

September 14 & 15, 2025



Rejoicing Gospel

“Faithful are the wounds of a friend.”

Proverbs 27:6

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

Our worship series, “Faithful Wounds”, continues this week. Wandering around physically lost can lead to winding up in bad places. Jesus' wounding words this week teach that wandering around spiritually lost puts you in the worst place of all. Fortunately, Jesus does not leave us in our lostness. He relentlessly seeks us. And there is rejoicing over the found.

To Prepare Our Hearts for Worship

Lord, I'm here to worship you. You are here, too, to speak to me. Give me a focused heart ready to listen to you. Show me how I've failed this week, so that I can see all the more how you have loved me. Give me a heart that loves to praise and thank you for your everlasting goodness to me.

Gathering Rite on the Word of God

Christian Worship Supplement

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

♪ **Blessed Jesus, at your Word**
We are gathered all to hear you.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred
Now to seek and love and fear you,
By your teachings, sweet and holy,
Drawn from earth to love you solely.

P: Oh, how I love your law!

C: I meditate on it all day long.

P: Your commands make me wiser than my enemies,

C: for they are ever with me.

P: I have more insight than all my teachers,

C: for I meditate on your statutes.

P: How sweet are your words to my taste,

C: sweeter than honey to my mouth!

♪ **All our knowledge, sense, and sight**
Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till your Spirit breaks our night
With the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us;
You must work all good within us.

Confession

P: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

C: so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

P: Yet so often we have despised God's Word and failed to gladly hear and learn it. For this and all our sins, we bow before God and humbly ask his forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

♪ Gracious Savior, good and kind,
Light from Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind;
Help us by your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry your people raises;
Hear and bless our prayers and praises.

Absolution

P: God gave his Word so “that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name”. The Scriptures testify about Jesus, who lived a perfect life for you, died on the cross to pay for all your sins, and rose again to assure you of your salvation. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

♪ Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Praise to you and adoration!
Grant that we your Word may trust,
Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander,
Till we sing your praises yonder.

The Word

Today's Prayer

P: Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us. Give us undivided hearts to love you. Make us ready for every good and useful work; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Reading

Hosea 3:1-5

¹The LORD said to me, “Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes.”

²So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley. ³Then I told her, “You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will behave the same way toward you.”

⁴For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or household gods. ⁵Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days.

Today's Psalm: Be Merciful, O Lord

Psalm 51A

Refrain



Tone



Have mercy on / me, O God,
according to your un- / failing love;
according to your great com- / passion
blot out my trans- / gressions.

Wash away all my in- / iquity
and cleanse me / from my sin.
For I know my trans- / gressions,
and my sin is always be- / fore me. *Refrain*

Against you, you only, / have I sinned

and done what is evil / in your sight.
Surely I was sin- / ful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother con- / ceived me.

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I / will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whit- / er than snow.
Hide your face / from my sins
and blot out all my in- / iquity.

**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

2 Corinthians 2:5–11

⁵If anyone has caused grief, he has not so much grieved me as he has grieved all of you to some extent—not to put it too severely. ⁶The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient. ⁷Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him. ⁹Another reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything. ¹⁰Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, ¹¹in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

Children's Message

Gospel Reading

Luke 15:1–10

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ²But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

⁸“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ ¹⁰In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn: Jesus Sinners Does Receive

Blue Hymnal, p.654 sts. 1-4, 7

Sermon

Today's Message from God's Word

“This Man Welcomes Sinners”

Luke 15:1-7

Create in Me





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.

Prayer

- P: Gracious Lord, your steadfast love never fails. As you called Hosea to love one who had strayed, so you have loved us in our sin and rebellion. Lead us to marvel at your mercy and to reflect it in our lives.
- C: Lord, thank you for seeking us when we were lost. Give us hearts that overflow with your love.**
- P: Lord Jesus, you welcomed tax collectors and sinners, and you rejoiced when the lost were found. Open our eyes to see those around us who are wandering without you. Break down our fear, hesitation, and pride, that we may lovingly carry your Word to them.
- C: Give us courage to share the gospel and patience to walk with the weak.**
- P: Holy Spirit, you comfort the penitent and restore the fallen. As Paul urged the Corinthians to forgive and reaffirm their love, make us quick to forgive, eager to restore, and ready to rejoice whenever sinners repent.
- C: Heal our divisions, strengthen our fellowship, and make our congregation a place of welcome for all.**
- P: Lord of the Church, bless the mission fields near and far, the workers you have sent, and the congregations that support them. Prosper the gospel among us, in our community, and around the world.

C: Draw people of every nation and walk of life into your fold, that there may be one flock under one Shepherd.

P: Hear us also, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

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: The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Blue Hymnal, p.552

Closing Prayer

P: Lord, you've given us your Holy Word to teach us. May we hear, read, learn, and take it to heart. May it strengthen and comfort us, so that we hold onto our hope of everlasting life in Jesus Christ, our Savior. In his name we pray.

C: Amen.

Blessing

Romans 15:5-6

P: May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Hymn: Chief of Sinners Though I Be

Blue Hymnal, p.578 sts. 1-2, 5

Acknowledgments

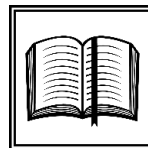
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Sermon Notes

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 thin black border, intended for drawing a picture to remember the main point of the sermon.

Worship Notes

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

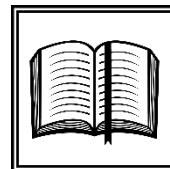
What is the theme for today's worship service?

Favorite hymn today

Favorite Bible Reading

How did the Hymn of the Day fit the worship theme?

What Bible reading was the sermon based on?



What was the main point of the sermon?

What *sin* or *problem* did the sermon point out (Law)?

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

Did we have a Sacrament today?



Baptism?

☐ Yes

☐ No



Communion?

☐ Yes

☐ No

To Do This Week:

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

What did today's message encourage me to do in my Christian life?

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 & 10:00am

Mondays at 6:30pm

Streamed at 8:00 and 10:00am on **You** .

