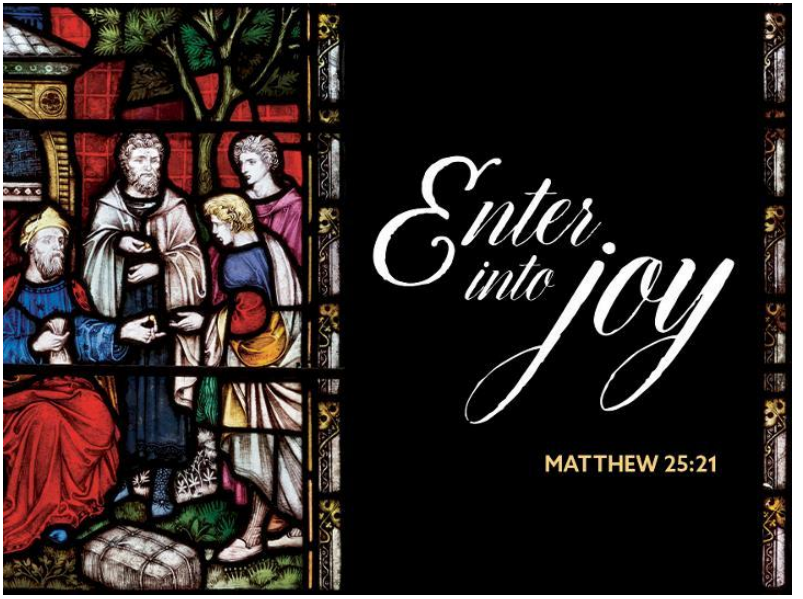
Bethel Lutheran Church

Sunday, November 15, 2026



Introduction

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

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 be seated)

GATHERING SONG **AS SAINTS OF OLD (ELW #695)**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, **we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.**

Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven. Blessed are you. **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




For the reign of God, and for
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the
Lord.
For your
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your
word, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have
Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.
mer - cy.
A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE



Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, 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 **ZEPHANIAH 1:7, 12-18**

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD, for the day of the LORD is at hand! The LORD has prepared a
sacrifice; he has consecrated his guests. 12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will
punish the people who settle like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do
good, nor will he do harm." 13 Their wealth shall be plundered and their houses laid waste. Though
they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine
from them.

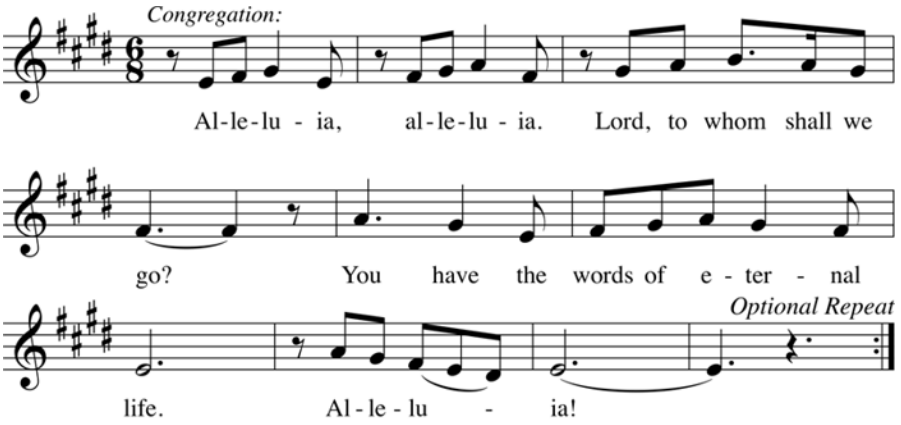
14 The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is
bitter; the warrior cries aloud there. 15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 a
day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

17 I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have
sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust and their flesh like dung. 18 Neither
their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his
passion the whole earth shall be consumed, for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the
inhabitants of the earth.

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

(Please Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL **MATTHEW 25:14-30**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 25th Chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves
and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one,
to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received the five
talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one
who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent
went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time the master
of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five
talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five
talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and
trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many
things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward,
saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.'

23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy
in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24 Then
the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you
were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, 25 so I
was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his
master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow
and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the
bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the
talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have, more will
be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they
have will be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where
there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

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

(Please be seated)

SERMON **BISHOP PHYLLIS MILTON**

(Please Stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY **BUT FOR GRACE**

CCLI Song # 1624312
David Baroni | John Chisum
© 1994 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Integrity's Praise! Music

Verse 1

Once hope was gone we were alone
There was no one to save us
Then from Your throne mercy was shown
Jesus Your Son forgave us
Lest we forget and lose our memory
We will always give thanks
For the grace that sets us free

Chorus
But for grace where would we be
Helpless and hopeless left without Your mercy
But for love we'd be lost in misery
But for Your grace O God
But for Your grace O God

Verse 2
Loving and true no one but You
Came to rescue us from blindness
O faithful Friend we can depend
Now till the end on Your kindness
Lest we forget and lose our memory
We will always give thanks
For the grace that sets us free

Bridge
Stronger than we can imagine
Grace that is greater than our sin
Washed by Your blood we're forgiven
And we give You praise again and again

Affirmation of Baptism – by the Assembly

(Please Stand)

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism
as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

Let us pray.
Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own
by water and the Word in baptism.
You have called us to yourself,
enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit,
and nourished us in the community of faith.
Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism,
and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.
We ask this in the name of Christ.
Amen.

Profession of Faith
I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?
I renounce them.

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
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.

Affirmation
You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?
We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

(Please be seated)

<u>Commissioning of Commissioned Lay Ministers</u>

Presentation
After prayerful consideration, the Lay Ministry Academy Team affirms that this faithful and gifted child of God has been instructed and formed for service as commissioned lay minister in the Virginia Synod:

Address

All baptized Christians are called to share
in Christ's ministry of love and service in the world,
to the glory of God and for the sake of the human family and the whole creation.

This candidate for Virginia Synod Commissioned Lay Ministry
is our co-worker in the gospel, gifted by God and commissioned by the bishop of the Virginia Synod
to serve as a Commissioned Lay Minister
for faithful daily living and service in her congregation, conferences, and synod.

George Donovan**:** A reading from Romans: Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. *(Romans 12.4-8 NIV)*

Questions

As you begin this new chapter of ministry,
responding to God's grace and gifts in your life:

Will you continue your study of the holy scriptures
and faithful in your use of the means of grace?
Karen:
I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you serve following the holy scriptures,
and with the creeds and confessions of the Lutheran church?
Karen:
I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you serve in partnership with the Virginia Synod Office of the Bishop and the ministers of Word and Sacrament and the ministers of Word and Service in the ELCA?
Will you encourage and support the ministers and the congregations
of the Virginia Synod in their ministries?
Karen:
I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things,
graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

The assembly responds
Amen.

Blessing
Let us pray.
We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit
you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in Karen the gift of your Holy Spirit;
confirm her faith,
guide her life,
empower her in her serving,
give her patience in suffering,
and bring her to everlasting life.
Amen.

Let us pray:
Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit
you have knit this your servant into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Look with favor upon her in her commitment to serve in Christ's name.
Give her courage, patience, and vision;
and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation
of witness to the world and of service to others;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

I commission you as a Virginia Synod Lay Minister
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Acclamation

(Please be Seated)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition will end with "God, in your mercy," and the response will be "**Hear 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 – STILL IN CONTROL – CINDE, KAREN & CHOIR

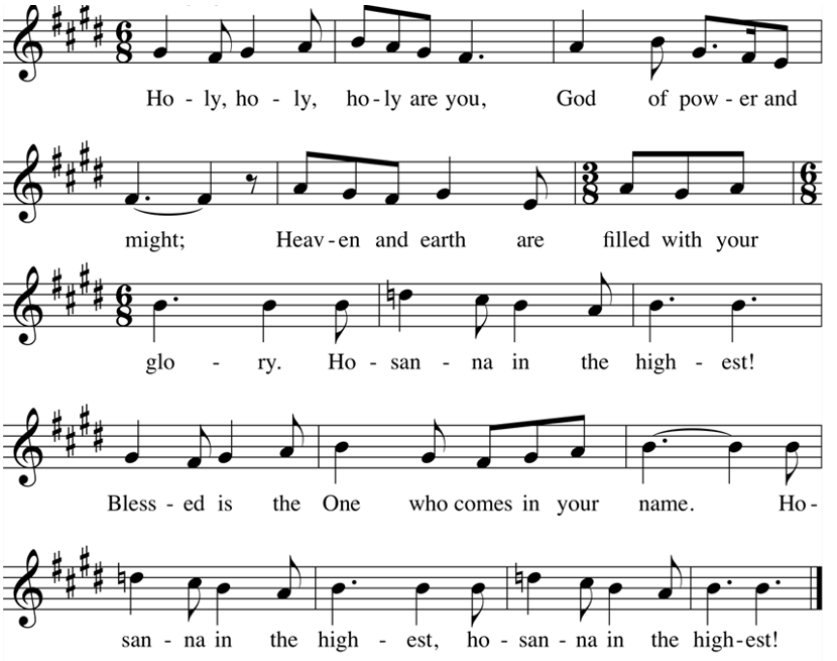
(Please Stand)

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



JESUS WORDS ABOUT COMMUNION
LORD'S PRAYER



Words: Matthew 6:9-13;adapt by Mark A Miller and Laurie Zelman Music: Mark A Miller Adapt and music ©2008 Abingdon Press admin by the Copyright Company

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

(*Please be seated)*

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

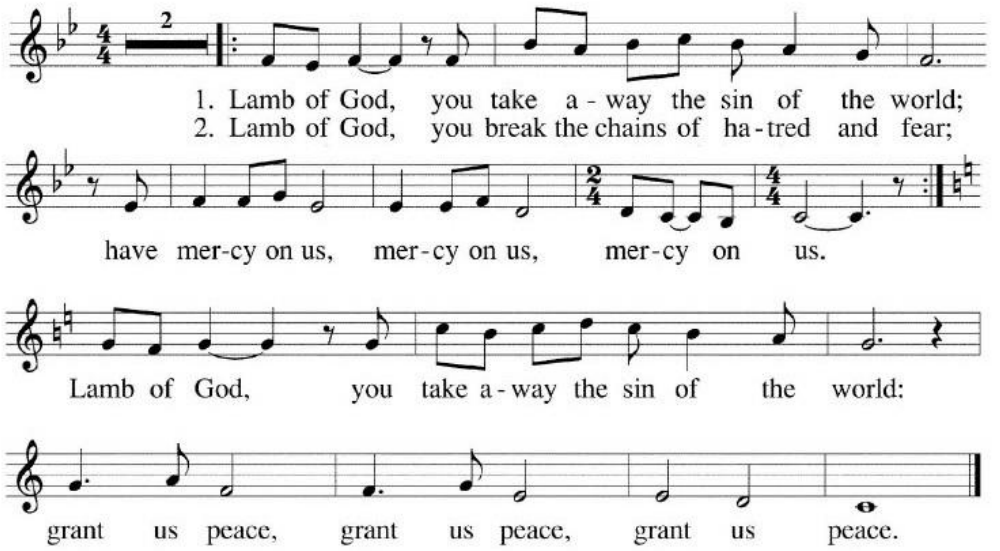
Welcome to the Lord's Table!

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 *(from Now the Feast and Celebration)*



Text: ICET; additional text by Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration,* Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.




1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that
Capo 1:
D E♭
Em7 Fm7
A B♭
D E♭
Em7 Fm7
move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:
E7 F7
A B♭
Bm Cm
G A♭
A B♭
Bm Cm
Refrain
O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.
G A♭
D E♭
A B♭
Bm Cm
G A♭
D E♭
A B♭
D E♭

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal.
You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly.
Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BENEDICTION

The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG **I SPEAK JESUS**

CCLI Song # 7136201
Abby Benton | Carlene Prince | Dustin Smith | Jesse Reeves | Kristen Dutton | Raina Pratt
© 2019 BEC Worship; Raina Pratt Publishing Designee; WriterWrong Music; For Me and My House Songs; Integrity's Praise! Music; Anchored In Hope Music; Give It A Lift Music

Verse 1
I just want to speak the Name of Jesus
Over every heart and every mind
'Cause I know there is peace within Your presence
I speak Jesus

Verse 2
I just want to speak the Name of Jesus
'Til every dark addiction starts to break
Declaring there is hope and there is freedom
I speak Jesus

Chorus
('Cause) Your Name is power
Your Name is healing
Your Name is life
Break every stronghold
Shine through the shadows
Burn like a fire

Verse 3
I just want to speak the Name of Jesus
Over fear and all anxiety
To every soul held captive by depression
I speak Jesus

Verse 4
Shout Jesus from the mountains
Jesus in the streets
Jesus in the darkness over every enemy
Jesus for my fam'ly
I speak the holy Name Jesus

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Encourage one another. **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

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