

GREETING

Gathered in Christ. **We serve with grace.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven. **AMEN.**

GATHERING SONG *“Take My Life That I May Be”*..... #685

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Draw your church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving in Christ’s mission to the world, and together witnessing to your love wherever you will send us; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 35:4-7a

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”  
<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7a</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water. Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 146

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul!  
<sup>2</sup>**I will praise the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**  
<sup>3</sup>Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

**<sup>4</sup>When they breathe their last, they return to earth,  
and in that day their thoughts perish.**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

**<sup>6</sup>who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;  
who keeps promises forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.  
The Lord sets the captive free.

**<sup>8</sup>The Lord opens the eyes of the blind;  
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The Lord cares for the stranger;  
the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

**<sup>10</sup>The Lord shall reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: JAMES 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? <sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [<sup>11</sup>For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup>So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.] <sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO mark 7:24-27

**Glory to you, O Lord.** <sup>24</sup>[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,<sup>25</sup>but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” <sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” <sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. <sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” <sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”  
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON “*What is God’s Work?*” .....Deacon Ro

HYMN OF THE DAY “*Will You Come and Follow Me*” ..... #798

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**We believe in one God, Creator of all that is known and unknown, Holy mystery beyond our comprehension, Savior of the world, The Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, above and beyond time yet entering into Creation to be known to us even now. We believe in the Word of God offering the promise of God’s presence given to the Israelites in the law spoken through the prophets to the people, taking on flesh to dwell with us bringing salvation to all. We believe in the reign of God that Jesus proclaimed on earth two thousand years ago, the rejection of evil’s power, the embrace of the poor, the imprisoned, and the brokenhearted, the forgiveness of sins, the reconciliation of all things at the last day. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who moved over the waters of creation, who breathes new life in us today, who calls us to be the church, who inspires us to pray. We profess the mystery of faith: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. In the church,**

**we are knit together as the body of Christ, by the gift of faith by the waters of baptism and in the sharing of communion. In Christ, we are a new creation, renewed by the Spirit and sealed in the promise of eternal life. AMEN**

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered into God's embrace, let us lift our voices on behalf of a weary and wounded world. *brief silence and reflection* God of love, send us out filled with your love and life. Be known in our daily living, that your love may be known through our proclamation. God we pray. **open our hands in love.**

God of creation, remind us to be good stewards of your diverse and beautiful world. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

God of peace, fill the hearts of those who rule, govern and lead. Give them and us compassion to guide the peoples of this world in the ways of truth, justice, equity and peace. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

God of healing, visit those who yearn for your wholeness, especially those whose names and needs we lift up now.... Encourage all those who bear another's burdens. Give wisdom and perseverance to all who work in health care professions. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

God of service, give us strength and humility. In our service to those near and far, whose needs are visible or invisible, may we find you in the faces of our neighbors. God, we pray. **open our hands in love.**

For what else do we pray? (*other petitions may be lifted up out loud or silently*)  
Everlasting God, support us in this life. As we remember those who have gone before as examples of faithful living and honor those whose faith was known only to you, inspire us to follow their example of baptismal life until we join with them in worship. God, we pray. **open our hands in love.**

Into your wounded hands of love, O God, we place all our prayers, trusting in your mercy through the crucified and risen one Jesus. **AMEN**

#### PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

#### OFFERING

##### OFFERTORY SONG "*Give Thanks*"

**Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the holy one. Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say I am strong. Let the poor say I am rich; because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks. Give thanks.**

## OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God, giver of all good things, receive the gifts we bring, fruit of the earth and the work of human hands, that they may be used to your purposes for the life and love in the world. **Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

Honor, praise, glory and thanksgiving to you, God, our loving Creator. In the beginning you reached your hands into the earth and formed humanity in your own image. You breathed into us your own breath of love and gave us hearts and hands and voices to live your loving purpose in the world. Seeing the lonely creature of earth, you created a partner that we would know the joy of community. Throughout the history of your people, you never abandoned us, but brought us into community with one another and with you, and guided us through your prophets. With endless patience and love, you called to us time and again to return to life with you. In the fulfillment of all things, you came to us in Jesus, born into a human family, raised in a hometown, who gathered around himself a community formed by your love, and yearned to gather all people under the loving wings of a mother hen. Sitting at dinner with friends and knowing one among them would break the bonds of love, 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. In the same way 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 sins. Do this for the remembrance of me. Trusting in his promise to be among us whenever we gather in his name, we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Gathered as your people, meeting in Jesus' name, and preparing ourselves to feast upon Jesus' very body and blood, we plead with all creation: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send your Spirit upon this meal, the body and blood of Jesus, that we overflow with your selfless love. Turn us to face our neighbors, that by us and through us your love may be known in the world. Again, we beg: **Come Holy Spirit.**

All honor and praise and glory to you, God of creative, dirty hands, God of holy, wounded hands, God who strengthens and guides our hands, now and forever. **AMEN**

## LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes you to this table. There is a place for everyone with an abundance to be shared with each of you. Come, here is your God.

COMMUNION HYMN “*Lamb of God*” ..... Setting 4, pg 154

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy Jesus, in this meal you have fed and nourished us to work in your beloved world. Send us now, filled with yourself and strengthened by your Spirit to live your love for others. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

CELEBRATION OF VOCATION AND BLESSING OF HANDS FOR MINISTRY

We are called to proclaim the good news: **God is at work!**

This good news is not left in some history long ago or a place far away: **God is at work in the world still today!**

In us and through us, God is glorified in our work. When we offer a helping hand, God is praised. When we share of our abundance, God is known in the world. **God is at work in us!**

In our service today and in our daily lives, let us live out what God has called us to in baptism. **God is at work through our hands!**

God bless your hands and your work (+) that through you God’s love may be shown. To you, O God be glory and honor through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in your church and in the world, now and forever! **AMEN.**

SENDING SONG “*God’s Work Our Hands*” ..... melody to #731

RINGING OF THE BELLS

SONG OF PEACE

**My peace I give unto you. It's a peace that the world cannot give. It's a peace that the world cannot understand; peace to know; peace to live. My peace I give unto you.**

**GO IN PEACE! FOLLOW JESUS Thanks be to God.**

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## **THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM**

Today: 9:00 a.m. Worship  
6:30 p.m. Council Meeting  
Thursday: 9:00 a.m. Quilting  
Friday: 9:00 a.m. Quilting  
Next Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Worship  
Deacon Ro leaves for Theological Conference

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### *“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.”: SHARING GOD’S GRACE AND LOVE*

*As Lutherans, we know the difference that God’s grace and love in Christ have made in our daily lives. Because of this, we work together to help others experience that same love and acceptance. We live out this vision through worship and service in our congregations and communities, through our individual vocations and through our collective work as church together. “God’s work. Our hands.” offers a special opportunity to be church together and to share Jesus’ love by inviting others to join in a day of service. This call for service unites all the ELCA expressions to focus on serving and accompanying our neighbors. Today we celebrate with ELCA congregations all across the nation using our hands in endless service opportunities deepening our love in our community and enabling each congregation to play a critical part in addressing community needs. This is the eleventh year the ELCA has participated together in a designated day of service on the second Sunday in September.*

*During “Come and Celebrate” today as a congregation, the body of Christ, use our hands doing God’s Work make “Bowls of Love” with the cookies, candies, fruit, and snacks people have made and donated to share with those who receive the bowls. Each of you are asked to carry a bowl of love to someone in your life or in the community whom you know needs God’s love, a touch of God’s Work! Thank you to everyone who made this day possible!*

## Take My Life, That I May Be



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.  
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.

Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

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# Will You Come and Follow Me

## *The Summons*



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call  
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call  
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call  
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call  
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't  
 your name? Will you care for cruel and  
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners  
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -  
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?  
 kind and nev - er be the same?  
 free and nev - er be the same?  
 side and nev - er be the same?  
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as  
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the  
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be  
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer  
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I  
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and  
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"  
 pray'r in you and you in me?"  
 mean in you and you in me?"  
 sound in you and you in me?"  
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949  
 Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional  
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## God's Work, Our Hands



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.

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Terresa will be in the office at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Thursday this week from 9am – 12pm

Phone number: 842-2246; Email [lutheranchurchbrush@yahoo.com](mailto:lutheranchurchbrush@yahoo.com)

Ro's Office Hours: Saturday: 1:00-3:00pm

Sunday: 12:30pm-2:00pm

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