

Sunday, August 23, 2020
Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)

RINGING OF BELL AND PRELUDE

WELCOME

Those gathered online are invited to respond with the bold printed words and sing the hymns.

Those gathered in person are invited to quietly sing hymns and speak congregational responses.

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.

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life.
Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly
minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN *We All Are One in Mission*



- 1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
- 2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit-ness in God's name.
- 3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var-ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min-is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem-ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris-ing grace,
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

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WORD

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

PSALM 138

Psalm 138 is a psalm of thanksgiving that responds to God's saving help.

¹I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.

²**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

³When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.

⁴**All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

⁵They will sing of the ways of the LORD,
that great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶**The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.**

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall
save me.

⁸**You will make good your purpose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of
your hands.**

READING: Romans 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

A reading from Romans.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL READING: Matthew 16:13-20 (*The Message*)

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ When Jesus arrived in the villages of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "What are people saying about who the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ They replied, "Some think he is John the Baptizer, some say Elijah, some Jeremiah or one of the other prophets." ¹⁵ He pressed them, "And how about you? Who do you say I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter said, "You're the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷⁻¹⁸ Jesus came back, "God bless you, Simon, son of Jonah! You didn't get that answer out of books or from teachers. My Father in heaven, God himself, let you in on this secret of who I really am. And now I'm going to tell you who you are, *really* are. You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out. ¹⁹ "And that's not all. You will have complete and free access to God's kingdom, keys to open any and every door: no more barriers between heaven and earth, earth and heaven. A yes on earth is yes in heaven. A no on earth is no in heaven." ²⁰ He swore the disciples to secrecy. He made them promise they would tell no one that he was the Messiah.

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

MESSAGE

HYMN *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* (See next page)



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,



Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.
Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

APOSTLES' CREED

**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 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.

Lord our rock, you are our foundation in Jesus Christ, your Son, whom we confess as the living God. Prepare your church for its mission in bearing witness to Christ, both here at home and throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You call forth praises from the far reaches of the universe to the smallest of creatures. Join our songs to theirs, that a spirit of praise and thanksgiving will arouse us to cherish this wondrous home you give us. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord. Direct the leaders of countries, legislators and magistrates, mayors and councils, to walk in your ways. Help leaders regard those in need with mercy and fulfill your loving purposes in the governance of peoples. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Though we walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are bereaved, in trouble or adversity, or sick and in need of care especially those continuing to cleanup, rebuild, and move on following the derecho storms, those in the path of wildfire and all first responders who come to the aid of your people. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You call us into this community (*name*), in which we, though many, are one in Christ. May we recognize in ourselves and in one another the unique gifts you have given us for the building up of the church for the sake of the world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You are the everlasting Rock from which we were hewn, and you restore your people to joy and gladness. In blessed memory and hope, we thank you for the lives of our beloved dead (*especially*). Bring us with them to our heavenly home. Lord, in your mercy,
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). Thank you!

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with the gifts of ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

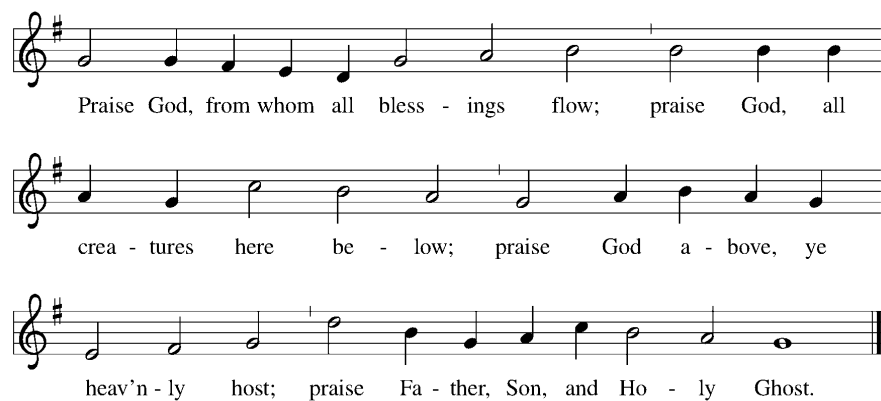
The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

Amen.

HYMN *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

SENDING

Whether gathered in this place or in your home, go in peace and share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Thank you for worshipping with us this morning! We invite you to join us again next Sunday at 9:30 AM on Facebook or outdoors (weather dependent). 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!

Join us every Monday at noon for a 30-minute discussion about the upcoming Sunday gospel reading. We gather via Zoom Meeting so join at home or work while on your lunch break. If interested, contact Pastor Chad at pastor@wbbethany.org and the Zoom invitation will be forwarded to you. The gospel for Sunday August 9 is Matthew 14:22-33. Thanks!





Finding a way to celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion in a safe manner while upholding the communal nature of this means of grace in our life together has posed its challenges and differences within the church. While our understanding of community may not have changed, the way we live that out and gather as the body of Christ in these unique times has, which has created space to pause, reflect, ponder and pray about how we best partake of this sacred meal instituted by our Lord on the night before his death.

We have been in a season of fasting. Ecclesiastes reminds us there is a season for everything and God is at work in those times and spaces. It is time to return to the table of our Lord; albeit in a different way than we are used to. Prepackaged, small, single use disposable cups of grape juice that include a small piece of bread have been purchased and will be made available. We plan to celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion on Sunday, August 30th. Those who gather in person will pick up one of the small cups upon arriving at worship. For those who gather in their homes, we have established three times throughout the week you can come to the church and pick up a cup for each person who will be receiving the sacrament during worship via Facebook next Sunday. If you are unable to get to church, please let us know and a cup will be delivered to you. Those times are:

- Wednesday, August 26 5:45 – 6:30 PM
- Thursday, August 27 9:45 – 10:30 AM
- Saturday, August 29 9:15 – 10:00 AM

We do have a limited supply of gluten-free options as well. Please call the church at (319) 643-5998 or email Paula (blcsecretary@lcom.net) or Pastor Chad (pastor@wbbethany.org) if you are unable to get to church and would like a cup delivered to you.

We appreciate your understanding, patience, and expressions of grace as the Spirit continues to guide our life together amidst uncertain and unprecedented times. Through it all, we will continue to, "Trust in the Lord with all our hearts." (Proverbs 3:5)

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