

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

We are called by God to follow Christ in
love and service to all.



July 12, 2026

We encourage children to feel welcome in church during worship. And we recognize that kids need to move and fidget while we share this time together. Tables and coloring pages are available to kids in both the front of the worship space and in the Commons. Parents, please feel free to let your kids move around as needed.

Prelude

Claudius Cazan

Welcome and Announcements

(please stand)

Confessions and Forgiveness

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

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

"What is This Place"

ELW# 524

Greeting

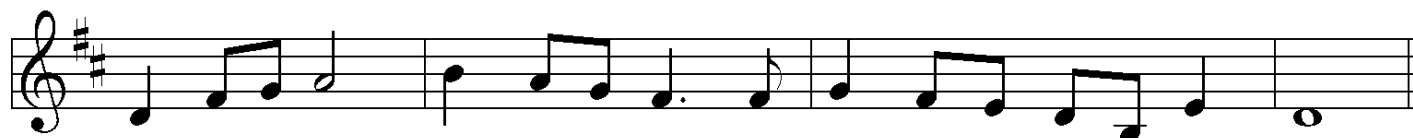
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Hymn of Praise



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



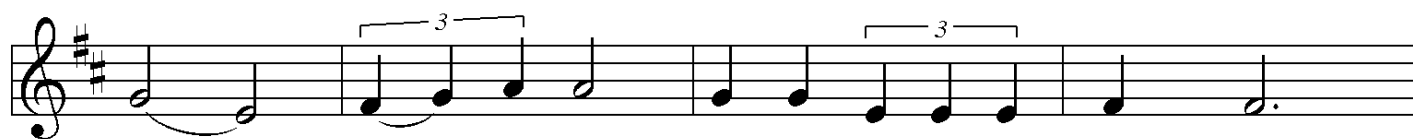
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



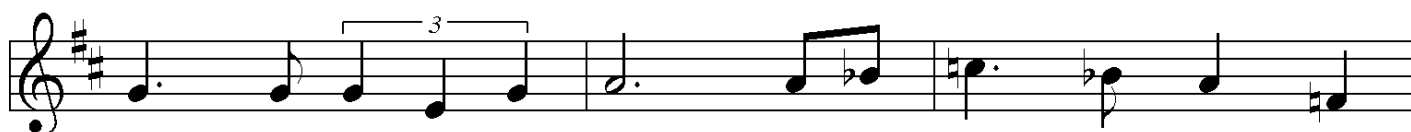
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



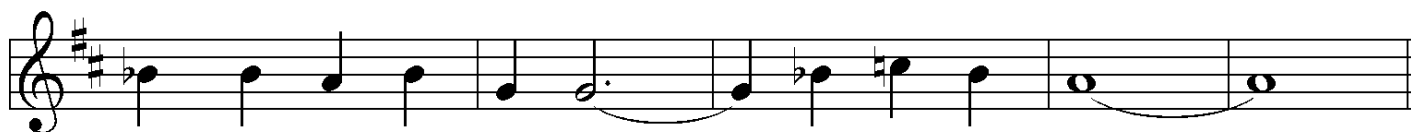
☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



I For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

II



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



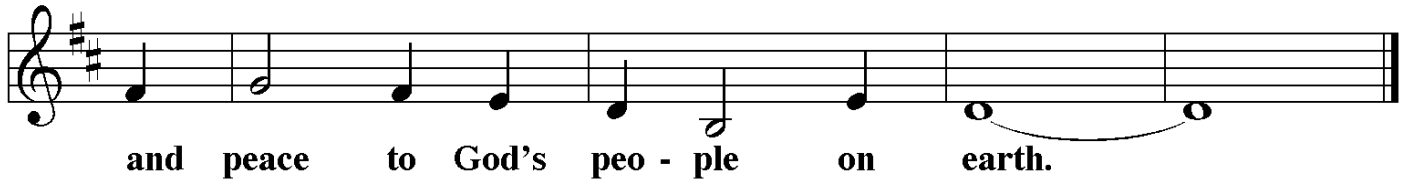
Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.



☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,



Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray,

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

(be seated)

First Reading

Isaiah 55:10-13

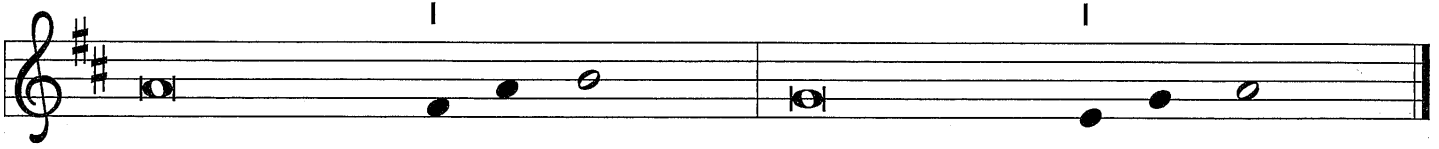
¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 65:9-13



⁹ You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is ^l full of water.

You prepare the grain, for so you provide ^l for the earth.

¹⁰ **You drench the furrows and smooth ^l out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and ^l bless its increase.**

¹¹ You crown the year ^l with your goodness, and your paths over- ^l flow with plenty.

¹² **May the fields of the wilderness be ^l rich for grazing, and the hills be ^l clothed with joy.**

¹³ May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak them- ^l selves with grain; let them shout for ^l joy and sing.

Second Reading

Romans 8:1-11

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

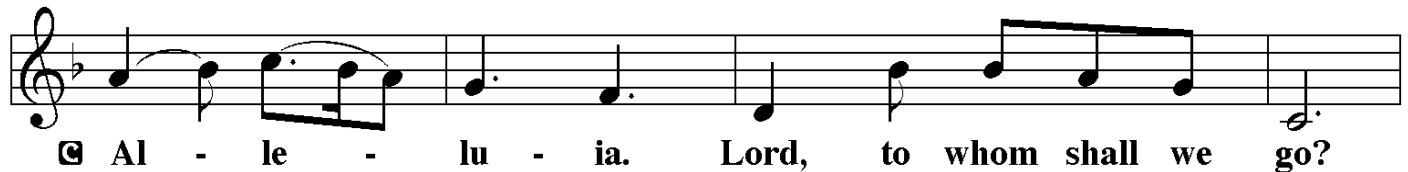
⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life

because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

(please stand)

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸ “Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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

(be seated)

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil” (x2)

ELW# 512

(please stand)

The Apostle’s Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

(please stand)

The Prayers

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

After each portion of the prayers:

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

Greet one another with a word of welcome and peace.

(be seated)

Offering

Thank you for your offerings today. As Christ comes to us in the bread and cup of the holy table, we present ourselves through our own sacrifice of generosity to love and serve our neighborhood and the whole world. You can also give online at www.bethluth.org/give as a one time donation or as a recurring gift. Use this code to access the giving site.



(please stand)

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray,

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

Amen.

The 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.

Sanctus




Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and




might, heav - en 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

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.

(be seated)

Lamb of God



☩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution of Holy Communion

All are welcome at the table of Christ. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available.

Communion Hymns

“As Rain from the Clouds”

ELW# 508

“Here is Bread”

ELW# 483

(please stand)

Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

The Benediction

Almighty God , Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Almighty God, Your Word is Cast”

ELW# 516

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Claudius Cazan

Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for volunteers to help with cooking, serving, cleaning up, and baking for Feeding the Flathead on July 20 and August 17. No previous experience is necessary! During the summer months, we serve approximately 70 hot meals to our guests, so we welcome as many helping hands as possible. You can sign up in the Commons or contact Julie Miller at (703) 862-3490 for more information.



FLBC Employment Opportunity

FLBC is looking for a Flathead Valley-based experienced part-time bookkeeper (15-20 hrs per week). This is a flexible hybrid-remote position that requires you to work two days a week in the Kalispell office, but you are free to choose your own hours. Proficiency with accounting software (QuickBooks preferred) and prior non-profit accounting experience are highly valued. Depending on experience, the hourly wage ranges from \$21 - \$25 per hour. Please call the FLBC office at 406-752-6602 for more information and a complete job description.



Lutheran Night at the Ballpark August 5th

It's baseball season again and we are excited to bring everyone together to enjoy a night at the field! Come out to the ballpark on **August 5th** to watch the game and spend some time in fellowship with other Lutherans. Flathead Valley Lutherans will be seated in Section 106 so try to buy tickets in that section. Game starts at 6:35pm. Feel free to invite a friend.



Church at Eidsvold August 16th

On August 16th, we'll gather with our partners at Eidsvold Lutheran Church for **church together** - worshipping, sharing, and having lots of fun! **No services at Bethlehem** that day, but drive on down the road a little further and let's all celebrate together **starting at 11AM. What a wonderful opportunity** for us to spend time getting to know our church partners. Mark the date on your calendars and plan to join in the fun!



August Blood Drive Saturday, August 1

The next BLC *blood* drawing will again be in the basement of *First Presbyterian Church*, across Main Street from Bethlehem from 1:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Your donations are very much needed. Please call either Glenda Skeim at 406-250-1890 or Gary Aasheim at 406-698-4138 for your appointment

BLOOD DRIVE

All plant-based Cooking Class

- learn about the health benefits of plant-based cooking
- learn how to make plant-based dishes
 - learn from experienced cooks
- taste and enjoy the cooked samples
 - obtain the recipes to cook in your own kitchens

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
July 24, 2026 at 4:00 PM

limited enrollment - first-come first-served
(\$15/per person to cover the ingredients expenses)

The Parable of the Sower

But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. Matthew 13:23a

Based on Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (NIV)



A D N B L P W W C F V B B H L
 P L H M S E E D I H A R U R G
 R Q D G R A S D O T O R M V G
 O W X G P V C T X I H K M L P
 O N V O J S A H B S V E E E B
 T E R E T D T O J O X J R D R
 P C G N W S T R U I X Y O R O
 F F A O I E E N V L K O F E M
 N L S N I Z R S W C G I K E C
 P P B I R D S O O S B Q L H Q
 K O W B Z P L R S C A B X T S
 P P J S D L Y T R O A E I R L
 C A R U A N A L X R F G J L T
 Z E T H C G T L A C V O E L M
 K Z S H W J R P W H M F Y Y Z

PLANTS
 WITHER
 FELL
 ROCKY

SCORCH
 BIRDS
 PARABLE
 SHALLOW

FARMER
 ROOT
 SCATTER
 GOOD

THORNS
 CHOKE
 SEED
 SOW

CROP
 SOIL
 GREW
 PATH

Prayer Concerns: Illness/surgery:

Erika Hauser, Duane Benson, Bob Martens, Char Kaber, the Carter Family, Patty McEntire, Carol Eckholt and Kathy Adams.

A Special Thank You To Our Assisting Ministers:

<u>Worship Leader:</u>	Julie Miller
<u>Assisting Mnstr:</u>	Jana Pursell
<u>Reader:</u>	Charlene Singley
<u>Cantor:</u>	Mary Frances Erler
<u>Greeters:</u>	
<u>Communion Setup:</u>	GayLynn Nelson
<u>Communion Asst:</u>	Julie Miller, Jana & Bill Pursell, Charlene Singley
<u>Usher:</u>	Rick & Jan Ulvin, Terry Brosten, Sherry Korthase
<u>Power Point:</u>	Aiden Ofstad
<u>Acolytes:</u>	

This Week at Bethlehem

SUNDAY

9:00am
10:30am

07/12

Worship
Bell Choir Practice

MONDAY

10:00am
6:00pm

07/13

Respite, FH
Feeding the Flathead, FH

WEDNESDAY

6:45am
10:00am
10:30am

07/15

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study, FH
Respite, FH
Spinners & Weavers Guild, CM

THURSDAY

9:00am
9:00am
5:30pm

07/16

Quilter's
Knitter's
Flathead Valley Community Orchestra, FH

SUNDAY

9:00am
10:30am

07/19

Worship
Bell Choir Practice



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Pastor Scott Thompson
Pastor Lucy Schottelkorb

office@bethluth.org / www.bethluth.org

Facebook: Bethlehem Lutheran Kalispell
406/752-6140