



SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2026



Introduction

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

(Please Stand)

GATHERING SONG

WHAT A FELLOWSHIP, WHAT A JOY DIVINE (ELW #774)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

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.**

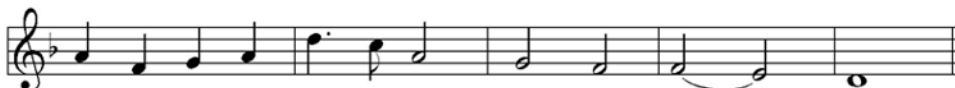
KYRIE



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



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



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

HYMN OF PRAISE



☐ 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 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;



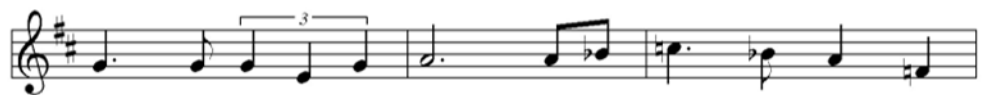
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 51:1-6

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug. ² Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah, who bore you, for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³ For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴ Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation, for a teaching will go out from me and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly; my salvation has gone out, and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth beneath, for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats, but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

(Please Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 16th Chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ**

(Please be seated)

SERMON

PASTOR JME LOWDEN



(Please Stand)

Verse 1

Were creation suddenly articulate
With a thousand tongues to lift one cry
Then from north to south and east to west
We'd hear Christ be magnified

Verse 2

Were the whole earth echoing His eminence
His name would burst from sea and sky
From rivers to the mountain tops
We'd hear Christ be magnified

Chorus

O Christ be magnified
Let His praise arise
Christ be magnified in me
O Christ be magnified
From the altar of my life
Christ be magnified in me

Verse 3

When ev'ry creature finds its inmost melody
And ev'ry human heart its native cry
O then in one enraptured hymn of praise
We'll sing Christ be magnified

Bridge 1

I won't bow to idols
I'll stand strong and worship You
And if it puts me in the fire
I'll rejoice 'cause You're there too
I won't be formed by feelings
I hold fast to what is true
If the cross brings transformation
Then I'll be crucified with You
(You can hang me there with You)

Bridge 2

'Cause death is just the doorway
Into resurrection life
If I join You in Your sufferings
Then I'll join You when You rise
And when You return in glory
With all the angels and the saints
My heart will still be singing
My song will be the same

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.

(Please be Seated)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition will end with "Merciful God," and the response will be "**Receive our prayer.**"

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

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 – DEAN HAVRON / Special Music

(Please Stand)

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.**

PREFACE



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

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

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

(Please be seated)

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. 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.

COMMUNION HYMN

GOODNESS OF GOD

COLI Song # 7117726
Ben Fielding | Brian Johnson | Ed Cash | Jason Ingram | Jenn Johnson
© 2018 Capitol CMG Paragon; Fellow Ships Music;
So Essential Tunes; SHOUT! Music Publishing Australia; Bethel Music Publishing

Verse 1

I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

Verse 2

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night
You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

Bridge

Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after

It's running after me

(Please stand)

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BENEDICTION

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

SENDING SONG

I'LL FLY AWAY

CCLI Song # 7232507
Albert E. Brumley Sr.

© 1932, 2000 Brumley Music Heirs; Albert E. Brumley And Sons

Verse 1

Some bright morning when this life is over
I'll fly away
To that home on God's celestial shore
I'll fly away

Chorus 1

I'll fly away oh glory
I'll fly away in the morning
When I die Hallelujah by and by
I'll fly away

Verse 2

When the shadows of this life have gone
I'll fly away
Like a bird from these prison walls I'll fly
I'll fly away

Chorus 2

I'll fly away fly away oh glory
I'll fly away in the morning
When I die Hallelujah by and by
I'll fly away

Verse 3

Oh how glad and happy when we meet
I'll fly away
No more cold iron shackles on my feet
I'll fly away

Verse 4

Just a few more weary days and then
I'll fly away
To a land where joys will never end
I'll fly away

Chorus 3

I'll fly away fly away oh glory
I'll fly away in the morning
When I die Hallelujah by and by
I'll fly away
I'll fly away

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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.

BETHEL STAFF & COUNCIL

Kristal Cutler, Director of Music

music@bethelwinchester.com

Nina Davis, Office Manager

office@bethelwinchester.com

**George W. Donovan, Sr., Director of Safety
and Security**

security@bethelwinchester.com

Shawn Garner, Facility Management

facility@bethelwinchester.com

Matt Meade & Lexy Grymala Nursery Managers

office@bethelwinchester.com

Mel Siebert, Youth Ministry

youth@bethelwinchester.com

Patty White, Parish Custodian

annwhite54@aol.com

Financial or Giving Questions

office@bethelwinchester.com

Council Executive Committee

JENNIFER LAFOLLETTE, PRESIDENT, TEXT/CALL 540-533-9142, EMAIL jnanlafollette@gmail.com

CHERIE LAUCK, VICE-PRESIDENT & MINISTRY TEAM TEXT/CALL 540-336-0300, EMAIL cherie.lauck@bethelwinchester.com

MATT LYMAN, SECRETARY & COMMUNICATIONS TEAM TEXT/CALL 540-550-0710, EMAIL matt.lyman@bethelwinchester.com

LYNDA GRYMALA, TREASURER & FINANCE TEAM TEXT/CALL 540-222-9408, EMAIL lynda.grymala@bethelwinchester.com

COUNCIL GENERAL MEMBERS

MEL SIEBERT, EMAIL MEL.SIEBERT@BETHELWINCHESTER.COM

LEEANNE MARPLE EMAIL LEEANNE.MARPLE@BETHELWINCHESTER.COM

RENE HOLLEBRANDSE, MINISTRY TEAM EMAIL C.J.HOLLEBRANDSE@GMAIL.COM

TAMAR YAGER EMAIL: TAMAR.YAGER@BETHELWINCHESTER.COM

ROB CUTLER EMAIL: ROB.CUTLER@BETHELWINCHESTER.COM

CALL COMMITTEE EMAIL: CALLCHAIR@BETHELWINCHESTER.COM

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2077 North Frederick Pike, Winchester, VA 22603, 540-662-3245

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

www.bethelwinchester.com

