

Bethel Lutheran Church

Swords into Plowshares

Christ the King Sunday
November 22nd, 2026
9:00 am

+ indicates to stand in body or spirit;
***bold print** indicates congregational responses*

✠ Gathering ✠

Prelude *"Jesus Shall Reign"* arr. Zach Unke

Words of Welcome

+ Confession & Forgiveness

Friends in Christ, we come to this house of worship that God may teach us God's ways and guide us on the right paths. God knows our needs before we ask and in our asking prepares us to receive the gift of grace.

We open our lives to God's healing presence,
seeking peace with God and reconciliation with our neighbors.

We are mindful not only of personal evil
but also of our communal sins of family, class, race, and nation.

We confess to God whatever has wounded us or brought injury to others,
that we may receive mercy and become for each other ministers of God's grace.

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to judge?
Only Christ, and Christ died for us, and rose for us.
Christ reigns in power for us, and Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN *"O God of Every Nation"* ELW #713



+ APOSTOLIC 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.**

+ Prayer of the Day

King of our hearts, give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made. Whether our weapons are sticks, stones, guns, bombs, or words - repurpose them as tools of life. Let us shine with the light of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

+ Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

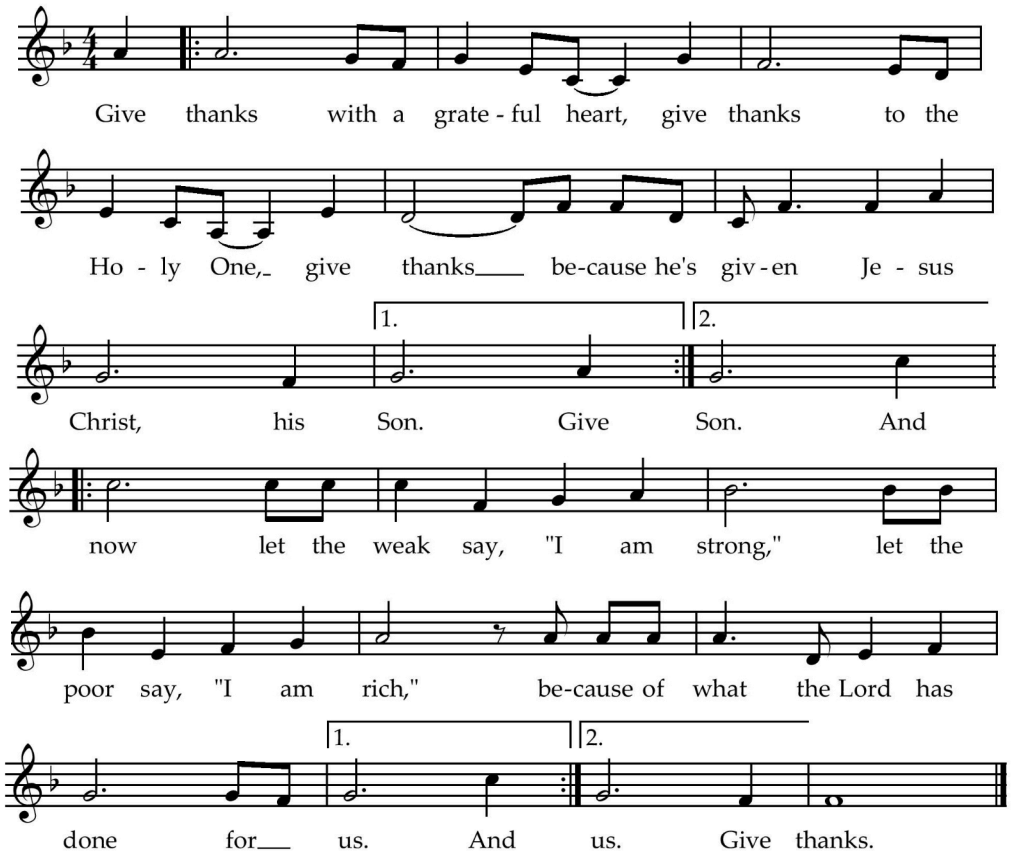
Guests

Generosity is part of who we are as God's people. Guests can use their QR code to give via Breeze, Bethel's trusted online giving platform. Select "Member Faith Giving" to give to the general budget. Members can use their QR code to sign into Breeze to give a one-time gift or to schedule an automated donation. Online giving cards (at the name tag stations), checks, or cash may be placed in the offering plates as they are passed.

Members

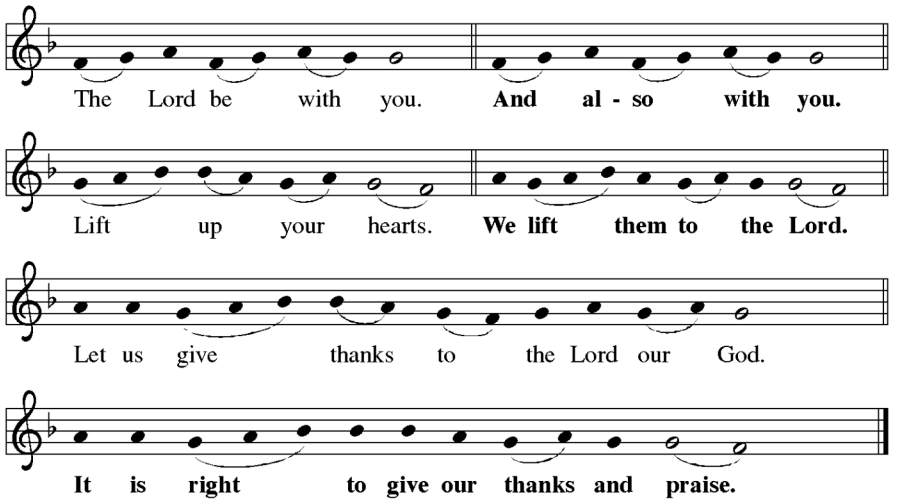
ANTHEM *"God, We Gather As Your People"* arr. Thomas Keesecker

+ OFFERTORY *"Give Thanks"* TFF #292

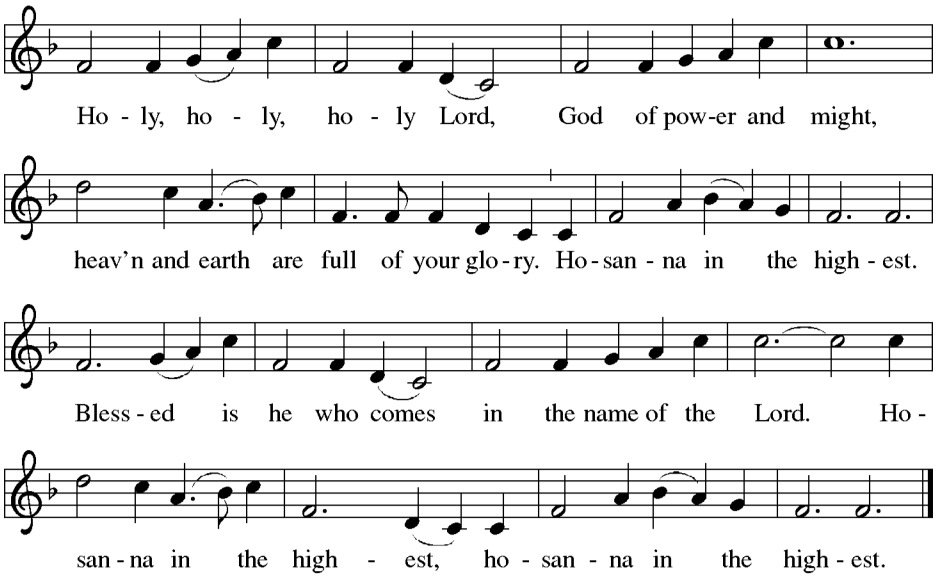


✠ Meal ✠

+ Great Thanksgiving



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



+ Eucharistic Prayer

We praise you, restoring God, for the wideness of your mercy and the work of your prophets across the ages. You work miracles through the mundane. You ask us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. You give us a vision of your reign of peace, where weapons are repurposed for welfare. In Christ, you work to restore people to community and gather to yourself the leper, the foreigner, the least and the greatest.

The Words of Institution / Las Palabras de la Institución

Send your Holy Spirit to fill the hearts of all who share in this bread and cup. Work through the ordinary moments of our days and make us instruments of your peace. **Amen.**

+ The 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.

+ El Padre nuestro

Padre nuestro que estás en los cielos
santificado sea tu nombre;
venga a nos tu reino;
hágase tu voluntad,
así en la tierra como en el cielo;
el pan nuestro de cada día, dánoslo hoy;
y perdónanos nuestras deudas
así como nosotros perdonamos
a nuestros deudores;
y no nos dejes caer en la tentación;
mas líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino,
el poder y la gloria,
por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.

Lamb of God





Holy Communion *"The Kingdom of God"* Gather #810



+ Table Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

+ Prayer after Communion

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

✠ Word ✠

Scripture Acclamation *"O God of Light, May Our Light Shine"* stanzas 1 and 4

Verse 1 is sung before the reading. After the reading, we will sing verse 4.



+ Holy Gospel *Matthew 5:14-16*

The gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said;] 14 "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.
15 People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it
on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your
light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory
to your Father in heaven."

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Reading *Isaiah 36:1-2a, 13-18; 37:1-7; 2:1-4*

A reading from Isaiah.

1 In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, King Sennacherib of Assyria came up
against all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. 2 The king of Assyria sent
the Rabshakeh with a great army from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem.
...
13 Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out in a loud voice in the language of Judah,
"Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria! 14 Thus says the king: Do not
let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you. 15 Do not let Hezekiah
make you rely on the Lord by saying, 'The Lord will surely deliver us; this city will not
be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.' 16 Do not listen to Hezekiah, for thus
says the king of Assyria: Make your peace with me and come out to me; then every
one of you will eat from your own vine and your own fig tree and drink water from
your own cistern, 17 until I come and take you away to a land like your own land,
a land of grain and wine, a land of bread and vineyards. 18 Do not let Hezekiah
mislead you by saying, 'The Lord will deliver us.' Has any of the gods of the nations
delivered their land out of the hand of the king of Assyria?"
...
1 When King Hezekiah heard it, he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth
and went into the house of the Lord. 2 And he sent Eliakim, who was in charge of
the palace, and Shebna the secretary, and the senior priests, covered with sackcloth,
to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz. 3 They said to him, "Thus says Hezekiah:
This day is a day of distress, of rebuke, and of disgrace; children have come to
the birth, and there is no strength to bring them forth. 4 It may be that the Lord
your God heard the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria
has sent to mock the living God, and will rebuke the words that the Lord your God
has heard; therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left."

5 [[When the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah, 6 Isaiah said to them,
"Say to your master: Thus says the Lord: Do not be afraid because of the words
that you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have reviled me.
7 I myself will put a spirit in him, so that he shall hear a rumor and return to his
own land; I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land."]]
...
1 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
2 In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

[3] Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
[4] He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

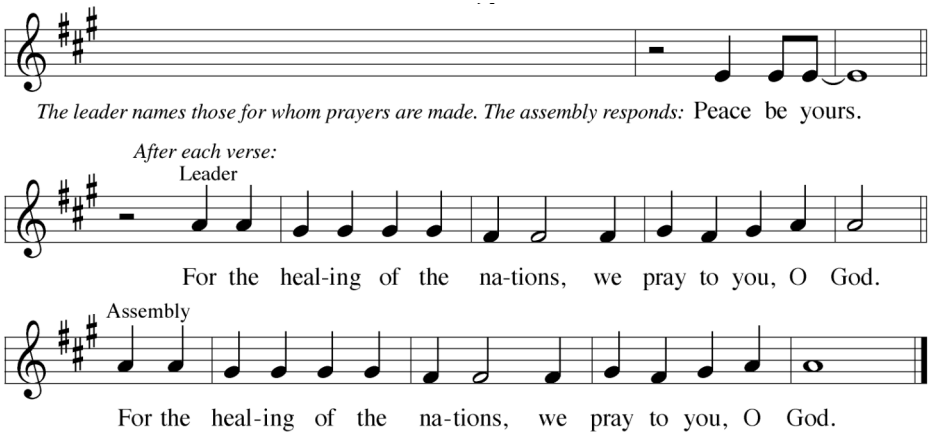
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

HOMILY

+ HYMN OF THE DAY *"For the Healing of the Nations"*

As we consider the world, Isaiah's vision seems so distant. Today, we take extra time to pray for the healing of the nations. We pray for instruction, for just and merciful arbitration of all the conflicts across the globe. We pray that we learn how to turn weapons into tools for welfare. We pray for peace.

To aid our reflection, our children and youth created a world map. Older parishinoners pitched in with hemming and painting as well! In 2026, there are 195 widely recognized nations in the world. Our litany will name many of them as we consider different regions of the globe. We trust that God cares deeply for each of them, named or not. As soloists lift up particular nations, students and those seated near aisles may place tealights in corresponding locations on the map on behalf of the assembly.





Prayers of the People

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

+ Sharing of the Peace

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

✠ Sending ✠

+ Benediction

God our sanctuary, grant us and our neighbors near and far
courage in our hearts, peace in our homes, and ✢ justice in our streets. **Amen.**

+ Sending Hymn *"O Christ, What Can It Mean for Us"* ELW #431



+ Dismissal

Some trust in governments and some in borders,
but we trust in God, who invites all people to live in peace.

Pulpit: For the earth belongs to God, and all creation is in God's care:
Organ: land and waters, plants and animals,
sky and soil declare the hospitality of God.
Pulpit: The world belongs to God, and all who live in it.
Organ: We belong to one another as siblings, all of us children of God.
Pulpit: Send your Holy Spirit to strengthen our resolve
to strive for communities
where foreigners become neighbors
and strangers become friends.

Organ: Revive our desire for the reign of Christ,
who releases prisoners and liberates the oppressed,
who frees the world from greed
and proclaims God's peace.

May justice roll down like a river
and righteousness flow like an everlasting stream. Amen.

POSTLUDE *"At the Name of Jesus: Fantasy on 'King's Weston'"* arr. Marilyn Biery

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Inger Hanson & Pastor Ben Schori
Assisting Minister: Janice Lehmkuhl
Guest Choir Director: Michelle Bendett

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our Confession & Forgiveness is modified with Isaiah 2::1-4 from *Book of Common Worship*
one based on Luke 11:9-10, Romans 8:34; 2 Corinthians 5:17.
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The Prayer of the Day and the Eucharistic Prayer are by Pastor Inger Hanson.

The Bethel Community, led by our children and youth, created the World Map.
Pastor Inger and Sam Dwyer traced the continent outlines.
Youth in HangTime and 7-8-9 Warm Up painted the continents and oceans.
Lois Cary and Linda Zolnosky (Projects with Purpose leads) hemmed our dropcloth canvas.
Tim Mahr guided adults and lent his own skill in adding more detail - mountain ranges! ocean currents!
Children in SPARK, assisted by Pastor Inger, Megan Shoup, Connie Nelson, Pastor Ben
and their youth leaders, painted the space beyond our planet with their feet and thumbs!
Allan Mathison & Asher Engle took on the corners, with the dove of peace in the top left,
the Tree of Life on the lower left, a rainbow on the top right,
and a cow for Northfield in the lower right.

Our Dismissal is modified from a prayer by Isaac Villegas (USA)
based on Psalms 20:7; 24:1; Luke 4:18-19; Amos 5:24.
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SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

November 15	in person attendance
8:30 am	**152**
10:30 am	**79**
Total	**231**

NEXT SUNDAY…

The text of the day will be **Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3[3b-6], 17-19** with **Matthew 26:36-38.**
Pastor Inger will preach.

Join us for the Advent Festival after Worship

Check out all the amazing activities!

Activity Description	Room	Hosted by
Alternative Giving Fair	Narthex Entry way	Mission and Justice Team
Reflection Time	Chapel	Befrienders
Coffee, Cocoa, & Carols	Christian Life Center	Congregational Life Team
Lefse Making & Sharing	Christian Life Center	Norwegian Friends
Writing Christmas cards	Christian Life Center	Befrienders
Pop up Advent Calendars	Christian Life Center	Library Team
Children of God Wreath	Table outside CLC	Reconciling in Christ (RIC)
Cookie Decorating	Youth Room	Faith and Books (FAB)
Make Your Own Snack Mix	Youth Room	Kitchen Team
Pop up Advent Calendars & Devotionals	Library	Library Team
Hearts & Pines Decoration	61A	Children & Youth Advisory Board
Ornament crafting	61B	Bethel Quilters
Belonging Christmas Tree Craft	54	Reconciling in Christ (RIC)
Eco-Friendly Bird Feeders Craft	52	Creation Care Team
Mercado & Loteria (Mexican Bingo) Chocolate and Jewelry (for sale)	Center Pod	Immigration Team
Photo booth	Nursery	Nursery Team

Preparing the Way: Advent Sanctuary Set Up @ 11:30 am

The fun's not over after the Advent Festival! Return to the sanctuary at 11:30 am to help set the sanctuary for our new Advent seating pattern. Many hands make light work! Pastor Inger, Megan, and Marv will direct moving chairs and platforms. Let's see what we can do in an hour.

The Making of the Map!













BETHEL STAFF

Inger Hanson, *Senior Pastor* she/her
Ben Schori, *Associate Pastor* he/him
Phil Ruud, *Visitation Pastor* he/him

Megan (Mee-gan) Engel, *Director of Music & Worship* she/her
Pete Schleif, *Church Choir Director* he/him
Jill Mahr, *Youth Handbell Director* she/her
Cindy Carlson, *Resonance Bell Director* she/her
Ian Schleif, *Director of Children's Choirs* he/him

Megan Shoup, *Director of CYF Ministires* she/her
Juley Jenkinson, *Nursery Coordinator* she/her

Kate Dreier, *Office Manager* she/her
Caroline Smith, *Financial Assistant* she/her

Marv Farmer, *Custodian* he/him
Blair Fowler, *Building Manager* he/him

Sam Dwyer, *Audio/Visual Manager* he/him

Audio/Visual Technicians
Asher Engle he/him
Nathan Hoekstra he/him
Nathan Broughton he/him

This Week: November 23—November 28

Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 am - 3 pm

Monday

12:00 pm	Bible Text Study @ The Vault
4:00 pm	Worship & Arts Action Team
6:30 pm	Resonance Bell Choir

Tuesday

9:00 am	Quilting Group
9:45 am	Bethel Staff

Wednesday

	THANKSGIVING BREAK (no Wednesday programming)
6:30 pm	Thanksgiving Eve Joint Worship @ St. Peter's

Thursday

	Church Office & Library Closed for Thanksgiving

Friday

9:15 am	WoW (Women of the Word) via zoom

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Bethel
LUTHERAN CHURCH