaged **gluten-free** wafer and a cup of **grape juice** is also available.

Once you have communed, you are invited to return to your seat for silent reflection or singing.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. **L**amb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. **L**amb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONG

“AS THE DEER”

Music and lyrics Martin Nystrom

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Admin: Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

SENDING

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you : wherever he may send you;
may he guide you through the wilderness : protect you through the storm;
may he bring you home rejoicing : at the wonders he has shown you;
may he bring you home rejoicing : once again into our doors.

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

SENDING SONG

“HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD”

Music and Lyrics: Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves

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Wondrously Made Songs Admin: Capitol CMG Publishing, Reservoir Media Management, Inc.

DISMISSAL

Thank you for worshiping with us today.

We hope every person felt welcomed here, especially our guests. We trust that our time together has filled you with a sense of joy and peace, and we invite you to return soon.

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