



Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center



Season After Pentecost

September 10, 2023

Worship Service

10:00 am

Welcome to Bethlehem!

We hope you feel a warm welcome at Bethlehem. Please visit our website at www.blcenc.org for more information about the congregation. If you're visiting with us, please fill out an information card and place it in the offering basket so we can stay connected.

CHILDREN

All children are welcome in worship at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (BLC). There is a comfort room at the back of the sanctuary. Busy bags are available in the narthex. Learning Circles are currently on hiatus for the summer.

COMMUNION

We practice **open communion** meaning all are welcome to participate. We commune by intinction. The pastor will dip the bread (or gluten-free wafer) into a divided chalice that has white wine or red grape juice. We are happy to bring communion to individuals with limited mobility.

ACCESSIBILITY

Hearing assistance devices are located at the back of the sanctuary. If you, or someone you know, are neurodivergent and you have questions about how to participate in worship or in one of our church ministries, please feel free to ask either the pastors or the church office for help.

PARTICIPATION

The different movements that happen during worship (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are all optional; please engage as you are comfortable or able.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

“**Beautiful One**” - Text and Tune: Tim Hughes, © 2002 Capitol CMG Publishing. “**My Savior, My God**” - Text and Tune: Aaron Shust and Dorothy Greenwell, © 2005 Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc. “**Trading My Sorrows**” - Text and Tune: Darrell Evans, © 1998 Integrity Music. For all songs listed above, all rights reserved. Reprints authorized under CCLI License #1085183. “**Shepherd Me, O God**” - Text and Tune: Marty Haugen, © 1986, GIA Publications, Inc. For previous copyrighted selection, all rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net LicenseNo.A-706214. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-706214.

Photo Credit: <https://support4change.wordpress.com/2017/11/16/forgiving-yourself-and-others-not-just-forgiving/>

GATHERING

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our life, and our salvation.

C: Amen.

L: Joined to the risen Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. We give you thanks, O God of solstice and equinox. When you called light into being, you set the world on an axis, giving us the gift of seasons, times of dying and rising, budding and harvest.

C: We give you thanks for the gift of baptism, washing us in every season with mercy, grace, and life, making resurrection our eternal home. You, O God - Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of Life - are the great source: river of creation, pool of healing, thundering falls.

L: Pour out the gift of your spirit, your truth, mercy, and grace into our lives in this, and every season. We give you our praise on this brilliant day, now and forever.

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG

“Beautiful One” – Tim Hughs

Beautiful One I love You, Beautiful One I adore.
Beautiful One my soul must sing.
Beautiful One I love You, Beautiful One I adore.
Beautiful One my soul must sing.

Powerful so powerful, Your glory fills the skies.
Your mighty works displayed for all to see.
The beauty of Your majesty awakes my heart to sing.
How marvelous, how wonderful You are.

Beautiful One I love You, Beautiful One I adore.
Beautiful One my soul must sing.
Beautiful One I love You, Beautiful One I adore.
Beautiful One my soul must sing.
Beautiful One I love You, Beautiful One I adore.
Beautiful One my soul must sing.

GREETING

L: 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray ...

C: Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 13:8-14

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Shepherd Me, O God – ELW 780

Shep- herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from
death in - to life. *to stanzas 1, 2, 3, 5* *to stanza 4*
2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you
lead me by path - ways of righ - teous - ness and truth, my
spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name. *Refrain*

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:15-20

R: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Sam Nelson

HYMN OF THE DAY

“My Savior, My God” – Aaron Shust

I am not skilled to understand what God has willed what God has planned.
I only know at His right hand stands One who is my Savior.

I take Him at His word and deed, Christ died to save me this I read.
And in my heart I find a need of Him to be my Savior.

That He would leave His place on high, and come for sinful man to die.
You count it strange, so once did I, before I knew my Savior.

My Savior loves, my Savior lives, my Savior's always there for me.
My God He was, my God He is, my God is always gonna be
(REPEAT)

Yes living dying let me bring my strength my solace from this spring.
That He who lives to be my King once died to be my Savior.

That He would leave His place on high, and come for sinful man to die.
You count it strange, so once did I, before I knew my Savior.

My Savior loves, my Savior lives, my Savior's always there for me.
My God He was, my God He is, my God is always gonna be
(REPEAT)

My Savior lives, my Savior loves
My Savior lives, my Savior loves, my Savior lives

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Lord in your mercy, C: **Hear our prayer.**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always, C: **And also with you!**

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Wade in the Water” – Ramsey Lewis

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

L: The Lord be with you,

C: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts,

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER FROM THE NEW ZEALAND PRAYER BOOK

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.
Amen.**

Sweet Jesus my Savior, you are my faithful Friend.
You made me, You know me, You've seen my ev'ry sin.
My soul is amazed by the gift of Your grace.
And the arms that take me in sweet Jesus my Savior.
You are my faithful Friend.

Sweet Jesus my shelter, you are my faithful Friend.
The refuge I run to when the world comes closing in.
Why should I be afraid when I know I am saved?
By the arms that take me in sweet Jesus my shelter.
You are my faithful Friend.

Sweet Jesus my Shepherd, You are my faithful Friend.
You hold me You lead me I'll follow to the end.
And once more I will say on that beautiful day.
When Your arms take me in sweet Jesus my Shepherd.
You are my faithful Friend.
Sweet Jesus my Savior, You are my faithful Friend.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

I'm trading my sorrows, I'm trading my shame,
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord.
I'm trading my sickness, I'm trading my pain,
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord.

Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes, yes Lord.
Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes, yes Lord.
Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes, yes Lord amen.

I'm pressed but not crushed,
persecuted not abandoned,
struck down but not destroyed.
I'm blessed beyond the curse for his promise will endure,
and his joy's gonna be my strength.
Though the sorrow may last for the night, His joy comes with the morning

So I'm trading my sorrows, I'm trading my shame,
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord.
I'm trading my sickness, I'm trading my pain,
I'm laying them down for the joy of the Lord.

Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes, yes Lord.
Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes, yes Lord.
Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes, yes Lord amen.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Share the Good News! C: **Thanks be to God!**

All Are Welcome!

We live in a diverse world. We are hurting, broken and heavy hearted. We are loving, joyous, and above all, we are welcoming. Regardless of the color of your skin, or the color of your hair; regardless of your gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, relationship status, or political affiliation, you are welcome here. We honor indigenous people and are committed to the work of anti-racism and the stewardship of the creation.

If you are Buddhist, Roman Catholic, agnostic, Muslim, Jewish, seeking, have never set foot in a church, or are a life long Lutheran; you have a place here. If you own, rent, or have nothing at all; you are welcome here. If you are neurodivergent, fully abled, disabled, or a person of differing abilities; if you have regrets, fears, addictions, or afflictions; you have a place here.

All who are wise and all who are confused, all who have found love and all who have lost it, all who celebrate this welcome statement and all who fear it - are welcome here.

Come as you are and be celebrated for who you are. Your place is here. Bethlehem Lutheran is an All are Welcome church.



Reconciling in Christ



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Electronic Giving at Bethlehem

Offering gifts can be made electronically on our website www.blcenc.org under the contribute tab, or by scanning this QR code. There are options for one-time donations, recurring gifts, and special offerings. **No account is needed to donate on our website.**



You can also use the **Vanco Mobile App**. Simply download it from your app store, and search "Bethlehem Lutheran Church Encinitas" by name (there is no invite code). If you already have an account from our website, the same login information will work. If not, please sign up with a new account. **Thank You for Supporting Bethlehem!**



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