

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR NOVEMBER 22, 2020

1024 Monroe Ave NE Renton, WA 98056 425-255-9772
Sunday Worship suspended www.bethlehemlutheranrenton.org

Our Intentional Interim Pastor-David Blair Our Organist and Choir Director-James Hing

Pre-Service Worship Preparation

Ringing of Church Bells

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn

#815 All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine

All praise to Thee, for Thou, O King divine, Didst yield the glory that of right was Thine,
That in our darkened hearts Thy grace might shine. Alleluia!

Thou cam'st to us in lowliness of thought; By Thee the outcast and the poor were sought;
And by Thy death was God's salvation wrought. Alleluia!

Let this mind be in us which was in Thee, Who wast a servant that we might be free,
Humbling Thyself to death on Calvary. Alleluia!

Wherefore, by God's eternal purpose, Thou Art high exalted o'er all creatures now,
And giv'n the name to which all knees shall bow. Alleluia!

Let ev'ry tongue confess with one accord, In heav'n and earth, that Jesus Christ is Lord,
And God the Father be by all adored. Alleluia

Confession and Absolution

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P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for Self-examination

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise ~ *Gloria in Excelsis* page 170

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

♪SING♪ Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day page 172

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Prayer of the Day

P: Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Old Testament

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 (ESV)

The Lord GOD Will Seek Them Out

“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey.

And I will judge between sheep and sheep. And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.

P: This is the Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Psalm 95:1-7 (ESV)

Let Us Sing Songs of Praise

P: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

C: **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

P: For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

C: **In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.**

P: The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

C: **Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**

P: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Epistle 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 (ESV)

But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

P: This is the Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse page 173

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel Matthew 25:31-46 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.

C: **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

The Final Judgment

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for

the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

♪ **Choral Presentation** ♪ 'Look At The World' - Rutter

Sermon "Prepared?!" - Matthew 25:31-46 ~ per attached

Apostles' Creed page 175

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

♪ **Hymn of the Day** ♪ #752 Be Still For the Presence of the Lord

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, The Holy One, is here.
Come bow before him now, with reverence and fear.
In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.
Be still for the presence of the Lord, The Holy One, is here.

Be still for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.
He burns with holy fire, with splendor he is crowned.
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!
Be still for the glory of the Lord is shining all around

Be still for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.
No work too hard for him, in faith, receive from him.
Be still for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

Prayer of the Church

♪Lord's Prayer♪

Our Father which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for-e---ver... **A---men!**

Benediction

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P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

♪Closing Hymn♪

#832 Jesus Shall Reign

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Him shall endless prayer be made, And endless praises crown His head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise With ev'ry morning sacrifice.

People and realms of ev'ry tongue Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim Their early blessings on His name.

Blessings abound where'er He reigns; The pris'ners leap, unloose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest, And all who suffer want are blest.

Let ev'ry creature rise and bring Honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again, And earth repeat the loud amen.

Postlude

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE:

Elder: Art Wolf

NEEDING PRAYERS: Tracy Brown, The Family of Jill Smith (Mardelle Hammond's niece), Joel Cornett (friend of Jordanger family), Naomi (Brent & Karen Begalka's niece), Chris & Karen Glatt (Gil & Cathy Wooden's daughter), Don Hack (Jesse's dad), Brenda Brask (Diolda's sister), Begalka Family, The Call Team, Gerhard & Sabine and the Stafford Staff & Residents, All the Staff & Residents in the Bethesda Homes, Glen Koppelman, Marcy Hall and her Family, Bud & Juanita Reynolds, Harold Carlson, Joel & Karen Jackman, to our friends and relatives who have tested positive for COVID-19 [including Rosa (Hannelore Payne's daughter in law), and Michael Bumpus] and for the essential workers (including Debbie Porter-Mason) who put their lives in jeopardy during this pandemic, and to all those suffering from the wildfires and hurricanes.

Please see the current newsletter for the complete list of prayers

Those who can't be with us today - Pat Boydston, Wanda Brooks, Betty Cowan, Gretchen Engum, Elden Fischer, Gerhard & Sabine Muller, Virginia Preston, Jean Shaw, Carolyn Warns, and David Willett.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: November 23rd Emma Humphrey
November 24th Pam Astala
November 24th CeJae Troseth Tompkins

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO: Ed & Jeanne-K Hughes married November 24, 1971.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

-Congregational Life Cycle Study via Zoom is also each week. Wednesday at 7pm and Thursday at 11am (same information), with an open discussion on Thursday at 7pm.

-While we are not meeting together physically, our church's financial needs are ongoing.

Offerings can be dropped off to the church office or sent by mail. Thank You!

-Help us share some Christmas Cheer and make this Christmas special!

Even though we cannot be together in person, we still need to celebrate Christmas with our Church family and our Sunday Zoom friends.

Please send a happy thought, holiday greeting, picture, or a Bible verse on a piece of paper or in an email. Add your signature and you can drop it by the office, mail it to the Church or even text it to Diolda. For those who want to participate and cannot get out, just let us know, and we will arrange to pick them up so your greetings can be included in our Bethlehem Christmas card that will be sent to everyone. You can also bring them to Communion on Nov 21st.

You can contact Diolda (206) 972-9107 or Teresa at feltti@yahoo.com. Deadline is December 4th.

-This is the last week to purchase a raffle ticket for the Christmas quilt. The winner will be drawn next Sunday, November 29th.

-The next **Movie Matinee** will be Sunday, November 29th at 12:45. Zoom details will be sent prior to. The movie is, *Holiday Inn*, a 1942 musical starring Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire.

ATTENDANCE VIA ZOOM: Last Sunday 65.

STEWARDSHIP:

Matthew 25:44 – “Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ ”

With this parable Jesus once again emphasizes that our good works come from who we are, not the other way around. Sheep do sheep works, and goats do goat works. So, first things first. If we want to live more faithfully, let us come to Jesus, receive His gifts, and ask him to increase our faith.