

**Sunday, October 4, 2020**  
**Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)**

**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.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

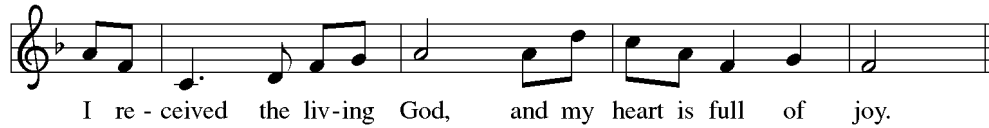
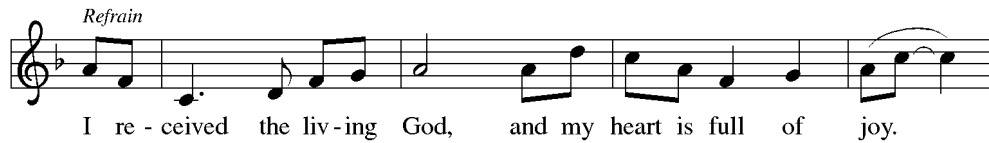
**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## HYMN *I Received the Living God*



- 1 Je - sus said: I am the bread, knead - ed long to give you life;
- 2 Je - sus said: I am the way, and my Fa - ther longs for you;
- 3 Je - sus said: I am the truth; come and fol - low close to me.
- 4 Je - sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,



you who will par - take of me need not ev - er fear to die.  
so I come to bring you home to be one with us a - new.  
You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.  
but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know.

Text: Anonymous  
Music: LIVING GOD, Anonymous

### WORD

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

## PSALM 80:7-15

*Psalm 80 is a prayer for help.*

- <sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- <sup>8</sup>**You have brought a vine out of Egypt;  
you cast out the nations and planted it.**
- <sup>9</sup>You cleared the ground for it;  
it took root and filled the land.
- <sup>10</sup>**The mountains were covered by its shadow  
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**
- <sup>11</sup>You stretched out its tendrils to the sea  
and its branches to the river.
- <sup>12</sup>**Why have you broken down its wall,  
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**
- <sup>13</sup>The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,  
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.
- <sup>14</sup>**Turn now, O God of hosts,  
look down from heaven;**
- <sup>15</sup>behold and tend this vine;  
preserve what your right hand has planted.

## READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

*Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.*

A reading from Philippians.

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup>If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL READING: Matthew 21:33-46

*Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the people:] <sup>33</sup>“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. <sup>34</sup>When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. <sup>35</sup>But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup>Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same

way. <sup>37</sup>Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' <sup>39</sup>So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup>Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" <sup>41</sup>They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

<sup>42</sup>Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?"

<sup>43</sup>Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. <sup>44</sup>The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

<sup>45</sup>When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup>They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

**MESSAGE**

**HYMN *Thine the Amen***



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise  
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be  
 3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest  
 4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise  
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread  
 thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee  
 thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be  
 thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways  
 thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup  
 gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry  
 then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war  
 thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least  
 then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.  
 gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.  
 thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.  
 then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.  
 thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926  
 Music: THINE, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929  
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## 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!*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## COMMUNION

*Those gathered outdoors or in their homes are invited to drink the juice and eat the bread.  
With repentant hearts, we believe through this meal Christ forgives our sins and guides our lives.  
Strengthened, forgiven, and nourished the Spirit sends us forth in service and to proclaim the good  
news of Christ's love to the world.*

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## BLESSING

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our 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

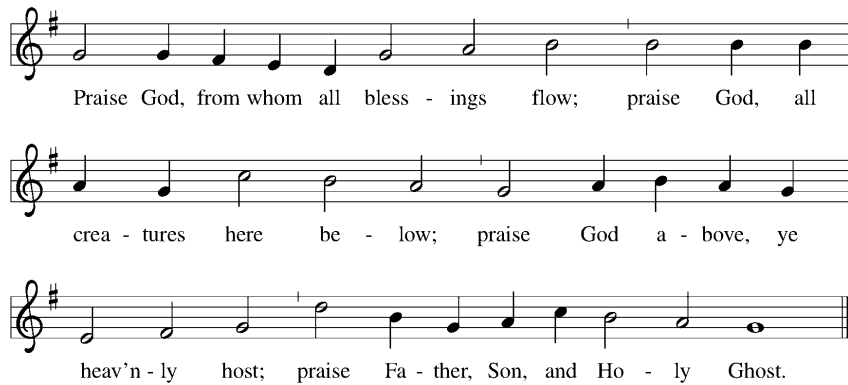
The Lord bless you and keep you.

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*



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

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

## SENDING

Whether gathered in this place, in your home, or somewhere else, go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**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](mailto:pastor@wbbethany.org) and the Zoom invitation will be forwarded to you. The gospel for Sunday September 6 is Matthew 18:15-20. Thanks!



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