

# **Morning Worship**

**Bethesda Lutheran Church - 8:30 AM**

**Immanuel Lutheran Church - 11:00 AM**

**October 11, 2026**

**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

*Before we begin our worship this morning, I acknowledge that Bethesda Lutheran Church/Immanuel Lutheran Church stands on the traditional grounds of the Anishinaabe People, and we honor their elders both past and present. Their presence is imbued in the lands and waters surrounding us. We nurture our relationships with our indigenous neighbors, and the shared responsibilities to their homeland where we all reside today.*

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

### **Prelude**

### **GATHERING**

#### **Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God,  
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness  
in the world and in our own hearts.**

**Creation groans from overuse.  
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.  
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.  
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love  
to others.**

**Turn our hearts back to you.  
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.  
Renew us to live as your holy people,  
following the way of Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

Hear this good news:

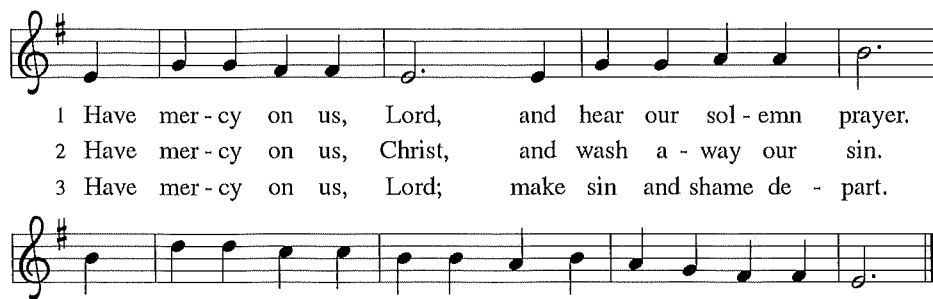
We have peace with God through ✠ Jesus Christ,  
in whom there is no condemnation,  
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.  
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.  
**Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn:** ELW (red hymnal) #614 *“There Is a Balm in  
Gilead”*

### **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

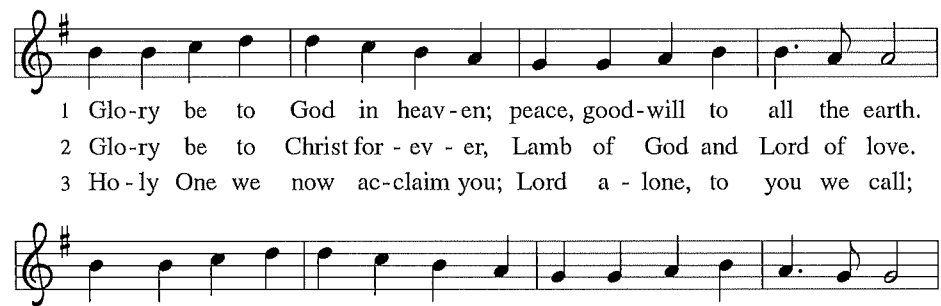


1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.

We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

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## Glory Be to God in Heaven



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;

Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:

we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.

Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

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## **Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Lord of the feast, **you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9**

*After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.*

<sup>1</sup> O Lord, you are my God;

I will exalt you; I will praise your name,  
for you have done wonderful things,  
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

<sup>2</sup> For you have made the city a heap,  
the fortified city a ruin;  
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;  
it will never be rebuilt.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;  
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

<sup>4</sup> For you have been a refuge to the poor,  
a refuge to the needy in their distress,  
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

<sup>5</sup> the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,  
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;  
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

<sup>6</sup> On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

<sup>7</sup> And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the covering that is spread over all nations;  
<sup>8</sup> he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the Lord has spoken.

<sup>9</sup> It will be said on that day,  
“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save  
us.  
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm: Psalm 23**

***Refrain: You prepare a table before me, and my cup is running over. (Ps. 23:5)***

<sup>1</sup> The Lord | is my shepherd;  
I shall not | be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures  
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my | soul, O Lord,  
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall |  
fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort  
me. R**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my**

life,

and I will dwell in the house of the <sup>1</sup> Lord forever. R

**Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9**

*Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.*

<sup>1</sup> My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

<sup>2</sup> I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup> Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup> As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation



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The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14**

*Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.*

<sup>1</sup> Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup> “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup> He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup> Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ <sup>5</sup> But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup> while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup> The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup> Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup> Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ <sup>10</sup> Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

<sup>11</sup> “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, <sup>12</sup> and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ <sup>14</sup> For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

**Sermon – Pastor Connie Monson**

**Hymn of the Day: ELW (red hymnal) #523** *“Let Us Go Now to the Banquet”*

**Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life,  
of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female,  
of other possibilities.**

**We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,  
born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree.  
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.  
He descended into the earth to the place of death.  
On the third day he rose from the tomb.  
He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present,  
and His kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,  
life- giving breath of the Church, Spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
source of resurrection and of eternal life.  
Amen**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, we remember your promise of unity on your holy mountain. Empower the World Council of Churches and all those working across religious difference, that the world may know your undivided love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise of green pastures and quiet waters. Preserve all places of natural beauty and restore our relationship with the land. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise to not abandon us amid storm and disaster. Renew all communities facing disasters (*regions in crisis may be named*) and give your courage to those leading relief efforts. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise to wipe away every tear. Heal and console all who are sick or suffering (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise of a banquet open to all people. Challenge this congregation to open wide our doors and welcome everyone to the table. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

**Other intercession:** Lord, you know the need for healing, comfort, help or resolution for those we name before you today: Richard, Kermit, Ed, Lorayne, Lois, Courtney, Bill, Chuck & Marcia, Colleen, Rhiannon, Holly, Bennett, Jennifer, Casey, Donnie, Jeanna, Jaycee, Gary & Janet, Britni, Luke, Jarrett, Darlene, Melinda, John, Sandy, Jane, Clyde, and those whose names we hold in our heart. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for our migrant neighbors who, like most of us and our ancestors, came to this country for a better life. You who freed the captives, protect them from harm. Help us guard their rights to representation and due process. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise to swallow up death forever. We give thanks for those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.** (Share a sign of God's peace with one another.)

**Offering**

*We receive two kinds of offerings in gratitude for all that God has done and is doing: a monetary offering for the work of the church in our community and the world, and a food offering for our friends at local food pantries. If you have brought food or supplies this morning, you can place them in the basket at the front of the sanctuary at any time. The offering plate is located in the narthex at the beginning of the service; if you missed it, you are welcome to approach the altar after the service with your gift, or catch us next time!*

**Offering Prayer**

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.**

## Great Thanksgiving

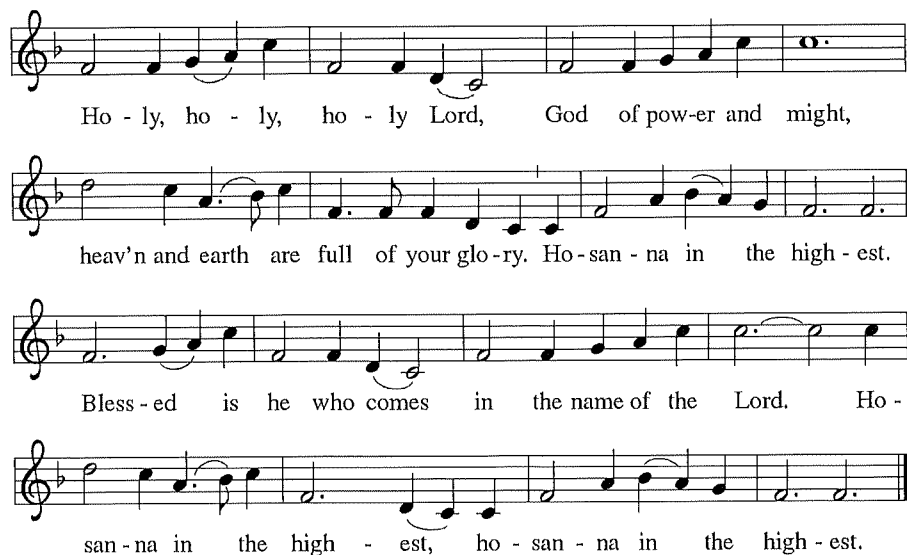
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

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.**

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-er and might,  
heav'n 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.

## Words of Institution

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 for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## 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

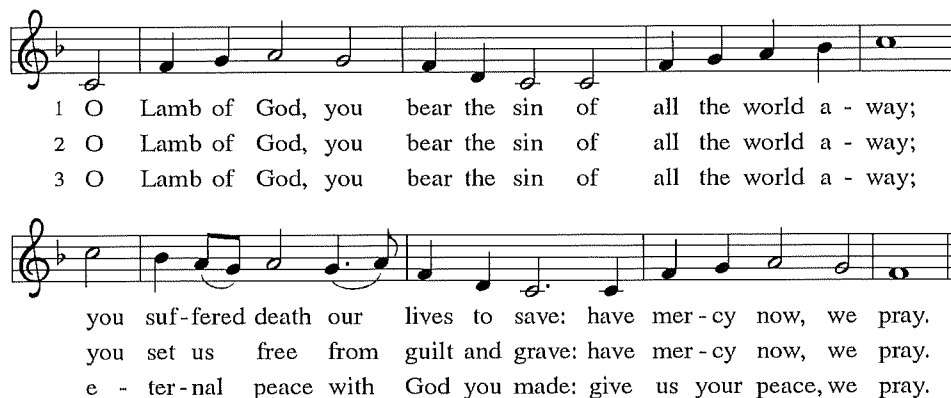
Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

## O Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Sustaining God,  
with this bread and cup,  
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.  
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.  
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,  
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.  
**Amen.**

### **Communion Hymn ELW (red hymnal) #491 “Come, Let Us Eat”**

#### **Announcements:**

Sunday: AA, 7 pm, Immanuel  
Monday: South Shore Quilters, 9 am; Book Study on Zoom, 1 pm;  
Monday Night at the Movies, 7 pm, Bethesda – Waasa Inaabidaa –  
Governance; Paula Lundberg’s birthday  
Tuesday: Brunch Bunch, 10 am, Bethesda; Bible Study, Immanuel and  
Zoom, 2 pm  
Wednesday: South Shore Quilters, 9 am; Gather, 9:30, Bethesda  
Thursday: Roger Branham V’s birthday  
Friday: ROMEO, 8 am, Coffee Shop; Knit Wits, 1 pm, Coffee Shop;  
Sunday: Paul and Connie’s Open House, Cornucopia Community Center  
4 – 7 pm

#### **Blessing**

The God of love  
draw you into full accord and one mind,  
in the body of Christ Jesus.  
**Amen.**

The God of hope  
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances  
through the interceding of the Spirit.  
**Amen.**

The God of grace  
✠ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn: ELW #547 (red hymnal)** *“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”*

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace; serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God**

### **Postlude**

#### **Reconciling in Christ Statement**

*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free,  
there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Galatians 3:28

We welcome YOU to Bethesda and Immanuel to participate fully in our congregational life. You who may have experienced exclusion, injustice or racial inequity; You who are young, old, rich, poor; You of all abilities; You from all nations and ethnic backgrounds; You of all sexual orientations, gender identities or gender expression.

We are committed to racial equity, economic equity, gender equity, sexual equity. We are committed to learn, celebrate, advocate and welcome everyone through a series of forums and educational opportunities. May we grow in acceptance and become a voice for inclusion, equity and justice.

No matter where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.