

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

We are called by God to follow Christ in
love and service to all.



October 4, 2026

We encourage children to feel welcome in church during worship. And we recognize that kids need to move and fidget while we share this time together. Tables and coloring pages are available to kids in both the front of the worship space and in the Commons. Parents, please feel free to let your kids move around as needed.

*(Congregation speaks the **bold print** in this program and on the screen.)*

Prelude

Claudius Cazan

Welcome and Announcements

(please stand)

Confessions and Forgiveness

Blessed be our God of faithfulness and steadfast love, who showers us with grace for hope and healing.

Amen.

With confidence of God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of restorative justice,

We confess that we struggle in the world and in our hearts to embody your goodness. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Selfishness disrupts your call to show genuine love to others. And creation groans under the pressure of the needs of the few. Turn our hearts to you and the justice you seek. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another through your love. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ our savior. Amen.

God hears the cries of our hearts and sees the depth of our sorrow. God gathers us into a community of restoration. God forgives your sins for the sake of the one who lived and died with mercy in his heart and on his lips. Receive this healing gift of grace and proclaim the resurrection power of love.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

Gathering Hymn

"Lord Our God, with Praise We Come"

ELW# 730

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

Assistant:

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation:

Lord, have mer - cy.

3rd time to Coda ⊕

Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer -

Assistant:

For the Reign of God, and for peace through - out the
 For your peo - ple here, who have come to give you

cy.

world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the
 praise, for the strength to live your Word, let us pray to the

(cont. next page)

Coda

Help, save, and de - fend us, O

cy.

Ending for Kyrie

God.

A - men.

Hymn of Praise

Congregation:

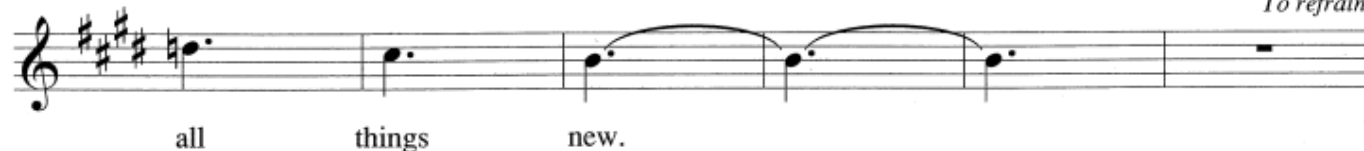
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,

all of cre - a - tion sings for joy

to the God of life and love and

free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -

er - more!

Congregation or Congregation 1:*To refrain**Congregation or Congregation 2:**To refrain**Congregation:**To refrain*

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

(be seated)

First Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

¹ I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.

² He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes.

³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.

⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes?

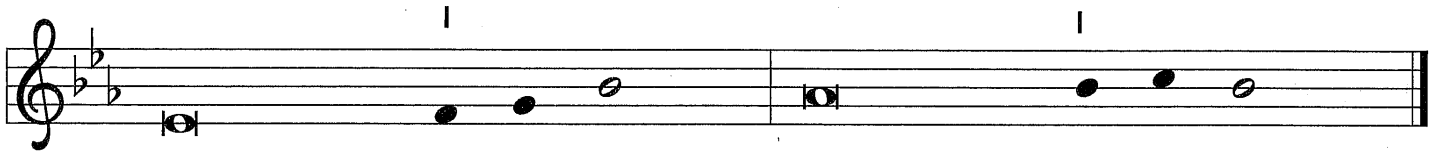
⁵ And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.

⁶ I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah are his cherished garden;
he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness
but heard a cry!

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

Psalm 80:7-15



⁷ Restore us, O [|] God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we [|] shall be saved.

⁸ **You have brought a vine [|] out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and [|] planted it.**

⁹ You cleared the [|] ground for it;
it took root and [|] filled the land.

¹⁰ **The mountains were covered [|] by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees [|] by its boughs.**

¹¹ You stretched out its tendrils [|] to the sea
and its branches [|] to the river.

¹² **Why have you broken [|] down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck [|] off its grapes?**

¹³ The wild boar of the forest has [|] ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have [|] grazed upon it.

¹⁴ **Turn now, O [|] God of hosts,
look [|] down from heaven;**

¹⁵ behold and [|] tend this vine;
preserve what your right [|] hand has planted.

Second Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:
⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one

that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.

¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow, I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

(please stand)

Gospel Acclamation

Congregation:

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

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Repeat optional*

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:33-46

The Gospel according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ³³ "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other

slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way.³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

⁴³ “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits.⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them.⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

“My Song is Love Unknown”

ELW# 343

(please stand)

The Apostle's Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and 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 stand)

The Prayers

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

After each portion of the prayers:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

Greet one another with a word of welcome and peace.

(be seated)

Offering

Thank you for your offerings today. As Christ comes to us in the bread and cup of the holy table, we present ourselves through our own sacrifice of generosity to love and serve our neighborhood and the whole world. You can also give online at www.bethluth.org/give as a one time donation or as a recurring gift. Use this code to access the giving site.



(please stand)

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray,

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

Amen.

(please stand)

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 God thanks and praise.

Now the Feast and Celebration, Marty Haugen
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Sanctus

Congregation:
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the



Words of Institution

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

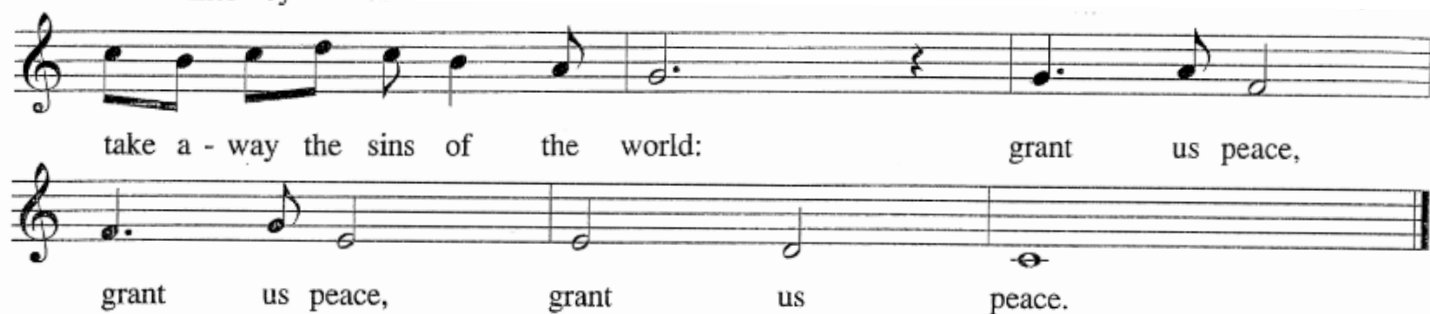
(be seated)

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and

world:
fear: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
peace:
love:

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



Distribution of Holy Communion

All are welcome at the table of Christ. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available.

Communion Hymns

"Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth"

ELW# 727

"Thine the Amen"

ELW# 826

(please stand)

Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

The Benediction

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

Amen.

Sending Hymn

"My Lord of Light"

ELW# 832

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news..

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Claudius Cazan

A New Bible Study

Thursdays
Oct 8 & 29
Nov 11 & 18

THE GOSPEL OF MARK



meet at Wheat Montana at 12:30pm

Flathead Warming Center- "Warm and Safe Season"

It's that time of year again, when we help to provide our homeless neighbors with one nourishing meal each month. Last year, "over 6,950 meals were provided," and YOU were part of that! Thank You!!

The Warming Center will open on Thursday, October 1st so please sign up on the forms in the Narthex for the last Saturdays of the month and help as you are able. Thank you. For questions, please contact Sherry Korthase at 770-639-6621.



Celebrating 83 Years of Ministry at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp Saturday, Oct. 10th

Come to the Annual Meeting at FLBC and then enjoy the rest of the day at camp! Lunch is at 12:15 p.m. (No charge) Annual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. Let the Fun Begin from 1:30–4:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come spend an afternoon filled with wonder, wandering, and worship as we celebrate the ministry of Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. Rediscover the joy of being a camper again! There is no cost to attend, but please call or email the camp office to let us know you're coming so we can prepare to welcome you. Contact FLBC to RSVP.



Prayer Concerns: Illness/surgery:
Erika Hauser, Carol Eckholt, Sharon Jacobson, and Bev Taylor.

A Special Thank You To Our Assisting Ministers:

<u>Asst. Mnstr:</u>	Julie Miller
<u>Reader:</u>	Daren Scot Wilson
<u>Cantor:</u>	Solveig Munson
<u>Greeters:</u>	Daren Scot Wilson
<u>Communion Setup:</u>	Karen Green, Glenda Skeim
<u>Communion Asst:</u>	Julie Miller, Daren Scot Wilson, Jan Ulvin
<u>Usher:</u>	Karen Green, Glenda Skeim
<u>Power Point:</u>	Paul Miller
<u>Acolytes:</u>	

This Week at Bethlehem

SUNDAY

9:00am
10:30am

10/04

Worship/Sunday School
Handbell Choir Practice

MONDAY

10:00am
6:00pm

10/05

Respite, FH
Feeding the Flathead, FH

TUESDAY

10:00am
6:00pm

10/06

Fellowship Committee, FH
Confirmation

WEDNESDAY

6:45am
10:00am
10:30am
7:00pm

10/07

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study, FH
Respite, FH
Spinners, CM
Choir Practice

THURSDAY

9:00am
9:00am
12:30pm
5:30pm

10/08

Quilters, FH
Knitters, FR
Ukelele Practice, FH
Flathead Valley Community Orchestra, FH

SUNDAY

9:00am
10:30am

10/11

Worship/Sunday School
Handbell Choir Practice



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Pastor Scott Thompson
Pastor Lucy Schottelkorb

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