

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

(507-962-3270)

Sunday, July 25, 2021

Pastor Nita Parker (507-360-7582)

nitaalmjeld.parker@gmail.com

Music: Angie Johnson

Lay Reader: Pam Sells

Deacon: Jan Solberg

Usher: David Leenderts



Order of Service – Setting Ten

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: God, our provider,

C: help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn?

Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, ✚ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C: Amen.

P: Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

ALL: AMEN

GATHERING SONG "Come As You Are"

Come out of sadness; from wherever you've been

Come broken hearted; let rescue begin

Come find your mercy; Oh sinner come kneel

Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal

Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal

**So lay down your burdens, lay down your shame
All who are broken, lift up your face
Oh wanderer come home, you're not too far
So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart
Come as you are**

**There's hope for the hopeless and all those who've strayed
Come sit at the table, come taste the grace
There's rest for the weary, rest that endures
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't cure**

**So lay down your burdens, lay down your shame
All who are broken, lift up your face
Oh wanderer come home, you're not too far
So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart
Come as you are, come as you are
Fall in his arms, come as you are**

**There's joy for the morning, Oh sinner be still
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal**

GREETING

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

C: And also with you

KYRIE p. 203

- 1.) Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.**
- 2.) Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.**
- 3.) Have mercy on us, Lord; make sin and shame depart.
Renew us with your saving pow'r, create in us new hearts!**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE p. 204

- 1.) Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good will to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth;
We exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.**

- 2.) **Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
On the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.**
- 3.) **Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all;
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

THE SCRIPTURES

FIRST READING – 2 KINGS 4:42-44

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, 'Give it to the people and let them eat.' But his servant said, 'How can I set this before a hundred people?' So he repeated, 'Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the Lord, "They shall eat and have some left." ' He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.

Response: R: Word of God, Word of Life C: Thanks be to God

PSALM 145:10-18 (responsive reading)

R: All works shall praise you, O Lord, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

C: They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,

R: that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

C: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages. You, Lord, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.

R: The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

C: The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, and you give them their food in due season.

R: You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

C: You are righteous in all your ways and loving in all your works.

R: You are near to all who call upon you, to all who call upon you faithfully.

SECOND READING – EPHESIANS 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his

Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

Response: R: Word of God, Word of Life C: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION pg. 205

Alleluia! Lord and Savior; open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL READING – JOHN 6:1-21

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?' He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.'

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, got into a boat, and started across the lake to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The lake became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the lake and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, 'It is I; do not be afraid.' Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land towards which they were going.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON– Pastor Nita Parker

SONG OF THE DAY “Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior”

Pass me not, O gentle Savior, hear my humble cry
While on others Thou art calling, do not pass me by

Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry
While on others Thou art calling, do not pass me by.
Let me at Thy throne of mercy find a sweet relief
Kneeling there in deep contrition, help my unbelief

Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry
While on others Thou art calling, do not pass me by.

Trusting only in Thy merit, would I seek Thy face?
Heal my wounded, broken spirit, save me by Thy grace.

Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry
While on others Thou art calling, do not pass me by.

Thou the spring of all my comfort more than life to me
Whom have I on earth beside Thee? Whom in Heav'n but Thee?

Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry
While on others Thou art calling, do not pass me by.

While on others Thou art calling, do not pass me by.

NEW MEMBERS CELEBRATION

*Milton Lauck – Joan & Wade Johnson – Ann (Husfeldt) Sandager
Derek Spykerboer – Dustin, Melissa, Remington & Talia Seachris
Pr. Nita & Larry Parker – Tony Wertish*

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Prayer

Profession of Faith:

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response: I renounce them

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response: I renounce them

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: I renounce them

Assembly and New Members:

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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 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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism; to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me

People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?

Response: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the Spirit of Wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the Spirit of joy in your presence now and forever. Amen

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

We welcome you with joy into the body of Christ, and into the mission we share; join us in giving thanks and praise to God. We look forward to working with you in the Spirit, we give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

GREAT THANKSGIVING p. 206

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts

C: We lift them to the Lord

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying. Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG "Jesus Friend of Sinners"

**Jesus, friend of sinners, we have strayed so far away
We cut down people in your name but the sword was never ours to swing
Jesus, friend of sinners, the truth's become so hard to see
The world is on their way to You but they're tripping over me
Always looking around but never looking up I'm so double minded
A plank eyed saint with dirty hands and a heart divided.**

**Oh Jesus, friend of sinners,
Open our eyes to the world at the end of our pointing fingers
Let our hearts be led by mercy
Help us reach with open hearts and open doors
Oh Jesus, friend of sinners, break our hearts for what breaks Yours.**

**Jesus, friend of sinners, the one who's writing in the sand
Make the righteous turn away and the stones fall from their hands
Help us to remember we are all the least of thieves
Let the memory of Your mercy bring Your people to their knees
No one know what we're for only against when we judge the wounded
What if we put down our signs crossed over the lines and loved like You did.**

**Oh Jesus, friend of sinners,
Open our eyes to the world at the end of our pointing fingers
Let our hearts be led by mercy
Help us reach with open hearts and open doors
Oh Jesus, friend of sinners, break our hearts for what breaks Yours.**

You love every lost cause; you reach for the outcast

For the leper and the lame; they're the reason that You came
Lord I was that lost cause and I was the outcast
But you died for sinners just like me, a grateful leper at Your feet.

'Cause You are good. You are good and Your love endures forever
You are good, You are good and Your love endures forever
You are good, You are good and Your love endures forever
You are good, You are good and Your love endures forever.
Oh Jesus, friend of sinners,
Open our eyes to the world at the end of our pointing fingers
Let our hearts be led by mercy
Help us reach with open hearts and open doors
Oh Jesus, friend of sinners, break our hearts for what breaks Yours.

And I was the lost 'cause and I was the outcast
You died for sinners just like me, a grateful leper at Your feet.

PRAYERS after COMMUNION

P: The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

BLESSING

SENDING SONG "Cornerstone"

**My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly trust in Jesus name.**

**My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly trust in Jesus name.**

Christ alone; Cornerstone

Weak made strong; in the Savior's love, through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all.

**When darkness seems to hide His face, I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil.**

Christ alone; Cornerstone

Weak made strong; in the Savior's love, through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all.

Christ alone; Cornerstone

Weak made strong; in the Savior's love, through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all.

**When He shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless stand before the throne.**

DISMISSAL

BAPTISM

As a congregation we promise to pray for the little ones who are baptized. Today we remember that *Kymber Paulsen* who was baptized one year ago on 7/25/20. We praise God for this child in our midst and rejoice with her parents.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

**** Remember in your prayers:**

LN Metzler – Sam McGaffee – Larry Parker (Pr. Nita's Husband) – Lee Sells – Jack Paulsen – Diana Buffington (knee surgery) – Wade Johnson (hip surgery).

**** BETHLEHEM MEMBERS** will soon receive their monthly newsletter via email. Please make sure the church office has your email address. Send your address to bethlehemluth@alliancecom.net

NO email? No worries! Please let the church office know if you request a printed copy. Limited copies will be mailed to those who request, copies will also be available in the Narthex and distributed to Tuff Residents.

Also, remember the newsletter is always available on the church website too.

[Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Hills, Minnesota \(blchills.org\)](http://Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Hills, Minnesota (blchills.org))

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

THANKS & APPRECIATION for Bishop Jon Anderson

Open House: August 14th/1-5 pm. All are welcome!!!

Redwood Area Community Center, Redwood Falls, MN.

We are gather to celebrate Bp. Jon's 18 years of service to the Southwestern Minnesota Synod. Bp. Joh will conclude his third, six year tern as Bishop on August 31, 2021.

SWEET CORN PICNIC – Beaver Valley Lutheran Church (Valley Springs, SD.)

Sunday, August 15th; 4:00-6:00 pm. Free will donations will be directed between the Brandon Food Pantry, Feeding SD. and expansion of our outdoor space.

Menu: Sweet Corn, Pork Loin, Potatoes, Cucumbers & Tomatoes.

Assorted pies, Indoor & Outdoor seating available.

Come enjoy fresh local produce!!!