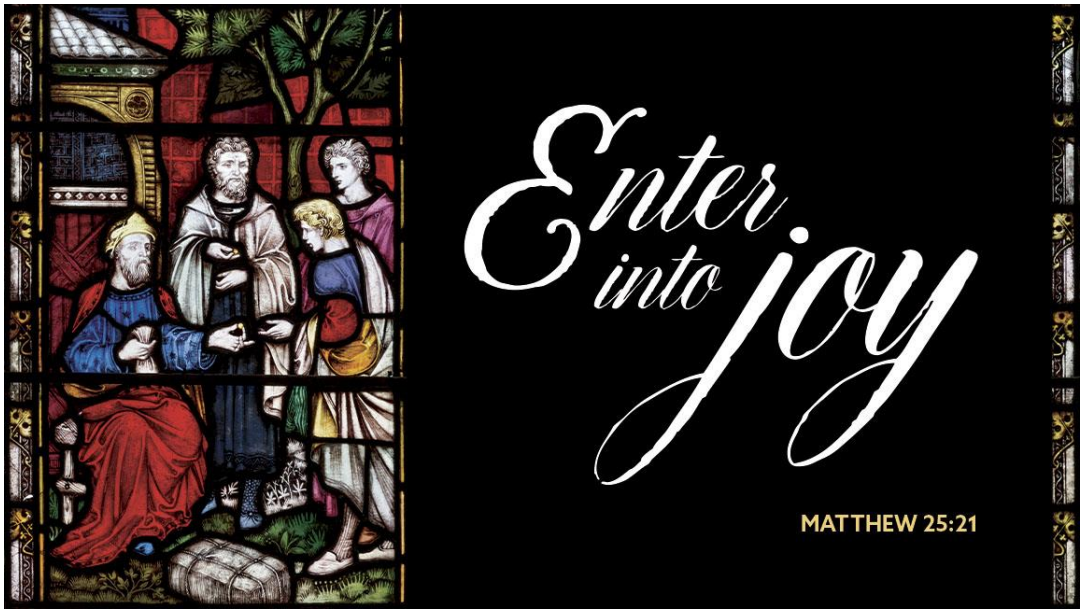
Bethesda Lutheran Church

21590 Hwy 47, Isle, Minnesota 56342

November 15th, 2026 9:00 am



We are a community of faith centered in Christ and rooted in God's grace. Through worship, learning, fellowship, and service, we encourage one another in faith and seek to share God's love with our neighbors, our community, and the world.

We're glad you're here. We are a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and celebrate the work we're able to do together.
(To learn more about the ELCA visit www.elca.org).

Those joining worship online, whether live or later in the week, are invited to prepare their worship space by creating a home altar. You might include meaningful linens, candles, a cross, enough bread or crackers and wine or juice for everyone at your table, and anything that helps you engage more fully in worship. This altar becomes a gathering place for prayers, songs, communion, and a shared sense of God's presence in your home.

☩ GATHERING ☩

~ The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God. ~

~ The gathering responds together with texts in bold print ~

Good morning and welcome to worship. Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

WELCOME

LIFE TOGETHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

A full list of announcements is near the end of the bulletin.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

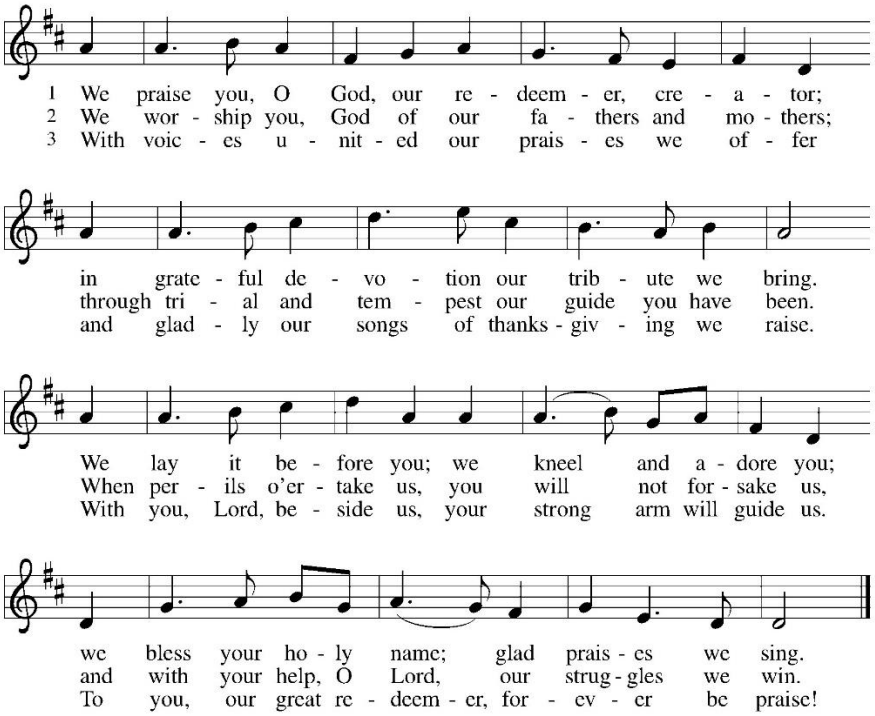
Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, **we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.**

Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you. **Amen.**

We Praise You, O God

ELW 870



Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882–1963
Music: KREMSER, A. Valerius, *Nederlandtsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626

GREETING

The immeasurable grace upon grace of Christ Jesus, the rich mercy and unconditional love of God, and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you**.

PRAYER

Righteous God, our merciful master, **you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

A Celtic Thanksgiving

Words by J. Paul Williams | Incorporating "This Is My Father's World" Music by Joseph M. Martin © 2008 GlorySound and Malcolm Music

☩ WORD ☩

~ God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song. ~

SCRIPTURE READING Zephaniah 1:7,12-18

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD,
for the day of the LORD is at hand!
The LORD has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

14 The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM Psalm 90:1-12

1 Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
2 **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,**
from age to age you are God.
3 You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth."
4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past**
and like a watch in the night;
5 you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:
6 **in the morning it is green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
7 For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.
8 **Our iniquities you have set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
9 When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
10 **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;**
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and we are gone.
11 Who regards the power of your wrath? Who rightly fears your indignation?
12 **So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to
have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the
Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security,"
then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant
woman, and there will be no escape! 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness,
for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of
the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So, then, let us not fall asleep as others
do, but let us keep awake and be sober, 7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those
who are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and
put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God
has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.
11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God!**



GOSPEL Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

The holy gospel according to Matthew. This is the story of grace flowing down.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "
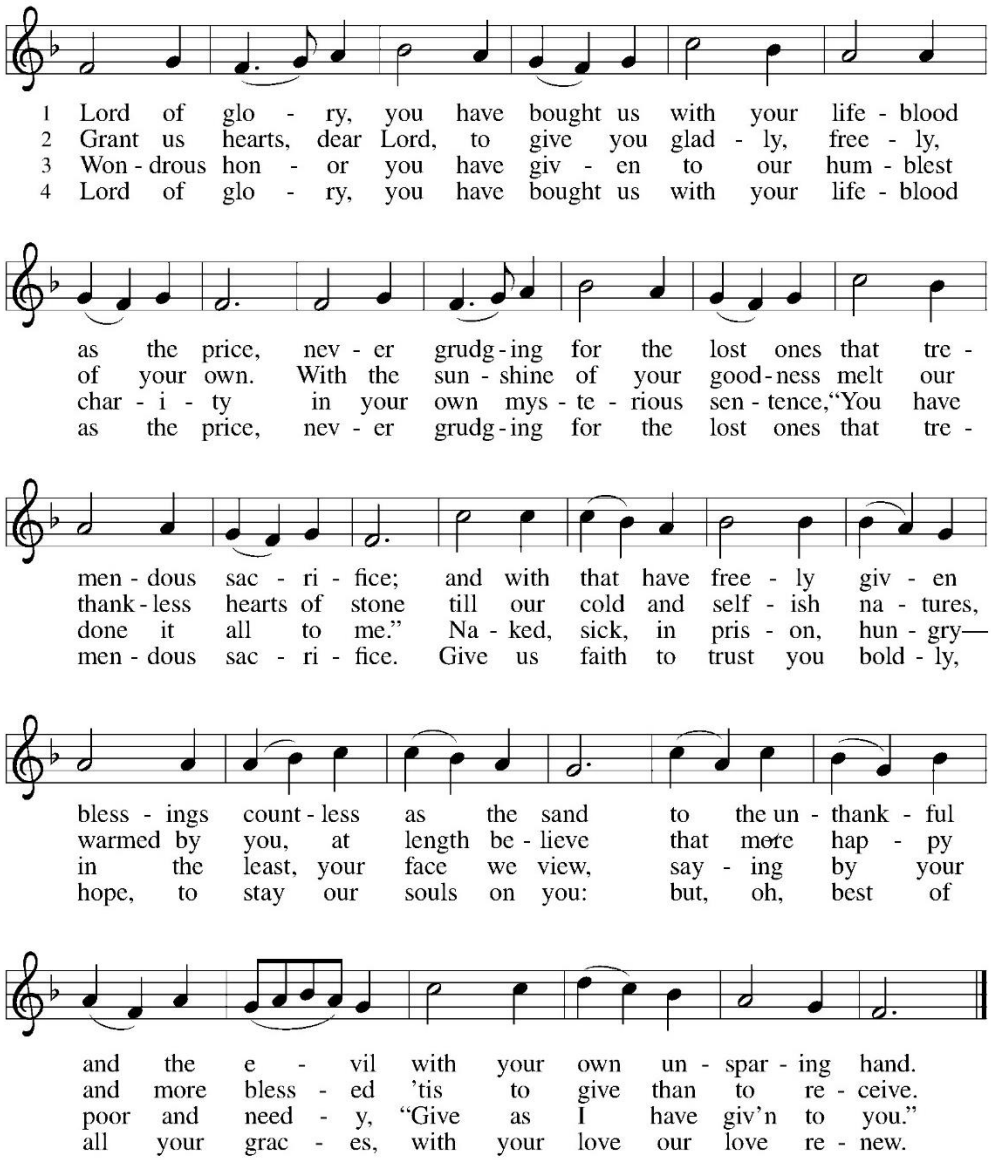
This is the story of grace that covers us. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON Reverend Christina K.



Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

ELW 707



Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–1889, alt.
Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

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, and 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 the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion, reflecting the wideness of God's mercy for the whole world.

Each petition of the prayers ends with these words:
God, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Response to the conclusion of the prayers of intercession: **Amen.**

PEACE

May Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, fill you with unconditional love, mend you with mercy, and grant you perfect peace. **And also with you.**

We are changed by Christ's peace
and now we have the holy opportunity to extend that peace to others.

☩ MEAL ☩

~ God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ. ~

OFFERING

We offer our gifts in response to God's grace.
Our time, talents, and resources support the ministry we share and help us care for our neighbors in Christ's name. Thank you for your faithful generosity.
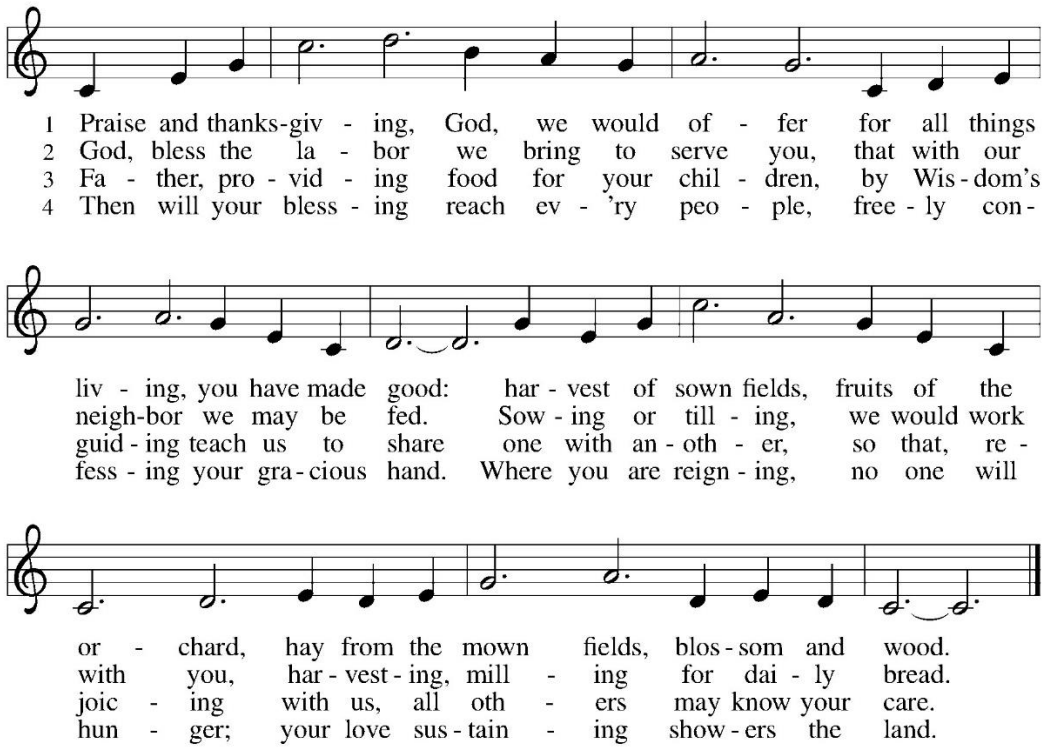
The gathering sings ELW 689 as the offering is gathered and the table is set.

Ways to Give:

- Give electronically through Vanco Services.
- Use the giving app by scanning the QR code.
- Recurring or one-time online options:
  https://app.autobooks.co/pay/bethesda-lutheran-church-of-malmo

Praise and Thanksgiving

ELW 689



Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.
Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune
Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

The gathering stands as the gifts are brought forward.

OFFERING PRAYER
Eternal God, **our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION
The presiding minister continues with the words of institution. The gathering responds: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: **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.**
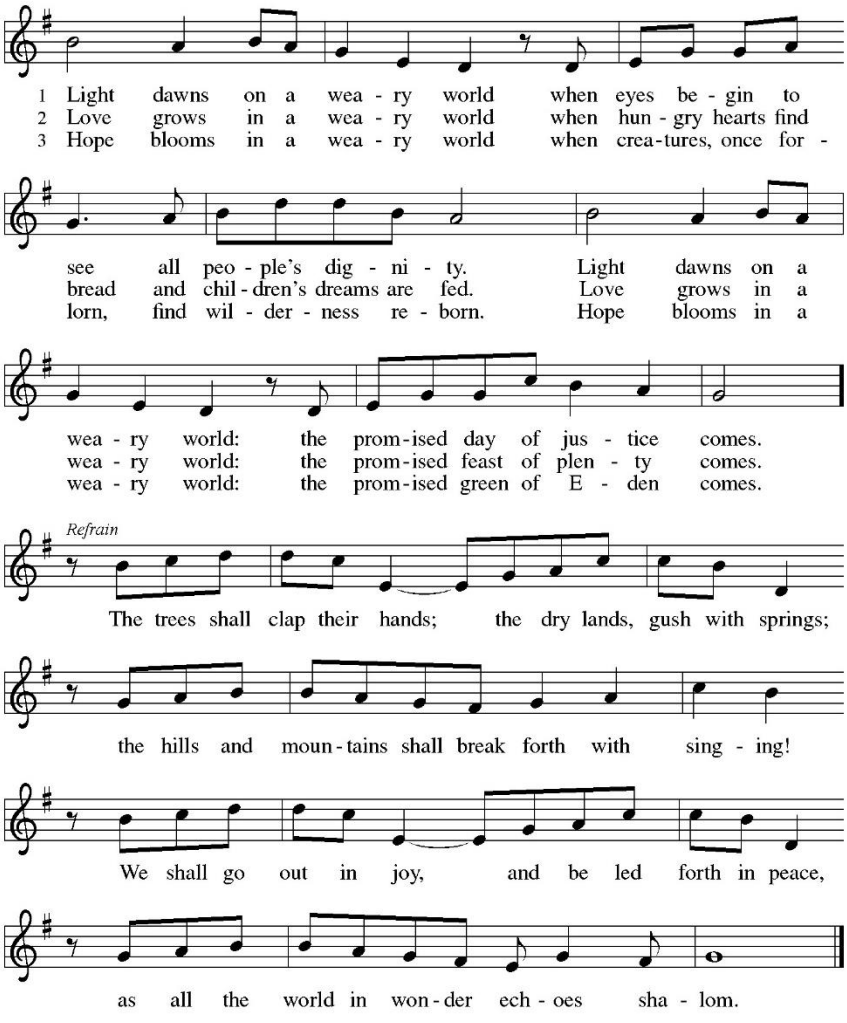
INVITATION TO COMMUNION
Holy Communion is a gift of grace, where we receive the presence of Jesus in bread and wine and are reminded that we are deeply loved. All who hunger for mercy and hope are welcome at this feast. Jesus is the host, and the invitation is wide. Even across time and space, God is present in these gifts, and we, the community, are present to one another.

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.



Light Dawns on a Weary World

ELW 726



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951
Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Music © 2000 William P. Rowan, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, **we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. Amen.**

✢ SENDING ✢

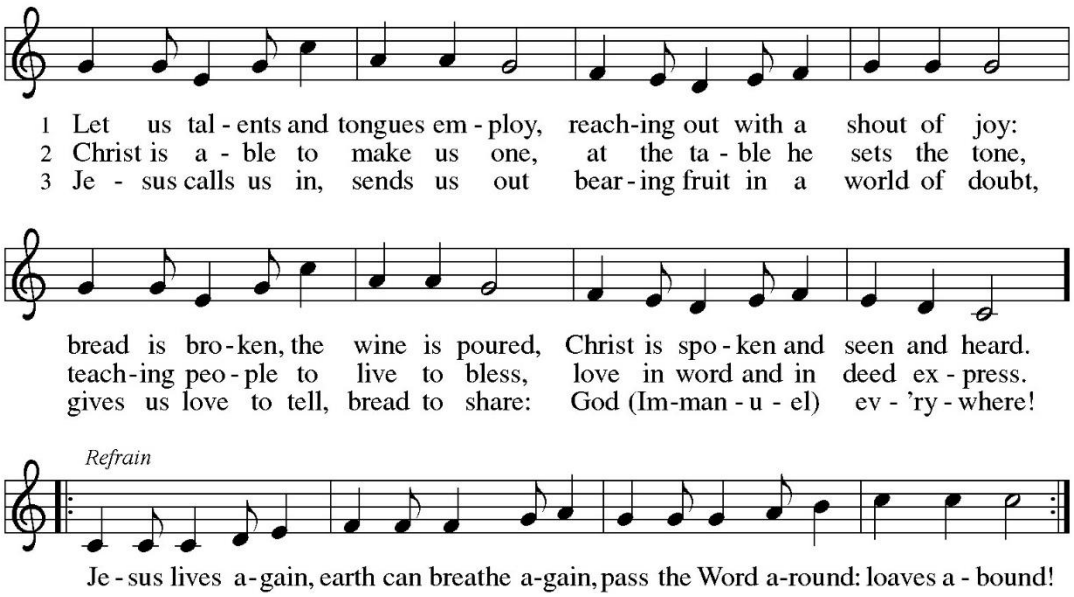
~ God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world. ~

BLESSING

The presiding minister leads the blessing. The gathering responds: **Amen.**

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

ELW 674



Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929
Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980
Text and music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Encourage one another. **Thanks be to God.**

We give thanks for worshiping together today.
Wherever you are on your journey of faith, know that you are warmly welcomed here.

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LIFE TOGETHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Life together announcements reflect the share
d life of Bethesda by highlighting upcoming events, service opportunities, and ways we continue to grow in faith together. We invite you to read through what's ahead and participate as you are able. Your presence matters.

PRAYER & CARE Ron and Jan A.; Theresa B.; Jim C.; Beth R.; Lynn V.; Sherrie W.; Caregivers.
As a community of faith, we are committed to holding one another in prayer & care.
We invite you to pray for those listed here and offer support as you are able. To request prayers for yourself or someone else (with their permission) please contact the church office.

WELCOME Friends in Christ, we're glad you're here. Your presence is a gift to this community. If you would like us to be in touch or want to learn more about Bethesda, you're welcome to share your name in the friendship/welcome notebook.

CHILDREN WELCOME Children are a gift we celebrate and are welcome at Holy Communion. We trust that worship belongs to people of all ages.

FELLOWSHIP TIME All are invited to gather in the fellowship hall following worship for coffee, treats, and conversation. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend time together as a community of faith.

WORSHIP AT BETHESDA Join us for worship every Sunday at 9:00 am. Holy Communion is celebrated most Sundays.

PASTORAL CARE Caring for one another is part of who we are. If you are hospitalized or going through a difficult time, please let Pastor Christina or our parish nurses know. We would be honored to support you.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY meets most Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Join us as we dive into the lectionary texts for the upcoming week. New participants are always welcome.
WOMEN'S DEVOTIONAL Join us the second Monday of each month at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall for a time of scripture, reflection, and fellowship (next gathering is December 14th). Together we study using *Gather*, the magazine of Women of the ELCA, Through God's Word and shared conversation, we grow in faith and are equipped for ministry and action in our congregation, community, and world. All women are welcome — come as you are.
ROMEOS meets Thursdays at 8 am; men gather in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, conversation, and prayer as we read and reflect together. We're currently reading Richard Rohr's *The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage*. All men are welcome. Contact Wally to learn more.
THANKSGIVING IN A BAG Thank you to everyone who participated in Thanksgiving in a Bag! Your generosity, together with Faith Lutheran Church in Isle, supports the Isle Food Shelf's efforts to help local individuals and families enjoy a Thanksgiving meal.
LADLES OF LOVE Join us at Bethesda on Wednesday, November 18, from 5–6:30 p.m. (or until gone!) for homemade soups and biscuits. Take-home containers will be available. A freewill offering will be taken in support of World Hunger Month. To help prepare food, contact the church office.
BETHESDA APPAREL
Show your Bethesda spirit with apparel featuring our new church logo! Sweatshirts, hoodies, zip-up jackets, T-shirts, and polo shirts are available for purchase through our online store. Orders must be placed TODAY and can be paid for online with a credit card. All orders will be delivered to the church for pickup after the sale closes. Ordering instructions are available on the tables in the Fellowship Hall and on Bethesda's Facebook page. You can also shop directly at:
https://bethesdalutheranchurch-malmo-apparel.itemorder.com/shop/home/
This is not a fundraiser, but simply an opportunity to celebrate our Bethesda community.
DRAFT CONSTITUTION The proposed church constitution will be presented for congregational approval at our Annual Meeting on December 13th. Congregation members are encouraged to review the document before the meeting. To receive a copy, please contact the church office to request an electronic version by email or a printed copy.
ELCA WORLD HUNGER poverty and hunger affect communities around the world, especially those facing natural disasters, conflict, and the effects of climate change. Through ELCA World Hunger, we join together to share God's love by providing food, clean water, livestock, agricultural education, and resources that help families build sustainable futures. You are invited to support this life-giving ministry through Bethesda by using the designated envelope from your offering envelope box or pick one up at the display in the narthex and place your gift in the offering plate. Thank you for sharing God's love and making a difference in the lives of our neighbors near and far. -Bethesda Mission and Evangelism Team.
FIRST AID, CPR, CHOKING & AED TRAINING Be prepared. Be confident. Be ready to make a difference! Join the South Aitkin Area First Responders for a FREE hands-on training session covering essential lifesaving skills, including First Aid, CPR, choking response, and AED use. Tuesday, December 1st | 1:00–3:00 PM Bethesda Lutheran Church | The Fellowship Hall. Emergencies can happen anywhere, at any time. Knowing how to respond can make all the difference. Come gain valuable knowledge, build confidence, and learn skills that could help save a life. Everyone is welcome!
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Sunday, December 13th, following worship.
CHRISTIAN LADIES AROUND THE LAKE Thursday, November 19 | 12:30 p.m. | Tulibee Tavern All women are warmly invited to enjoy lunch, fellowship, and an informative presentation by representatives of the Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Department. The program, "Avoiding Scammers and Staying Safe: Part Two," will offer practical tips for recognizing scams and protecting yourself. $20 per person For reservations contact Lois J.
RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD Sunday, November 8th, 2026 In-Person 46 | Online 24

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

Sunday, November 15th | 25th Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion
10:00 am Time of fellowship
Monday, November 16th
10:00 am Church Council
11:30 am Pinochle
7:00 pm AA/Alanon
Tuesday, November 17th
9:00 am Chair Yoga
3:00 pm Choir Practice
4:00 pm Bell Choir Practice
Wednesday, November 18th
9:00 am Women's Bible Study
10:00 am WELCA
5:00 pm Ladles of Love – Soup dinner
Thursday, November 19th
8:00 am ROMEOS (Men's Bible Study)
9:15 am Chair Yoga
Friday, November 20th
Lifeline Newsletter Articles due
Sunday, November 22nd | 26th Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion
10:00 am Time of fellowship

Bethesda Lutheran Church blcmalmo.org
Office: 320-684-2123 (1-877-684-2123) Fax: 320-684-2836
E-mail address: blcmalmo@gmail.com
A member congregation of the NE MN Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Ministers: All People of Bethesda Lutheran Church
Pastoral Ministries: Reverend Christina K.
blc.reverend@gmail.com 320-684-2123
Church Secretary: Mary B.
Custodian: Ari D.
Digital Music & Sound System Coordinator: Jim C.
Parish Nurses: Darlene C., RN, Kathy B. RN ANP
Prayer Chain Contacts: Char B. or Darlene C.
Choir Director: Sheila P.
Hand Bell Choir Director: Donna M.
November Altar Care: Winnie Z., Barb F.
Communion Assistants: Libby B., David B., Dianne J.
Ushers: Barb & Lee F. **Greeters:** Mary B & Jenny S.
Lector: Karen C. **Hospitality:** Pastor Christina

Serving on November 22nd | 26th Sunday after Pentecost
Communion Assistants: Barb F., Jeannine B., Kat C. **Ushers:** Barry & Donna A.
Greeters: Char B., Anne H. **Hospitality:** Dianne & Del J.
Lector: Karen E.