



## Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Rev. James D. Smith-Pastor

Baptized People of God, Ministers

Dante Eusebio-Sexton

Service of Holy Communion

Time after Pentecost

Sunday, October 10, 2021

### Welcome and announcements

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one god, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, whose love is endless. Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another. (pause for silence and self reflection).

**Most Merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

### Prayer of the Day

L: Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### WORD

#### First Reading: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Seek the Lord and live,

or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,  
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,  
and bring righteousness to the ground!



They hate the one who reproves in the gate,  
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

Therefore because you trample on the poor  
and take from them levies of grain,  
you have built houses of hewn stone,  
but you shall not live in them;

you have planted pleasant vineyards,  
but you shall not drink their wine.

For I know how many are your transgressions,  
and how great are your sins—

you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,  
and push aside the needy in the gate.

Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;  
for it is an evil time.

Seek good and not evil,  
that you may live;

and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you,  
just as you have said.

Hate evil and love good,  
and establish justice in the gate;

it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts,  
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

### **Psalm 90:12-17 (Please respond in the bold text)**

So teach us to count our days  
that we may gain a wise heart.

#### **Turn, O Lord! How long?**

**Have compassion on your servants!**

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

**Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,  
and as many years as we have seen evil.**

Let your work be manifest to your servants,  
and your glorious power to their children.

**Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,  
and prosper for us the work of our hands—  
O prosper the work of our hands!**

### **Second Reading: Hebrews 4:12-16**

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.



Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

\*Gospel Acclamation: ***Alleluia. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia!*** (Matt.5:3)

Response after announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **GOSPEL: Mark 10:17-31**

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

Response after announcement: **Praise to you O Christ.**

### **Sermon**

\*Apostles Creed



**\*Prayers of Intercession**

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Uniting God, you call forth different gifts in those who follow you. Encourage us to welcome the diverse benefits and blessings of the whole church in teaching, preaching, prophecy, healing, and more.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, you bring forth crops from the soil and bounty from the trees. Increase the produce of the land and bless all who toil in fields and orchards. Provide for good working conditions and keep them safe.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Empowering God, you offer compassion for those who are overlooked or forgotten. Open the hearts of local, national, and world leaders to show such compassion and love for their neighbors.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Sheltering God, in Jesus you travelled among us without a place to lay your head. Provide safe places to sleep and rest for those who have no place to live. Sustain ministries that offer food, clothing, and peace of mind, especially Lutheran Social Services, The INN, and Soup-to-Nuts, ministries we support or have supported in the past.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Renewing God, you bring life out of death. Help us part with those things that are no longer beneficial to us and open our hearts to see where new life is budding in this congregation.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We especially pray today for: Our Military and their families, Our First Responders (Fire, Police, EMS), Healthcare Workers, Transit Workers, David, Sophia, Symons Family, Spatz Family, D'Ambrosio Family, McPherson Family,



Peragine Family, Michelle, Frank, Gloria Holke, Wirth Family, Tom and Vicky Jackson, Heidi, Elaine, Shirley, James and Prentella McSwain, Justin, Danny, Buck Family, Kathleen, Sandy, Mike Brawley, Kim Spitzer, Roberta Neidballa, Kim McManus, Elsie and Gunther Garbe, Lebby family, Robinson family, Kogan family, Daniel White, Rosalie Connor, and the Petito family, those who suffer because of natural disasters, and those who are victims of violence and shootings. Rain down the true bread from heaven that gives life to the world.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we thank you for the lives of those who have died. Make us confident in your promise of salvation and support us in our own journey of faith.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

\* Lord's Prayer

\* Eucharistic Prayer

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into a path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

\* Thanksgiving

\* Holy Communion *(Virtual people, please bring your own elements)*

(In this time we gather around the eternal table wherever that may be in this time we are apart. We bring our own gifts so they can be lifted up and bring honor and glory to God. We lift up our prayers so that the Spirit is sent to us and the meal that we share, so that it and all of God's acts and promises may come to fulfillment for us and the world. The prayer is that the life giving Spirit will make the meal effective in us. We join our prayers with those servants of every time and every place and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great High Priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.)

**SENDING**

