

WHAT IF THINGS FEEL HOPELESS?



STEWARDSHIP IN ANXIOUS TIMES
OCTOBER 2026



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rescue at the Sea

OCTOBER 4TH, 2026

8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

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

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE (8:30) *“The God of Abraham Praise”* arr. Mitchell Eithun
(10:30) *“Go Down Moses”* arr. John Leavitt

WORDS OF WELCOME

+ THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

We give thanks, God of grace, creator of waters,
that long ago your Spirit hovered over the deep.

Organ: We remember that you separated the land from the waters
and provided rain to freshen the ground.

Pulpit: We remember that you flooded the earth
and held creatures and people above the waters.

Organ: We remember that you parted the waters
as your people fled from bondage in Egypt.

Pulpit: We remember Jesus your Son, who, like all of us,
arrived in the waters of childbirth.

Organ: We remember John baptizing in the waters of the Jordan
and the Spirit descending like a dove.

Pulpit: We remember that Jesus shared our thirst
and a Samaritan woman shared water from a well.

**Living Water, renew us in our baptisms and pour your Spirit on us.
Wash us and free us from sin, make us fruitful in every way,
and renew your world with showers of blessing. Amen.**

+ GATHERING HYMN "Go Down Moses" TFF #87 stanzas 1-4, 6



1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land,
 2 The Lord told Mo - ses what to do, let my peo - ple go;
 3 The pillar of cloud shall clear the way,
 4 As Is - rael stood by the wa - ter - side,



op - pressed so hard they could not stand,
 to lead the childr'n of Is - rael through, let my peo - ple go.
 a fire by night, a shade by day,
 at God's com - mand it did di - vide,



Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land,



tell old Pha - raoh: Let my peo - ple go!

6 Oh, let us all from bondage flee,
 let my people go;
 and let us all in Christ be free,
 let my people go. *Refrain*

+ 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.**

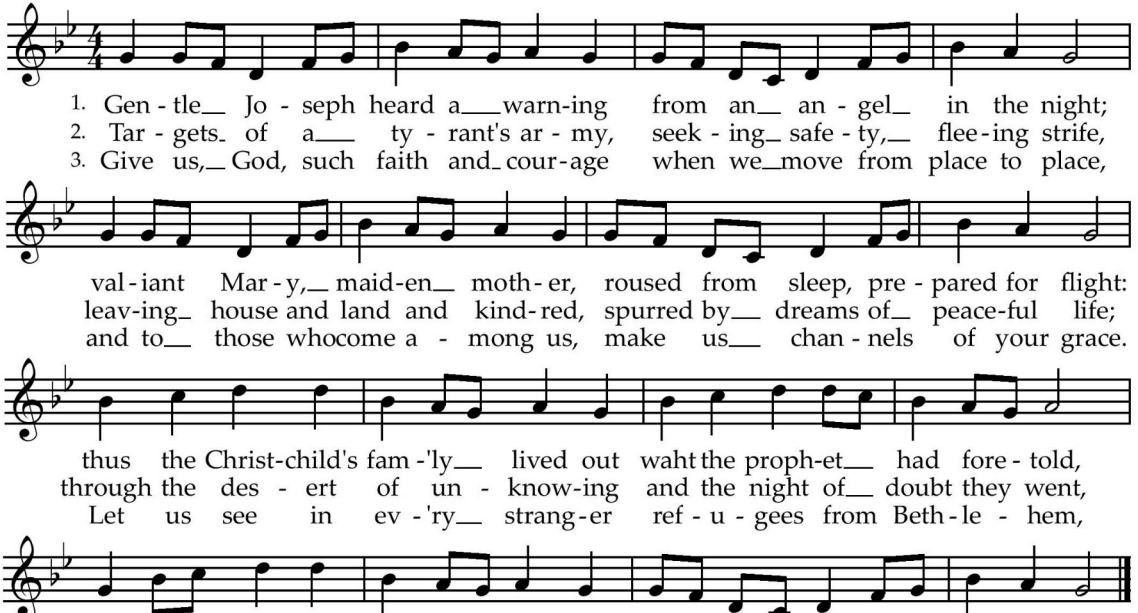
+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Waymaker, when things seemed hopeless you rescued the Israelites
 at the edge of the Red Sea and freed them for a deeper relationship with you.
 Rescue us from the things of this world that threaten, and deliver us into the
 abundant life and community we have in you through Jesus Christ,
 our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

SCRIPTURE ACCLAMATION *"Gentle Joseph Heard a Warning" ACS #1060*

*Verses 1 & 2 will be sung before the reading.
After the reading, we will sing verse 3.*



1. Gen - tle_ Jo - seph heard a__ warn - ing from an__ an - gel_ in the night;
 2. Tar - gets_ of a__ ty - rant's ar - my, seek - ing_ safe - ty, flee - ing strife,
 3. Give us, God, such faith and_ cour - age when we_ move from place to place,

val - iant Mar - y, _ maid - en_ moth - er, roused from sleep, pre - pared for flight:
 leav - ing_ house and land and kind - red, spurred by__ dreams of_ peace - ful life;
 and to__ those whocome a - mong us, make us__ chan - nels of your grace.

thus the Christ - child's fam - 'ly__ lived out waht the proph - et__ had fore - told,
 through the des - ert of un - know - ing and the night of__ doubt they went,
 Let us see in ev - 'ry__ strang - er ref - u - gees from Beth - le - hem,

that he__ might be called from E - gypt as__ God's peo - ple__ were of old.
 guid - ed__ by God's prom - ised_ pres - ence, by__ that_ trust made con - fi - dent.
 help us__ of - fer each one_ wel - come and_ re - ceive the__ Christ in them.

+ HOLY GOSPEL *MATTHEW 2:13-15*

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

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt

¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

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

A story from Exodus.

It was a long journey leaving Egypt. The Israelites camped on the shore of the Red Sea. The people were feeling really nervous. Moses squinted into the darkening sky. Had he heard something? Something in the distance? Moses shook his head slowly. He did not trust Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, to keep his promise.

"Do you think Pharaoh followed us?" Aaron asked. Moses stood listening.
"We will see," Moses said. "We will see." Moses didn't have to wait too long.

Soon a growing cloud of dust rose up in the distance. A rumble of horse hoofs thundered toward the travelers. They could see them clearly now.

Hundreds of Pharaoh's chariots charged towards them.

Hundreds of soldiers followed with orders to bring the people back.

"We're trapped!" someone yelled. A strong wind began to blow. Cries went up from the people. "Moses," they shouted, "have you brought us here to die?!"

"Don't be afraid," Moses told his people. "Stand firm. God is with us."

Moses gripped the staff in his hand. "Prepare to move out!" he shouted into the wind.

"Where, Moses?" Aaron said. "there is no place to go!"

"Through the Red Sea," Moses said. "God will make a way."

Moses stood on the edge of the shore. He raised his right arm. He stretched his staff out over the white waves. The waters trembled and divided. The wild wind roared. Soon a wall of water stood on the left and the right. Dry land appeared between the walls. A safe path to the other side! "Move, now!" Moses ordered. How strange it must have felt to step on to the sandy path. How scary to feel the spray from the water waiting on either side. Would God save them? Would God keep the promise to Moses?

In the morning, Pharaoh's army stood on the Red Sea's shore. They saw the Israelites safe on the other side. Soon chariots groaned and soldiers cracked their whips.

Pharaoh's army moved slowly across the rocky and sandy path. "They will catch us!" a young woman yelled.

"Watch and wait," said Moses. Moses once again held his staff up over the walls of waves. Tons of water came tumbling down! Horses, chariots and riders were all swept into the sea.

From the safe shore came the sounds of singing and dancing, led by Miriam, Moses' sister. "Sing to the Lord," the Israelites shouted. "God has saved us!"

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

HOMILY

+ HYMN OF THE DAY "I Will Call Upon the Lord" TFF #277

echo second time

I will call up-on the Lord

I will call up-on the Lord who is wor-ty to be

who is wor-ty to be praised. So shall I be

praised. So shall I be saved from my en - e - mies,

1. saved from my en - e - mies. I will call up-on the Lord. The

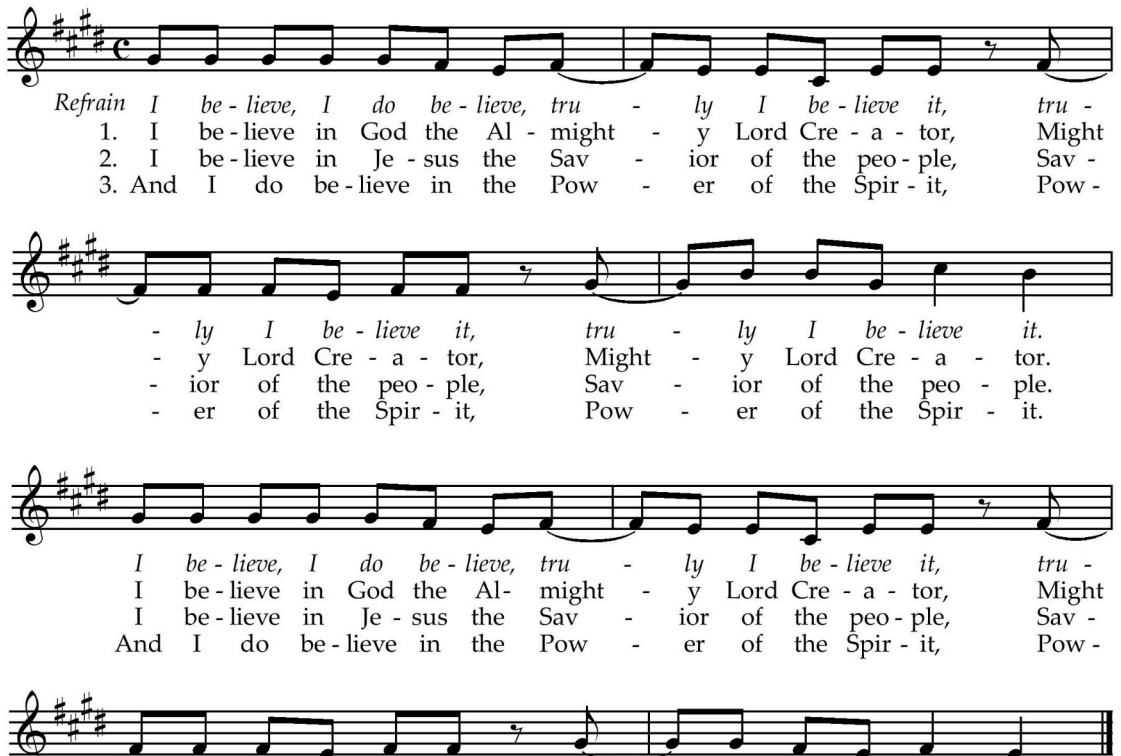
2. I will call up-on the Lord. Lord. The

Lord liv-eth, and bless-ed be the Rock, and let the God of my sal-va-tion be ex -

alt - ed. The Lord liv-eth, and bless-ed be the Rock, and let the God

of my sal-va-tion be ex - alt - ed. The alt - ed.

+ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *"I Believe, I Do Believe"*



Refrain I be - lieve, I do be - lieve, tru - ly I be - lieve it, tru -
 1. I be - lieve in God the Al - might - y Lord Cre - a - tor, Might
 2. I be - lieve in Je - sus the Sav - ior of the peo - ple, Sav -
 3. And I do be - lieve in the Pow - er of the Spir - it, Pow -

- ly I be - lieve it, tru - ly I be - lieve it.
 - y Lord Cre - a - tor, Might - y Lord Cre - a - tor.
 - ior of the peo - ple, Sav - ior of the peo - ple.
 - er of the Spir - it, Pow - er of the Spir - it.

I be - lieve, I do be - lieve, tru - ly I be - lieve it, tru -
 I be - lieve in God the Al - might - y Lord Cre - a - tor, Might
 I be - lieve in Je - sus the Sav - ior of the peo - ple, Sav -
 And I do be - lieve in the Pow - er of the Spir - it, Pow -

- ly I be - lieve it, tru - ly I be - lieve it. to verse
 - y Lord Cre - a - tor, Might - y Lord Cre - a - tor. to Ref
 - ior of the peo - ple, Sav - ior of the peo - ple.
 - er of the Spir - it, Pow - er of the Spir - it.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

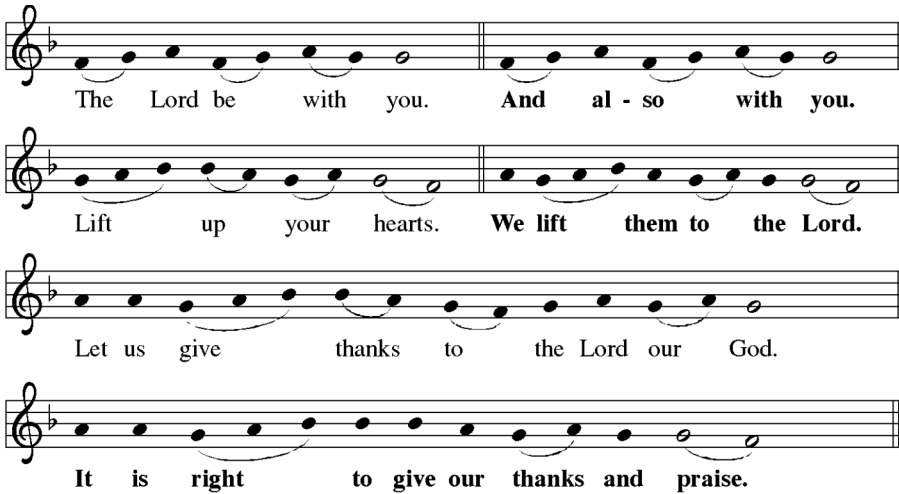
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

+ SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

✠ MEAL ✠

+ GREAT THANKSGIVING



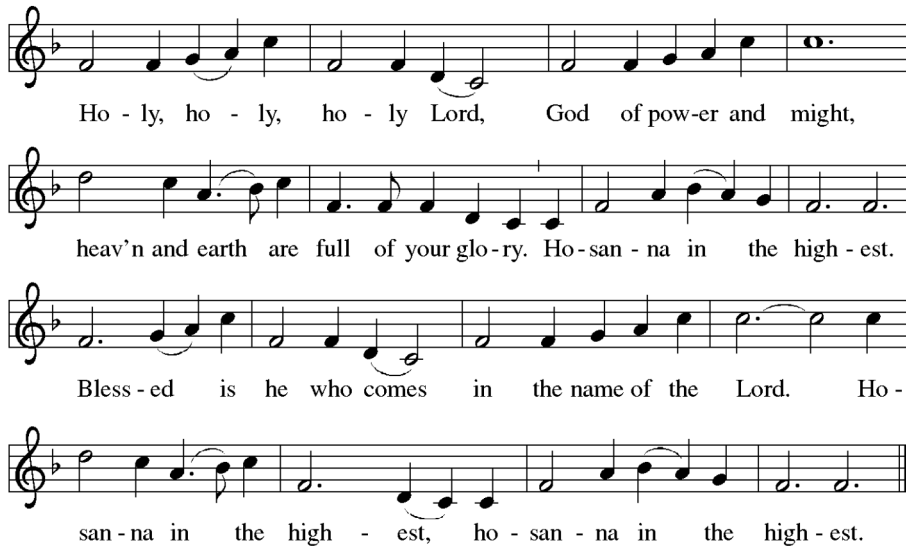
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

+ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear our praise, call us to your table, and grant us your life. In all the "what ifs?" of life you fight for us; you give direction through your commandments; when we forget, you remind us; when we make a mistake, there is forgiveness even as we face consequences. In Christ, you meet all our "what ifs?" and walk with us.

The Words of Institution / Las Palabras de la Institución

Send your Spirit, that through this heavenly food, the body and blood of Christ, we become what we receive. **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



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

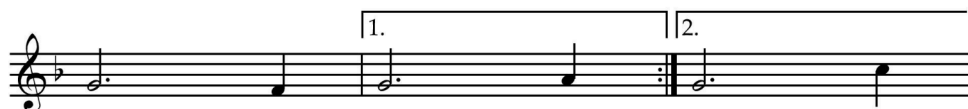
HOLY COMMUNION HYMN "Give Thanks" TFF 292



Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the



Ho - ly One, give thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je - sus



Christ, his Son. Give Son. And



now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the



poor say, "I am rich," be-cause of what the Lord has



done for us. And us. Give thanks.

+ TABLE BLESSING

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

✠ SENDING ✠

+ BENEDICTION

God all mighty, God most merciful,
✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace. **Amen.**

LIVING GENEROUSLY



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 give a one-time gift or to set up an automated donation through Breeze. Online giving cards (at the name tag stations), checks, or cash may be placed in the offering plates as you exit the sanctuary.



Members

+ SENDING HYMN "*We Are Marching in the Light*" ELW #866

+ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE "I Will Call Upon the Lord" arr. Mark Hayes

THIS WEEK — OCTOBER 5-10

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - THURSDAY 9 AM - 3 PM

MONDAY

- 12:00 pm** **Bible Text Study @ the Vault**
- 6:30 pm** **Resonance Bell Choir**

TUESDAY

- 9:45 am** **Bethel Staff**
- 2:00 pm** **Grief & Loss Support Group (Room 55)**

WEDNESDAY

- 3:30 pm** **SPARK**
- 4:30 pm** **St. Francis/Pet Blessings To-Go (CLC Patio)**
- 5:30 pm** **Bistro**
- 6:15 pm** **Ring Forth Youth Bell Choir**
- 7:00 pm** **10th Grade Confirmation/7-8-9 Warm Up/6th Grade Connections**
- 7:00 pm** **HangTime**
- 7:00 pm** **Church Choir rehearsal**
- 8:05 pm** **Brio**

THURSDAY

- 9:00 am** **MoB (Men of Bethel) (Room 54)**
- 9:00 am** **FaB (Faith & Books) (Youth Room)**
- 10:00 am** **Projects with Purpose**
- 5:45 pm** **Active Befriender Support**
- 7:00 pm** **Finance**

FRIDAY

- 9:00 am** **Bethel People Having Fun - Adventure #1!**
- 9:15 am** **WoW (Women of the Word) via zoom**



1321 North Avenue, Northfield, MN 55057
www.bethelnorthfield.org | 507.786.6674

