

October 26 & 27, 2025



Christ With Us

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 celebration of the 175th anniversary of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod by focusing on “Christ With Us.” The success of our efforts to share the Gospel and grow in faith depends not on us, but on God. Through the preaching of the Gospel in Word and Sacraments, God preserves his Church. This weekend is also Reformation Sunday.

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.

God's People Gather

Hymn: Not unto Us

Blue Hymnal, p. 582

These opening responses are taken from an old German hymnal published by our synod in 1872 and used at Bethlehem in the early years when worship was held in German.

Invocation

Pastor: Der Herr sei mit euch (*The Lord be with you*).

Congregation: Und mit deinem Geiste (*and with your spirit*).

P: Alle eure Sorge werfet auf ihn. Halleluja. (*Cast all your anxiety on him. Alleluia.*)

C: Denn er sorget fur euch. Halleluja. (*Because he cares for you. Alleluia.*)

P: Aller Augen warten auf dich, Herr. Halleluja. (*The eyes of all look to you, Lord. Alleluia.*)

C: Und du giebest ihnen ihre Speise zu seiner Zeit. Halleluja. (*And you give them their food at the proper time. Allelui.*)

P: Im Namen des Vaters und des Sohnes + und des Heiligen Geistes (*In the name of the Father, and of the Son +, and of the Holy Spirit*).

C: Amen.

Confession

P: Friends in Christ, we've gathered to celebrate the 175 years of grace God has given to our synod. We remember the faith of our ancestors and God encourages us in our walk of faith.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith." (Hebrews 12:1-2)

With eyes fixed on Jesus, we confess:

C: Heavenly Father, I confess that the same sinful heart that beat in the chests of my ancestors beats in my chest, too. Spiritually blind, dead, and hostile toward you, this heart has shown in the evil I have done, said, and thought, and the good I have failed to do, say, and think. But I also confess the faith of my ancestors. You have promised me forgiveness for my sinful heart and "adoption to sonship" (Galatians 4:5) through the life and death of my Savior, Jesus. In faith, I boldly ask you to give me what you've promised.

P: Christ Jesus, who "was and is and is to come" (Revelation 1:8), lived and died for you. Because he lives, you know that you too will live. For his sake, God our Father has had

mercy on you and has forgiven all your sins. By faith in Christ, you are a child of God and heir of eternal life with all God's people.

C: Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

Service Builder, p.1042

1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en, peace to those he
2 On - ly Son of God the Fa - ther, Lamb who takes our
loves so well. On the earth let all his peo - ple speak his
sin a - way, now with him in tri - umph seat - ed— for your
grace, his won - ders tell: Lord, we praise you for your glo - ry,
mer - cy, Lord, we pray: Je - sus Christ, most high and ho - ly,
might - y Fa - ther, heav - en's King; hear our joy - ful
Sav - ior, you are God a - lone in the glo - ry
ad - o - ra - tion and ac - cept the thanks we bring.
of the Fa - ther with the Spir - it, Three in One!

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God's People Listen

Prayer of the Day

P: Lord, keep your household, the church, godly through your Word and Sacraments. As you have been with us in WELS for 175 years, continue to bless us with your presence 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

Joshua 4:1-9

¹When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, ²“Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, ³and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight.”

⁴So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, ⁵and said to them, “Go over before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, ⁶to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ ⁷tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.”

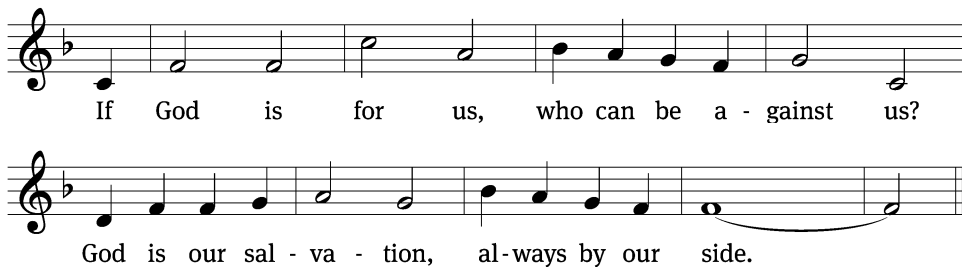
⁸So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the LORD had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down.

⁹Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day.

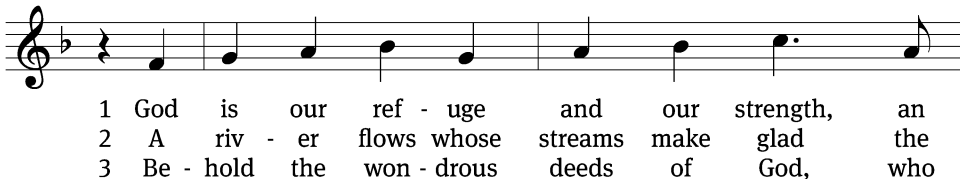
Today's Psalm: If God is for Us

Psalm 46E

Refrain



Verses



ev - er pres - ent aid, and there - fore, though the
cit - y of our God, the ho - ly dwell - ing
caus - es wars to cease, the weap - ons of the

earth be moved, we will not be a - fraid; though
of the LORD, the place of God's a - bode. Since
strong de - stroyed, God brings a - bid - ing peace. "Be

hills in - to the seas be cast, though foam - ing wa - ters roar,
God is in the midst of it, our safe - ty is se - cure;
still and know that I am God, ex - alt - ed ev - er - more;"

the LORD of hosts is by our side, a
the LORD of hosts is by our side, a
the LORD of hosts is by our side, a

ref - uge strong and sure. *Refrain*
ref - uge strong and sure. *Refrain*
ref - uge strong and sure. *Refrain*

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Second Reading

Revelation 3:7–13

⁷"To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. ⁸I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ⁹I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. ¹⁰Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

¹¹I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹²The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. ¹³Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Hymn: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Blue Hymnal, p.863 sts. 1-2

Gospel

John 8:31-36

³¹To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

³³They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

³⁴Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Children's Message

Hymn: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Blue Hymnal, p.863 sts. 3-4

Sermon

“Christ With Us”

Joshua 4:1-9

God's People Speak

The Third Article with Luther's Explanation

P: We recite the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed with the explanation from Luther's Small Catechism:

C: 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.

P: What does this mean?

C: I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

P: In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.

C: On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

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: God of Grace, we humbly thank you for all the gifts of love you've given our synod over 175 years.

C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you have shown us.

P: God of Peace, we rejoice in all the gifts of love we enjoy today.

C: Your mercies are new every morning. We are as blessed today as we have ever been.

P: God of Hope, give us boldness and courage as we continue to share the good news of Jesus in our community, country, and across the globe.

C: There is still room for many more to come and find food to satisfy their spiritual hunger.

P: God of Redeeming Love, of all the many spiritual and material blessings you give us, there is no blessing like the gift of your Son, Jesus.

C: Keep us close to our Good Shepherd all our lives.

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: Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide

Blue Hymnal, p.641 sts. 1–3, 7

Luther's Morning Prayer

Sunday

C: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. Into Your hands I commend my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Luther's Evening Prayer

Monday

C: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into Your hands I commend my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Blessing

P: Die Gnade unsers HERRN Jesu Christi und die Liebe Gottes und die Gemeinschaft des heiligen Geistes sei mit euch allen! (*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*).

C: Amen.

Hymn: Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head

Blue Hymnal, p.861 sts. 1–2

Acknowledgments

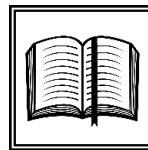
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Sermon Notes

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!

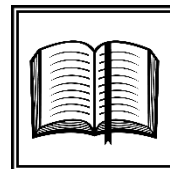
What is the theme for today's worship service?

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 & 10:30am

Mondays at 6:30pm

Streamed at 8:00 and 10:30am on **You** .

