Morning Worship

Bethesda Lutheran Church - 8:30 AM
Immanuel Lutheran Church - 11:00 AM
November 8, 2026
Twenty-fourth 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,
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.

Gathering Hymn: ELW (red hymnal) #625 "*Come, We That Love the Lord*"

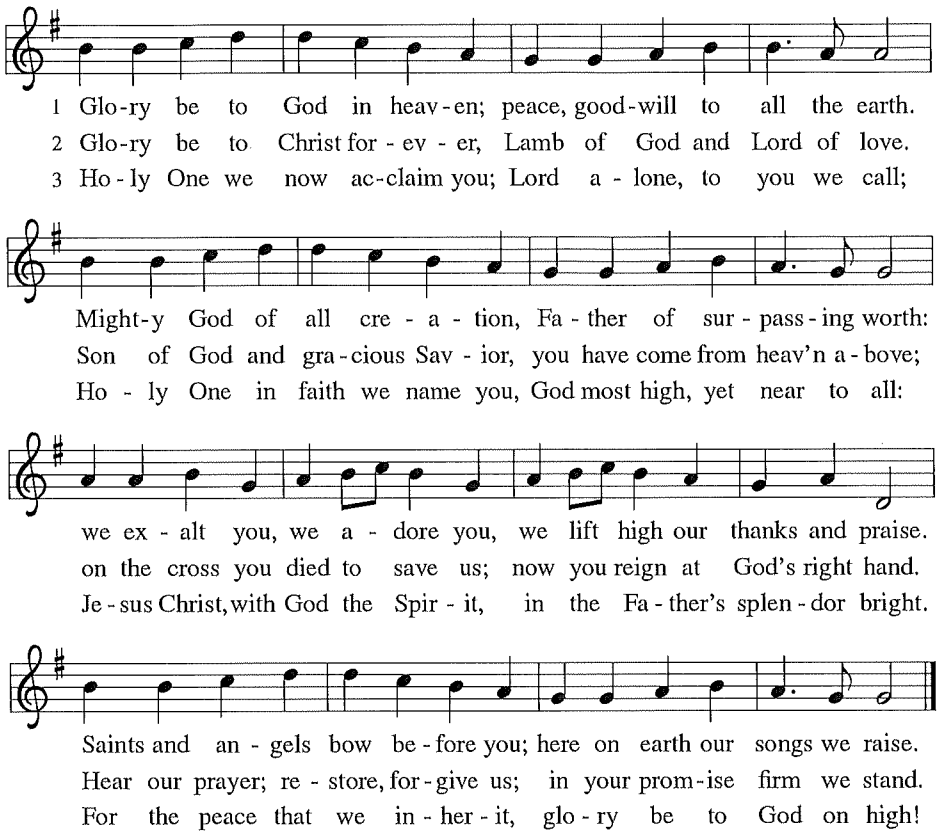
Greeting
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Kyrie



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Glory Be to God in Heaven



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Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. **O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

First Reading: Amos 5:18-24

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord!
Why do you want the day of the Lord?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 70

Refrain: You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry. (Ps. 70:5)

1 Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;
O Lord, make | haste to help me.
2 Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded;

let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and | be disgraced. R

[3] Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat | over me
turn back because | of their shame.

[4] Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great | is the Lord!"

[5] But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, | do not tarry. **R**

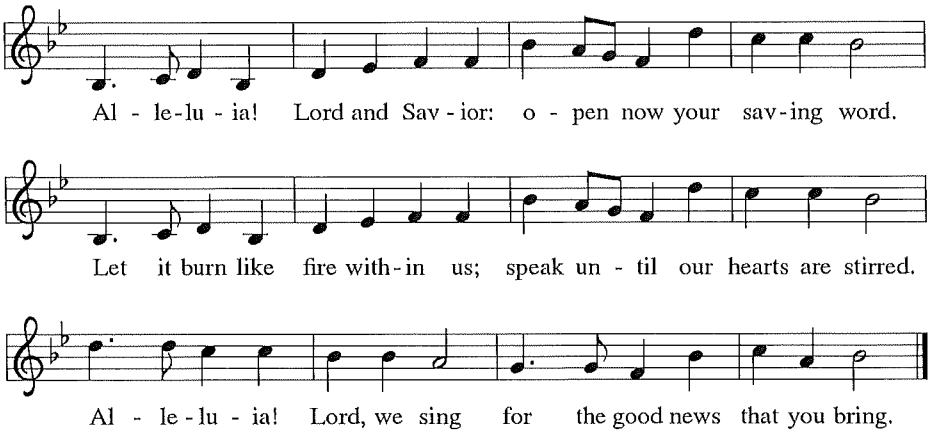
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

[13] We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. [14] For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. [15] For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. [16] For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. [18] Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9] But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11] Later the

other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

Sermon – Pastor Connie Monson

Hymn of the Day: ELW (red hymnal) #436 *"Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"*

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

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict (*relief ministries or organizations may be named*). Uphold veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. (*We pray especially for . . .*) God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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, Sharon, and those whose names we hold in our heart. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.

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

Eternal God,
our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you.
Receive what we offer,
and all that you entrust to us,
until hungry no more, all the world is fed,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

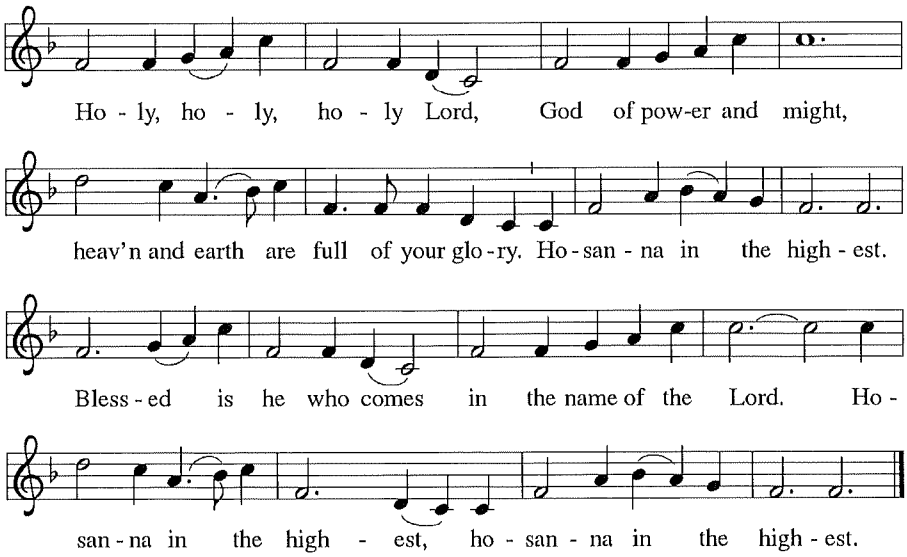
Great Thanksgiving
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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



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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

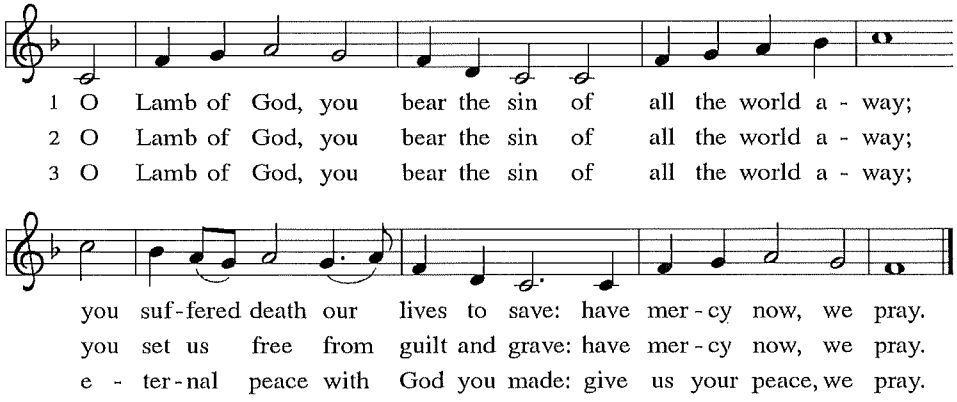
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

O Lamb of God



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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.

Communion Hymn ELW (red hymnal) #785 *"When Peace like a River"*

Announcements:
Sunday: Bethesda Listening Post, 1 pm; AA, 7 pm, Immanuel
Monday: South Shore Quilters, 9 am; Book Study on Zoom, 1 pm; Ryan Solberg's birthday; Mary Thiel's birthday; Jeff Wenz's birthday
Tuesday: Brunch Bunch, 10 am, Bethesda; Bible Study, Bethesda and Zoom, 2 pm
Wednesday: South Shore Quilters, 9 am
Thursday: Immanuel Painters, 10 am; Juliet Club, Poncho's, 11:30 am
Friday: ROMEO, 9 am, Farmhouse; Knit Wits, 1 pm, Coffee Shop;

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

Sending Hymn: ELW (red hymnal) #439 *"Soon and Very Soon"*

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.