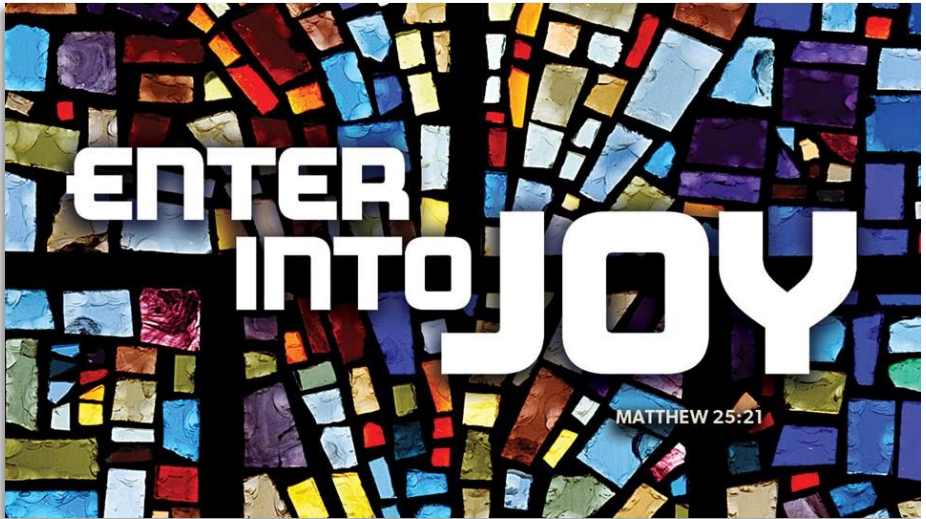




25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NOVEMBER 19, 2023
9:30 AM



Bethel Lutheran Church
1009 18th Avenue SW
Great Falls, MT 59404
406-761-1543

Email: bethelgf.church@gmail.com
Website: www.bethelmt.org

Pastor Jessie Obrecht

A congregation of the Montana Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Large print bulletins are available, please see the ushers for a copy.

As we gather for worship and prepare our hearts, we would ask that you please silence your cell phones for the duration of the service.

INTRODUCTION

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 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

LH 501 Sanctuary [2x]

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,
we confess that we are not awake for you.
We are not faithful in using your gifts.
We forget the least of our siblings.
We do not see your beautiful image in one another.
We are infected by sin
that divides your beloved community.
Open our hearts to your coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.
Through † Jesus you are forgiven,
by Jesus you are welcome,
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE

WOV 28 Bread of Life, Setting 5

*Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.***

*Christe eleison: **Christ, have mercy.***

*Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.***

HYMN OF PRAISE

WOV 29-30 Bread of Life, Setting 5

***Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, Glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.***

***Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.***

***Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, Glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.***

***Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right had of the Father:
receive our prayer.***

***Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, Glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.***

***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.***

***Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, Glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.***

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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.**

JUBILATE CHOIR

God's Gonna Set This World On Fire

FIRST 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.

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.
At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
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.
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.
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,
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.
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.
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 90:1-8, 12

Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and
the earth were born, from age to age you are God.**

You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."

**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it
is past and like a watch in the night;**

you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

**in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.

**Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SECOND 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.*

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 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! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 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. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 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 ACCLAMATION

WOV 31 Bread of Life, Setting 5

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The holy gospel according to Matthew the twenty-fifth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who

had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 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.' 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.' 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.' 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.' 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 seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 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? 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. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 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. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ”

The gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND SERMON

Pastor Jessie Obrecht

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 686

We Give Thee But Thine Own

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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 THE CHURCH

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

WOV 35 Bread of Life, Setting 5

***Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.***

***Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.***

***Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.***

***Grace our table with your presence, Lord,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.***

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of all goodness,
**generations have turned to you,
gathered around your table,
and shared your abundant blessings.
Number us among them
that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,
and give thanks for your rich blessings,
we may feast upon your very self
and care for all that you have made,
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,...and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

WOV 36 Bread of Life, Setting 5

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first
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

The Lord's Table is open to believers of all Christian traditions. We believe that Christ comes to us in the bread and cup for the forgiveness of sins and new life. Gluten free wafers are available, please let your server know. Choice of red wine and white grape juice offered.

LAMB OF GOD

WOV 39, Bread of Life Setting 5

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.***

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

W&P 18 Bind Us Together, Lord

W&P 23 Broken for Me

ELW 466 In The Singing

ELW 777 Come to Me All Pilgrim's Thirsty

COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Lord Jesus,
**in this simple meal you have set a banquet.
Sustain us on the journey,
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
and give us glad and generous hearts
as we meet you on the way. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God,
Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

ELW 815 I Want to Walk As A Child of Light

DISMISSAL

Beloved of God,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God

And all God's children said: **Amen.**

SERVING TODAY

Accompanist	Lynn Ryan, piano;
Lay Assistant	Josie Delorit
Usher	Mary Gernaat
Tech	Gabe Smith
Children's Church	Addi Carlson and TBD
Hospitality	Mike and Joyce Harding
Counters	Stephanie Cummings and Laurie Turner

Flowers are given by The Pepos Family in memory of Cheri Schmidt's 85th birthday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We celebrate **the 25th Sunday after Pentecost.**

We are excited to have the **Jubilate Choir led by Jeff Skogley** singing in worship today.

Worship Planning Committee meets after worship today in the Sunshine room.

Join us in the Fellowship Hall following worship as we continue our **Adult Education** on the first season of *The Chosen*.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday 11/21

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am

Wednesday 11/22

- Bible Study on Zoom led by Pastor Jessie Obrecht
- No LOGOs Youth Ministry

Thursday 11/23

- Thanksgiving Day, Bethel Office is closed

Friday 11/24

- Bethel office is closed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 11/26

- Worship led by Pastor Jessie Obrecht in-person and live stream 9:30 am
- Adult Education, The Chosen to follow worship
- Stay and help decorate the church for Christmas following worship.

Tuesday 11/28

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am

Wednesday 11/29

- Bible Study on Zoom led by Udo Wozny
- LOGOs Youth Ministry 5:30 pm; High School LOGOs 6:30 pm

Thursday 11/30

- Electric City Chorale rehearsal in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm

Friday 12/1

- Bethel office is closed.
- Aitz Chaim Friday worship 6:00 pm

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Communion Song: Come to Me All Pilgrim's Thirsty, In The Singing, Bind Us Together,
Lord, and Broken for Me used with permission under One License #A704354

Worship Songs: Sanctuary, We Give Thee But Thine Own, and I Want to Walk as a
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