

**Sunday, July 5, 2020**  
**Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

*Those gathered in their homes are invited to respond with the bold printed words  
and sing the hymns.*

**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.**

Let us pray.

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**HYMN *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say***



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;  
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;  
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.  
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889  
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading,  
preaching, and song.

### PSALM 145:8-14

*Psalm 145 is a hymn of praise.*

<sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup>**LORD, you are good to all,  
and your compassion is over all your works.**

<sup>10</sup>All your works shall praise you, O LORD,  
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

<sup>11</sup>**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom  
and speak of your power,**

<sup>12</sup>that all people may know of your power  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup>**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.  
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

<sup>14</sup>The Lord upholds all those who fall  
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

### READING: Romans 7:15-25a

*Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.*

A reading from Romans.

<sup>15</sup>I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup>So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup>For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup>but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25a</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL READING: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

*Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] <sup>16</sup>"To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, <sup>17</sup>"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn."

<sup>18</sup>For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; <sup>19</sup>the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup>"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## MESSAGE

### HYMN *Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty*



- 1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.
- 2 "Come to me, all trav-lers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.
- 3 "Come to me, be - liev-ers bur-dened; find re - fresh-ment in this place.
- 4 "Come to me, re - pen-tant sin - ners; leave be - hind your guilt and shame.



If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live."  
Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest."  
Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face."  
Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion, turn to me, I call your name."

#### *Refrain*



Je - sus, ev - er - flow-ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.



In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*Each petition ends with, "Lord, in your mercy." Those worshipping respond with, "**Hear our prayer.**"*

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*During this time, an offering would normally be taken for the mission of Christ's church. We are grateful for your gifts and they are needed to continue the work of the church. We understand in this time some have lost their jobs, hours reduced and may be incurring a financial hardship and therefore unable to financially give; while, others may be able to give more. Options on ways to give are found on our website ([www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)). Thank you!*

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

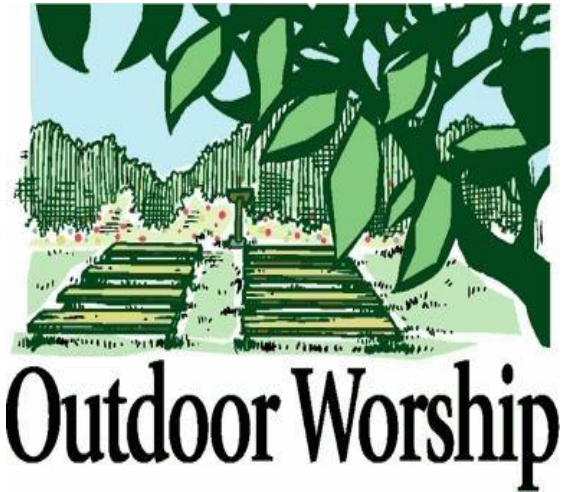
Amen.

## POSTLUDE



Thank you for worshipping with us this morning! We invite you to join us again next Sunday at 9:30 AM on Facebook. Blessings to you as you shine forth the light of Christ in the world this week! Thanks, and praise to God for everything you do in the name of Jesus Christ!

Last Sunday, the Bethany council decided to continue in keeping the building closed and worship online due to the recent increase in positive cases of COVID-19. The council also set a tentative date of July 19 to gather in-person for an outdoor worship service at 9:30 AM. Additional information and precautionary measures will be forthcoming. This opportunity is subject to change or cancellation due to weather or a continued increase of positive cases of COVID-19 in Cedar county or the communities and counties bordering West Branch. We will continue with an online worship service even when in-person services begin again.



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