Lord, Keep Us Watchful for Our Triumph!
The Third Sunday of End Time: Saints Triumphant

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH—NOVEMBER 15
To proclaim the gospel to all in order that disciples of Christ may be made and kept.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! We are pleased that you have chosen to worship the Lord with us today. If you are a guest visiting with us, know that we are thankful you have joined us. Please take a moment to sign the guest register in the entryway.

Large print worship folders are available upon request from an usher. 
Hearing assist devices are available upon request from an usher in Menomonee Falls.
Restrooms at the Falls: In the lower level of the church and also down the school hallway.
Restrooms at Germantown: In the north and south halls of the building.

If you need a place to quiet a restless child, you may use the lower level at Menomonee Falls or the Alpha Room at Germantown.

NOTES FOR WORSHIP The order of service for today is printed in this folder. The cantor will sing the hymns. The pastor will speak the parts marked “M” and the congregation will speak the bold parts marked “C”.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Preaching Pastor Paul Koester
Presiding Minister (G) Vicar Daniel Schmidt
Service Accompanist Liz Sand
Musicians Martha Johnson (5:00), Amy Noon and Sandy Dunnington

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GATHERING

OPENING HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

This hymn is in the public domain.

ALL:

Cantors:

The watchers on the mountain Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go forth, as he approaches, With alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; The gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; The Bridegroom is at hand.

ALL:

You saints, who here in patience Your cross and suff’rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory The Lamb you shall behold;
In triumph lay before him Your shining crowns of gold.
INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

M: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Sing with all the saints in glory; Sing the resurrection song!

C: Death and sorrow, earth’s dark story, To the former days belong.

M: All around the clouds are breaking. Soon the storms of time shall cease.

C: In God’s likeness we awaken, Knowing everlasting peace.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: We are made saints by the blood of Jesus. We acknowledge, however, that we remain sinners in thought, word, and deed. Let us then confess our sins with the saints around us and before our forgiving God.

C: Holy God, you have called us to obey you in all things and to live according to your commands. We have failed to be obedient, even though you have set us apart to be holy. We have been sinful in our thoughts, words, and actions. We confess our faults and seek your cleansing forgiveness.

M: Saints of God, know that even as you confess your sins, you are forgiven by our God, the Holy One who has called you to be holy. As a called servant of the Word, and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.
SONG OF PRAISE

Cantors: Around the throne, a glorious band,  
The saints in countless numbers stand,  
Of ev'ry tongue, redeemed to God,  
Arrayed in garments washed in blood.

ALL: “Worthy the Lamb, for sinners slain,  
Through endless years to live and reign;  
You have redeemed us by your blood  
And made us kings and priests to God.”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON Ezekiel 37:15-28

As Ezekiel held his bound sticks before the eyes of his countrymen, so the Church holds God’s promises of pending triumph before us and continually cries, “Wait for it! Watch for it!”

15 The word of the LORD came to me: 16 “Son of man, take a stick of wood and write on it, ‘Belonging to Judah and the Israelites associated with him.’ Then take another stick of wood, and write on it, ‘Belonging to Joseph (that is, to Ephraim) and all the Israelites associated with him.’ 17 Join them together into one stick so that they will become one in your hand.

18 “When your people ask you, ‘Won’t you tell us what you mean by this?’ 19 say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am going to take the stick of Joseph—which is in Ephraim’s hand—and of the Israelite tribes associated with him, and join it to Judah’s stick. I will make them into a single stick of wood, and they will become one in my hand.’ 20 Hold before their eyes the
sticks you have written on Ἰ and say to them, Ἡ This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. Ἰ I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms. Ἰ They will no longer defile themselves with their idols and vile images or with any of their offenses, for I will save them from all their sinful backsliding, ἢ and I will cleanse them. They will be my people, and I will be their God.

My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd. They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees. Ἰ They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, the land where your ancestors lived. They and their children and their children’s children will live there forever, and David my servant will be their prince forever. Ἰ I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever. Ἰ My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people. Ἰ Then the nations will know that I the LORD make Israel holy, when my sanctuary is among them forever.’”

PSALM OF THE DAY

In Your Presence (Psalm 84) | Martin Leckebusch
Words © Kevin Mayhew, Ltd. Used by permission.
Music by William Kirkpatrick

The congregation is invited to join in singing stanza 3

Lord, I dearly love your presence more than words can ever tell;
How I yearn to see the beauty of the courts in which you dwell.
Even sparrows there find refuge; there the swallow rears her young;
What a joy to have a home there, where unending praise is rung.

Happy are the pilgrim people pressing on to greater things,
Finding water in the wasteland, making it a place of springs;
On they go with mounting vigor till they stand before your throne;
God of Jacob, guard your servants; make your lasting kindness known.

In the hearts of all the faithful, grace and glory are revealed—
Lavish gifts you give so freely, mighty Lord, our Sun and Shield.
Better humble, godly service than a home where sin holds sway;
Better one day in your presence than a thousand far away.
SECOND LESSON 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

To the new Christians in Thessalonica, Paul explains the certain hope we have to be saints triumphant. Paul’s main point: encouragement. Encourage each other with the hope of saints triumphant so that there is neither ignorance nor hopeless grief.

13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus’ central instruction in this parable calls for the waiting Church to be the watchful Church. Keep watch for you do not know the day or the hour!

25 “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4 The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

6 “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

7 “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

9 “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

10 “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

11 “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’
12 “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

13 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying | 206

This hymn text is in the public domain.

ALL: “Wake, awake, for night is flying.” The watchmen on the heights are crying, “Awake, Jerusalem, arise!” Midnight hears the welcome voices And at the thrilling cry rejoices: “Oh, where are all you virgins wise? The Bridegroom comes—awake! Your lamps with gladness take! Alleluia! With bridal care Yourselves prepare To meet the Bridegroom who is near.”

Cantors: Zion hears the watchmen singing, And all her heart with joy is springing; She wakes, she rises from her gloom, For her Lord comes down all-glorious, The strong in grace, in truth victorious; Her Star is ris’n, her Light is come. “Now come, O Blessed One, Christ Jesus, God’s own Son. Hail! Hosanna! The joyful call We answer all And follow to the wedding hall.”

ALL: Now let all the heav’ns adore you; Let saints and angels sing before you With harp and cymbal’s clearest tone. Of one pearl each shining portal, Where, dwelling with the choir immortal, We gather round your radiant throne. No vision ever brought, No ear has ever caught Such great glory; Therefore will we In victory Sing hymns of praise eternally.

SERMON

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Ignorance Is NOT Bliss
CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
   maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
   From there 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.

MUSICAL OFFERING

For All the Saints | 551:1,5,8

This hymn text is in the public domain.

Cantors:

1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,
   All who their faith before the world confessed,
   Your name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

5 And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
   Steals on the ear the distant triumph-song,
   And hearts are brave again and arms are strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!

8 From earth’s wide bounds to ocean’s farthest coast
   Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
   Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! Alleluia!
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord of eternity and King of saints, all the heavens adore you. Saints and angels sing before you.

C: We too join them to praise your majesty.

M: You clothe us with garments of splendor. You bless us with grace and mercy in this life and eternal glory forever. What undeserved love you show us!

C: We thank you, Lord, that you have made us your saints.

M: Encourage us by your gracious promises. Forgive our failures to live as you desire. Strengthen the faith of all who are weak and wandering.

C: Give us power to live as your faithful people.

M: Your saints will triumph forever in new heavens and a new earth. The sound of weeping and crying will be heard no more. We anticipate with joy an eternity of perfect fellowship with you.

C: Be with us as we work and witness for Christ, so that many more people can join us before your throne.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Lord of life, the day is coming when you will come down from heaven with the voice of the archangel and the trumpet call of God. On that glorious day, the saints triumphant will rise in bright array, clothed in your perfect righteousness.

C: Give us strength until that day when we will share fully in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.
The cantors will sing the first refrain and stanza 1.
The congregation is invited to join in singing the remainder of the hymn.

3  Blessing and honor, they cry, Unto the Lamb that was slain,
Redeeming us with his blood In the marriage feast of the Lamb.

5  Worthy are you, Lamb of God, To receive glory and praise.
Alleluia and amen! For the marriage feast of the Lamb.

Refrain
NEW FAMILY BIBLE HOUR SERIES, BEGINNING THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 – Beginning Sunday, November 15, Paul Snamiska will be leading a new Family Bible Hour series entitled “God’s Story + Your Life = Your Witness.” This Bible Class series starts with the beauty and comfort of God’s great plan of salvation. We then look at common life events and learn ways to use those experiences to share our faith. Each lesson is unique and practical, so come to any or all of them for a great opportunity to see how God’s grace, along with your life, can open the door for your witness.

Week 1 – Quality of Life and Other Common Clichés . . . We’ve all heard them. We all use them. But how effective are clichés when talking with a person who is facing a tough time in their lives? We will look to God’s Word for some positive alternatives that truly are meaningful and can replace the common clichés in our discussions.

THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY – Just what we need after an election. More politics, right? However, maybe after the election is the perfect time to refocus on what God’s Word says on the matter regardless if the person you voted for won or lost. Please join Pastor Koester in the sanctuary at Menomonee Falls for the two remaining lessons in a four-week series entitled Politics is Driving Me Crazy! We’ll begin right at 6:30pm. Hope you can make it!

11/19  Lesson 3 – The Separation of Church and State
12/3*  Lesson 4 – Our Messy Political World

PLEASE TAKE NOTE – Due to the coronavirus, the leaders of ACTS have decided in the interest of safety to suspend our weekly meetings. Please stay tuned for an announcement as to when meetings will resume!

MEET WITH PASTOR KOESTER – Pastor Koester is currently scheduling visits for each family at Bethlehem. His prayer is to get to know the members of the Bethlehem family and to understand how he can best serve you. You can sign up to visit with Pastor Koester in-person or online! To schedule a visit, please use the link https://PastorMemberVisits.as.me/. If you are having difficulties with online scheduling, please call Pastor Koester directly at 262-290-7713.

IN THE NEWS........Almost a year has passed since the installation of the “key-fob” system at both campuses. In an effort to continuously secure both campuses and ensure the safety of everyone who uses our facilities, we are going to be “re-keying” both campuses and having one master key. Please note that keys will still be needed and used for all interior doors at both campuses. If you need a key fob to enter either campus, please reach out to Pastor Arnold or Koester, Principal Weber or Dave Seager. We hope to complete the project by the end of November.
DID YOU KNOW – Thrivent Members can opt for Bethlehem Lutheran to receive funds simply by selecting them as their “Choice Dollar organization”. In 2019, through this program, the church received $5,354 in grant money. If you would like to direct your Choice Dollars to Bethlehem, visit the Thrivent website at www.thrivent.com for more information.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH’S ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT – Ladies, you won’t want to miss this year’s Advent by Candlelight on Saturday, December 5 beginning at 4:00pm, in the gymnasium at our Germantown campus. Please plan to join us for an evening of visiting and enjoying beautiful music and delicious treats. All women of Bethlehem are invited to prepare their hearts for Advent. There is no charge for this event. Space is limited; we recommend that you make your reservations early. Sign up on the bulletin board or visit: http://bit.ly/AdventbyCandlelight to register on our Eventbrite page.

WISH LIST GIFTS – Because of your continued support, we have been able to purchase many items that are not included in our Ministry Financial Plan, such as equipment for live streaming church services, a projection screen, a UV sanitizer, snow blower attachment, handbell music and many other items. Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministry of Bethlehem! Here is an updated wish list for the church:
   - A total of 800 New Christian Worship Hymnals ($25 each)
   - Care Packages for students in college, trade schools, or active in the military (Open Ended)
   - New projector for Germantown Campus Worship Services ($1,000)
   - Three sets of Pastoral Stoles ($2,700)

HIM + HER WORSHIP – Is a husband-and-wife worship duo from Minnesota who will be joining us for our worship services in Menomonee Falls on Saturday, November 21st (5:00pm) and Sunday, November 22nd (8:00am and 10:30am).

From Seth + Jenna:
Hi there! We are Seth and Jenna Herlich, and we are Him + Her Worship. We are really excited to be with you next month! It is our full-time job to travel, playing worship music and sharing our story in churches around the country!
We are super passionate about awakening hearts for Jesus and creating worship environments that are comfortable for all people. We encourage you to come and also invite your friends and family, especially those who do not know Jesus! We do our best to be real and authentic, and we believe that God works through us to heal and encourage people with His Word.
We would love for you to come sing and worship with us!

Check out our story and our music:
Facebook: www.facebook.com/himandherworship
Instagram: @himandherworship
Website: www.himandherworship.com
YouTube: Him + Her Worship
Serving in Worship

Ushers:
Saturday, November 14th
5:00 PM  Team 7 – Farrow
Sunday, November 15th
8:00 AM  Team 8 – Rodriguez
9:15 AM  Team 19 – Schulz
10:30 AM  Team 20 – Zimmermann
Saturday, November 21st
5:00 PM  Team 10 – Affeldt
Sunday, November 22nd
8:00 AM  Team 9 – Rehlinger
9:15 AM  Team 20 – Zimmermann
10:30 AM  Team 11 – Falck

Set Up Teams (Germantown):
Sunday, November 15th
Team 3 – Todd Plichta
Sunday, November 22nd
Team 4 – Mark Ignatowski

Slide Advancer (Germantown):
Sunday, November 15th
Anna Linden
Sunday, November 22nd
Mike Blievernicht

Facebook Live-Stream Team:
Sunday, November 15th
OPEN
Sunday, November 22nd
OPEN

Service Overseer:
Sunday, November 15th
Menomonee Falls – Erich Schmandt
Germantown – Jim Affeldt
Sunday, November 22nd
Menomonee Falls – OPEN
Germantown – Jim Henne

Communion Assistants:
Saturday, November 28th
5:00 PM  Joe Bartz
Sunday, November 29th
8:00 AM  Mike Mittelstadt
9:15 AM  Kevin Walker
10:30 AM  OPEN

Greeters:
Saturday, November 14th
5:00 PM  Glenn & Shari Benishek
Sunday, November 15th
8:00 AM  Jim & Barb Casper
9:15 AM  Chuck & Michelle Wierschem
10:30 AM  OPEN
Saturday, November 21st
5:00 PM  Steve & Wendy Zimmermann
Sunday, November 22nd
8:00 AM  Marlene Fay & Gwen Rundel
9:15 AM  Brian & Anna Greenman
10:30 AM  OPEN
## The Week Ahead

**Sunday, November 15th**
- 8:00 AM Worship Service – M
- 9:15 AM Bible Study – M
- 9:15 AM Worship Service w/ Laude – G
- 10:30 AM Family Bible Hour – G
- 10:30 AM Worship Service – M
- 7:00 PM Live Stream & In-Person Bible Study – G

**Monday, November 16th**
- 5:30 PM Public School Confirmation Class – G
- 5:45 PM Handbells – M

**Tuesday, November 17th**
- 6:00 PM Boy Pioneers – M
- 7:00 PM Voters Meeting – M

**Wednesday, November 18th**

**Thursday, November 19th**
- 6:30 PM Bible Study – M

**Friday, November 20th**

**Saturday, November 21st**
- 8:00 AM Live Stream Bible Study – Hebrews
- 5:00 PM Worship Service w/ Him & Her – M

**Sunday, November 22nd**
- 8:00 AM Worship Service w/ Him & Her – M
- 9:15 AM Bible Study – M
- 9:15 AM Worship Service – G
- 10:30 AM Family Bible Hour – G
- 10:30 AM Worship Service w/ Him & Her – M
- 7:00 PM Live Stream & In-Person Bible Study – G

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### Contact Information

**Pastors:**
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- Paul Koester 262-290-7713
- pkoester@bethlehem-wels.org

**Church Office:** 262-251-3555

**Office Staff E-mail Address:**
- churchoffice@bethlehem-wels.org

**Church Office Hours:**
- M-F; 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM

**School Office:** 262-251-3120

**Child Care Office:** 262-257-0408

**Website:** bethlehem-wels.org

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### Weekly Attendance:
- 321

### Live Stream Service Views:
- 128

### Unified Offerings Last Week:
- $25,370

### Building Rel. Offerings Last Week:
- $2,821