

# **BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Pastor Lori Bonkoski**

**Thanksgiving Eve**

**November 26, 2025**

**Music: Glenda McGaffee**

**Lay Reader: Deb Warner**

## **WELCOME/ANNOUCEMENTS**

### **SILENT PRAYER**

**\*Please stand if you are able**

### **\*OPENING HYMN #693 "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"**

1. Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home. All be safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin. God, our maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.

Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

2. All the world is God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield; wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown. First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear.

Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

3. For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his harvest home; from his field shall in that day all offenses purge away; give his angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,

but the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.

4. Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home. Gather then thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin, there, forever purified, in thy garner to abide. Come, with all thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home!

### **\*DIALOGUE (Psalm 100)**

**P:** Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all you lands,

**C: Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing.**

**P:** Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise.

**C: For the Lord is good: His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.**

### **\*SCRIPTURE SONG #682 "To God Our Thanks We Give" (repeat 2 times)**

To God our thanks we give, to God our thanks we give, to God our thanks we give, our thanks to God we give.

### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

#### **FIRST READING: Philippians 4:4-9**

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup> As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

R: The Word of the Lord    C: **Thanks be to God**

#### **\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

#### **\*GOSPEL READING: John 6:25-35**

<sup>25</sup> When [the disciples] found [Jesus] on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" <sup>26</sup> Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves. <sup>27</sup> Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." <sup>28</sup> Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." <sup>30</sup> So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?" <sup>31</sup> Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " <sup>32</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." <sup>34</sup> They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

<sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

P: This is, the Gospel of our Lord.

#### **\*GOSPEL RESPONSE:**

C: I will praise Him, alleluia, I will praise Him alleluia, I will praise Him, alleluia, I will praise Him, alleluia.

## **MESSAGE – Pastor Lori**

### **\* HYMN OF THE DAY # 679 “For the Fruit of All Creation”**

1. For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God. For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God. For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.
2. In the just reward of labor, God's will is done. In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done. In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing, in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.
3. For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God. For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God. For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us, most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

### **\*APOSTLES' 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, from there 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 life everlasting. Amen.

### **\*PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.     **C: And also with you.**

### **\*OFFERING**

### **\*OFFERING SONG #423 “Shall We Gather at the River”, vs 1 & 4**

1. Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod, with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

#### *Refrain*

Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river; gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

4. Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease; soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.

#### *Refrain*

Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river; gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. **Amen.**

P: Most Gracious God,

**C: according to your wisdom the deep waters are opened up and clouds drop gentle moisture. We praise you for the return of planting and harvest seasons, for fertility of the soil, for the harvesting of crops, and for all other blessings that you in your generosity pour out on all people. Give us a full understanding of your mercy, that our lives may show respect and care for your creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: Hear us, O God, **C: Your mercy is great.**

### **\*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.**

### **\*BENEDICTION**

P: Give thanks to the Lord for He is good and His mercy endures forever. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord look with favor on you and give you peace.

**C: Amen**

### **\*SENDING HYMN #839 "Now Thank We All Our God"**

1. Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices; who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.
2. Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us, and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
3. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given, the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven, the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore; for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

### **\*DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Prayer Concerns:** : Doug Boeve, Marvin Albers, Addison Swenson, Karen Soehl, Mahlon Bekedam, Starla Scholten

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please join us for pumpkin pie following worship! Stay and help decorate for Advent/Christmas after pie!

A sign-up sheet for **ushers** is available on the bulletin board. Each month, we kindly request participation from two to three families.

Assistance is requested **during Advent to help with communion** by holding a tray of wine. We require two volunteers each Sunday, and individuals of all ages are encouraged to participate, provided they can comfortably hold a tray. For further information or inquiries, please contact Pastor Lori or the church office.

Please note that there will be a scheduled **project and clean-up day** on Saturday, December 6, at the church and parsonage. Multiple tasks will be available for completion.

**Project Love** Christmas box donations needed. Project Love is preparing to put together around 100 Christmas boxes for families in the Hills, Beaver Creek and Steen area. Each box includes food and essential paper products to help make the holiday season a little brighter. Asking for donations of paper products – toilet paper, paper towels, paper plates, napkins and Kleenex. Meat – would especially love to include hamburger in each box this year. Every donation, big or small, makes a difference. If you know of a family in need of a box this Christmas, please reach out to Missy Seachris with questions.

**A Leadership Invitation-** As my term as President of the Executive Board ends, we're inviting members to consider stepping into the roles of **President** and **Vice President**. The **President** helps guide meetings, supports boards, and ensures our church stays aligned with its mission. The **Vice President** is a supportive role, and a chance to learn and grow into the president position. If you feel called to serve, let's talk. Leadership here is about teamwork, heart, and hope. Rebecca Spykerboer, Congregational President

See bulletin board in the narthex for information on **fall happenings** in the area.

**Music teacher needed for Sunday School.** Please contact a member of the Board of Education if interested.

**Help Wanted:** Need someone to help with power point at Sunday morning worship. If interested, please contact Dawn Leenderts. Will train! (507-962-3560)

