

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

Cherishing the 2nd Table of God's Law

IV
V
VI
VII
VIII
IX & X

Honor Your Father and Mother

You Shall Not Murder

You Shall Not Commit Adultery

You Shall Not Steal

You Shall Not Give False Testimony

You Shall Not Covet

JUNE 14 & 15, 2026

Welcome to Bethlehem!

We welcome our guests who are worshipping with us today. Thanks for joining us! We are a community of ordinary people who gather to hear the message of God's grace in Jesus. We believe that he is our savior—and yours, too!

We'd love to have you join us again soon. Please take a moment to fill out a connection card (located in the back of the pew in front of you). The blue side is for members to fill out and the yellow side is for visitors.

A lounge for parents needing to quiet small children is located at the rear of church. The room has a clear window for viewing and is equipped with a speaker system.

A hearing loop is available in the worship area and fellowship hall. Set your hearing aid to “t-coil” or ask for headphones at the A/V desk in the back of church.



Today's Worship

This weekend we continue our worship series called “Love Your Neighbor: Cherishing the 2nd Table of God's Law.” The 1st “table” of God's Law (the 1st-3rd Commandments) tells us to “Love God most.” The 2nd “table” (the 4th-10th Commandments) tells us to “love your neighbor as yourself.” We'll look at what it means to carry out God's 2nd table commands. This weekend, it's the 5th Commandment, “You Shall Not Murder.”

To Prepare Our Hearts for Worship

See the “Prayers for Worship” on the inside cover of the blue hymnal.

We Gather for Worship

Hymn: With the Lord Begin Your Task

Blue Hymnal p.776, sts. 1-2, 4

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips,

Congregation: and my mouth shall declare your praise.

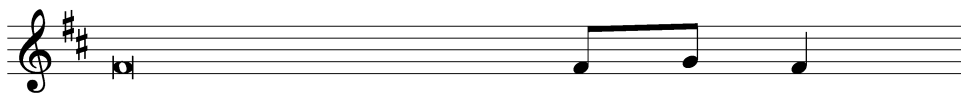
P: Hasten to save me, O God;

C: O Lord, come quickly to help me.

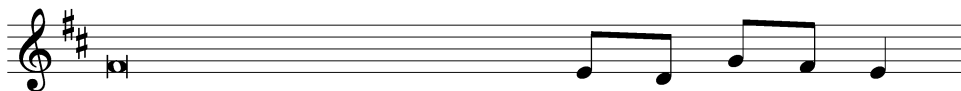
P: The Spirit of the Lord fills the world:

C: praise and thanks to God!

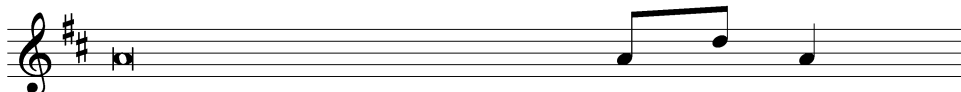
O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord



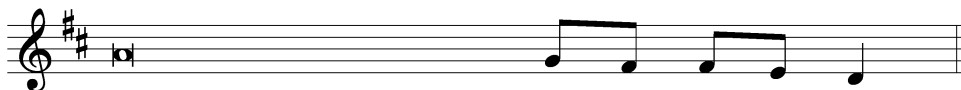
- 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
2 For the Lord is a great _____ God
3 The sea is his, for he made _____ it,



- 1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
3 and his hand formed the dry _____ land.



- 1 Let us come into his presence with thanks - giv - ing,
2 The deep places of the earth are in his hand;
3 O come, let us worship and bow _____ down,
4 For he is our God,



- 1 let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.
2 the heights of the hills are al - so his.
3 let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er.
4 and we are the people of his
pasture and the sheep of his _____ hand.

God Comes to Us in His Word

First Reading

Genesis 4:1–16

¹Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man.” ²Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. ³In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. ⁴And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

⁶Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

⁸Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

⁹Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”

“I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

¹⁰The LORD said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground. ¹¹Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. ¹²When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.”

¹³Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is more than I can bear. ¹⁴Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

¹⁵But the LORD said to him, “Not so; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over.” Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. ¹⁶So Cain went out from the LORD’s presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Today's Psalm: To You, O LORD, I Lift My Soul

Psalm 139

Refrain



To you, O LORD, I lift my soul; in you I trust, my God.

Tone



You have searched me, LORD, and you / know me;
you perceive my thoughts / from afar.
You discern my going out and my / lying down;
you are familiar with / all my ways. *Refrain*

For you created my inmost / being;
you knit me together in my / mother's womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonder- / fully made;
your works are wonderful, I know that / full well.
My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the / secret place;
your eyes saw my unformed / body.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

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Second Reading

1 John 3:11–18

¹¹For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. ¹²Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. ¹³Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. ¹⁴We know that we have passed

from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death.
¹⁵Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

¹⁶This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be that person?

¹⁸Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

Children's Message

Gospel

Matthew 5:21–24, 38–48

²¹“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ ²²But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

²³“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

³⁸“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ ³⁹But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. ⁴⁰And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. ⁴¹If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. ⁴²Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Hymn: From High Atop the Mount

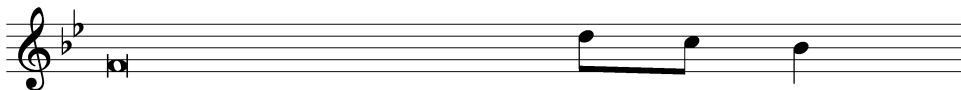
Blue Hymnal p.635, sts. 1, 5th, 3

Today's Message from God's Word

“Loving the Unloveable”

Matthew 5:38-48

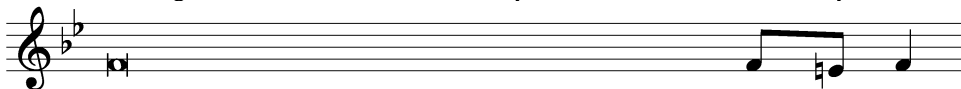
We Praise You, O God



1 We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord;
2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of heav'n - ly hosts,
3 The white-robed army of martyrs praise — you.



1 all creation worships you, Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing.
2 heaven and earth are full — of your glo - ry.
3 Throughout the world the ho - ly Church ac - claims you:



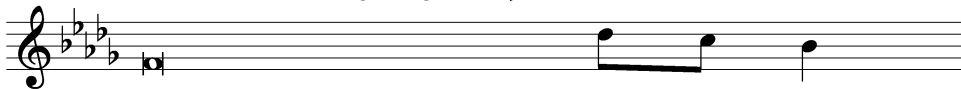
1 To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n,
2 The glorious company of apostles praise — you.
3 Father of majesty unbounded; your glorious, true, and on - ly Son;



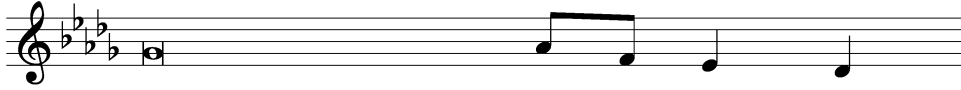
1 cherubim and seraphim, sing in end - less praise:
2 The noble fellowship of proph - ets praise — you.
3 and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide.



4 You, Christ, are the King of glo - ry, the eternal Son of the Fa - ther.



5 When you became man to set us free,
6 You sit at the right hand of God



5 you humbled yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.

5 You overcame the sting of death
6 We believe that you will come

5 and opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
6 to be our judge.

7 Come then, Lord, and help your peo - ple,
7 bought with the price of your own blood,
7 and bring us with your saints to glory ev - er - last - ing.

Offering

Your offerings are just one way you support the gospel ministry we do, and we thank God for them! Guests are welcome to give but need not feel obligated. If you'd like to give online, scan the QR code on the right side of the page or go to bethlehem-wels.com/giving.



Give Online

Please also use this time to sign the connection card located in the back of the pew in front of you and quietly meditate. Sign the blue side if you're a member, or the yellow side if you're a visitor. Drop it off in the offering plates as they're passed along your row.

The Church's Prayer

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, you are the author of all life. You have commanded us: You shall not murder. Yet we confess that we have fallen short—in anger, in harsh words, in cold indifference, and in hearts that have wished ill upon our neighbors.

C: **Lord, have mercy on us.**

P: Gracious God, you call us not just to refrain from taking life, but to actively cherish, protect, and uphold the lives of those around us. Forgive us for the times we have endangered our neighbors—by reckless action, bitter speech, or silent neglect.

C: **Lord, have mercy on us.**

- P: We pray for the vulnerable among us—the unborn, the elderly, the weak, and the sick. You have knit each life together in the womb and declared it precious. Raise up in us and in our society a deep reverence for every human life, from its beginning to its natural end.
- C: Lord, give us courage and compassion to protect their lives.**
- P: We pray for those who are suffering—the fearful, the grieving, and victims of violence or hatred. Comfort them with your presence. Surround them with neighbors who will help them in all of life's needs.
- C: Lord, be near to the suffering and move us to serve them.**
- P: We pray for those who serve to preserve life and order—police, firefighters, military, and medical workers. Sustain them in their difficult callings. Guard them from danger and give them wisdom, courage, and compassion.
- C: Lord, bless and protect them as they serve.**
- P: Turn our hearts from hatred. Where there is conflict among us bring reconciliation and the healing only you can give.
- C: Lord, guard our hearts.**
- P: We give thanks that you did not spare your own Son but delivered him up for us all. On the cross, the innocent life of Jesus Christ was given so that we, who have sinned against your holy commandments, are forgiven and made new. In his resurrection, you have declared that life—not death—has the final word.
- C: Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- P: Send us out, heavenly Father, to be neighbors who truly help and support those around us in word, in deed, and in prayer. Let your Spirit work in us so that the life you have given us may be poured out in service and love for others.
- C: Lord, make us instruments of your life and love.**

Special Prayers

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Blue Hymnal, p.614

We Go with God's Blessing

The 5th Commandment

P: You shall not murder.

What does this mean?

C: **We should fear and love God that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need.**

Blessing

P: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn: Oh, How Good It Is

Blue Hymnal p.731

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Sermon Notes

Use this space to take notes on today's message. Use the questions below to help!



What *Bible reading* was today's message about?

What *effect of sin* did God's Word point out (Law)?

What *good news* did God's Word give to you (Gospel)?

If you explained to a friend with one sentence what today's message was about, what would you say?

How did today's message *relate* to me and my life?

What *picture* would you use to remember the main point of today's message (Draw it in the box below)?

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a picture to remember the main point of the message.

Bethlehem's Mission

There is no more important message than the one about Jesus. He's the world's savior. That's Good News (1 Corinthians 1:23)!

Because of our love for that message, we make it our goal to reflect God's love by:

- **Gathering** · *Enjoying fellowship with God and our fellow believers (1 John 1:1-3).*
- **Growing** · *Strengthening and maturing in our faith through daily contact with God's Word (Isaiah 55:10-11).*
- **Going**
 1. *Sharing the good news of God's forgiving love with our family, friends, community, and co-workers (Mark 16:15).*
 2. *Using our unique gifts to serve God and our neighbors in our callings inside and outside of this congregation (1 Corinthians 12:1).*

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Weekly Services

Sundays at 8:00am & 10:30am

Mondays at 6:30pm

Streamed at 8:00 and 10:30am on [YouTube](#).

