

If salt  
has lost its  
saltiness,  
how can you  
season it?

**MARK 9:50**



Sunday, August 26, 2021  
"God's Work, Our Hands"  
Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)

**PRELUDE**  
**RINGING OF BELL**  
**WELCOME**

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**GATHERING & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O come, let us sing to the LORD;

**let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

**let us make a joyful noise to the LORD with songs of praise.** (*Psalm 95:1-2*)

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.

Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**HYMN *Open Your Ears, O Faithful People* (ELW 519)**



- 1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo - ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's word.
- 2 They who have ears to hear the mes - sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;



O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you.  
they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version  
Music: YISRAEL V'ORAITA, Hasidic tune  
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## WORD

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

### FIRST READING Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

*What constitutes legitimate need and legitimate leadership is the focus of this reading. God provides manna in the wilderness, yet the people crave meat. What is truly needful? God bestows the spirit on seventy elders, yet two men not designated as leaders prophesy in the power of God's spirit. What constitutes real leadership?*

A reading from Numbers.

<sup>4</sup>The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! <sup>5</sup>We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; <sup>6</sup>but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

<sup>10</sup>Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the LORD became very angry, and Moses was displeased. <sup>11</sup>So Moses said to the LORD, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? <sup>12</sup>Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors'? <sup>13</sup>Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' <sup>14</sup>I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. <sup>15</sup>If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery."

<sup>16</sup>So the LORD said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you."

<sup>24</sup>So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. <sup>25</sup>Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

<sup>26</sup>Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. <sup>27</sup>And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." <sup>28</sup>And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" <sup>29</sup>But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!"

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 19:7-14

*Psalm 19 is a creation psalm.*

<sup>7</sup>The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

<sup>8</sup>**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;  
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup>**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

<sup>11</sup>By them also is your servant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup>**Who can detect one's own offenses?**

**Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

<sup>14</sup>**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

## **SECOND READING James 5:13-20**

*Marks of the Christian community include praying for those who are sick and in need, celebrating with those in good health, restoring those who have strayed, confessing sins to one another, and offering forgiveness to each other.*

A reading from James.

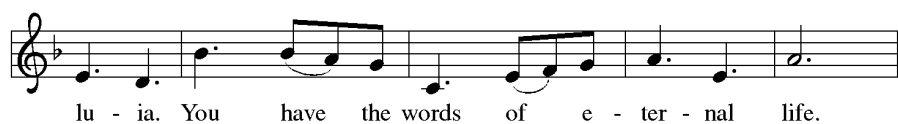
<sup>13</sup>Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup>Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup>The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup>Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. <sup>17</sup>Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup>Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

<sup>19</sup>My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, <sup>20</sup>you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



## **GOSPEL READING: Mark 9:38-50**

*On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus teaches his disciples about ministry that involves service and sacrifice. His disciples are slow to realize that these words apply to them as well as to others.*

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>38</sup>John said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." <sup>39</sup>But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup>Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup>For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

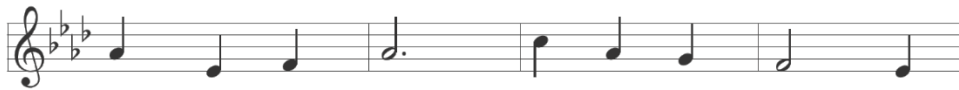
<sup>42</sup>"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup>If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup>And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup>And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup>where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

<sup>49</sup>"For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup>Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

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

**MESSAGE**

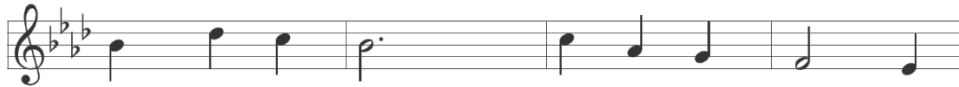
**HYMN *God's Work, Our Hands***



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.

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 Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson  
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## **THANKSGIVING FOR STAFF**

A reading from 1 Corinthians 15:57-58 (NIV):

Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

The Lord be with you.

**And also, with you.**

Paula, Jill, and Patsy:

For your work of faith, labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ,

**We rejoice and give thanks to God for all of you.**

For the variety of gifts, the Spirit has equipped each of you with that help us glorify, worship, and praise God, be a place of welcome for all people, and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ,

**We rejoice and give thanks to God for all of you.**

For the joy you give and the light of Christ that shines through each of you,

**We rejoice and give thanks to God for all of you.**

For the blessing and gift, you are to our community of faith,

**We rejoice and give thanks to God for all of you.**

Let us pray.

Gracious God, as you have called workers to varied tasks in the world and in your church, so have you called these servants to ministries at Bethany. Grant them joy and a spirit of bold trust, that their work may stir up each of us to a life of fruitful service, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

May the Lord bless your work.

May the Lord strengthen you for service.

May the steadfast love of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## **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.**

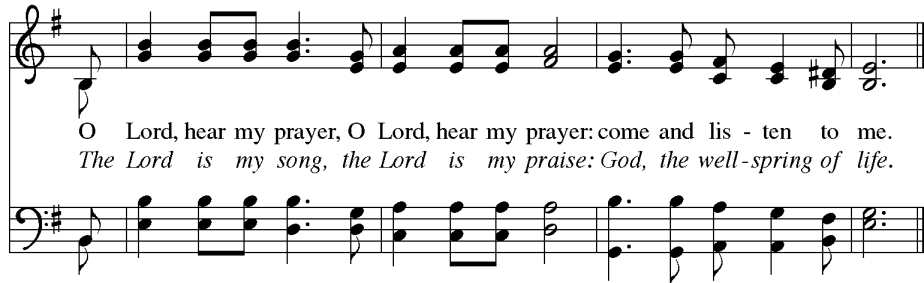
## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

*Each petition ends with, "Lord, in your mercy" and the congregation then sings the hymn on the next page.*



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.  
or *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.  
*The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.*

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.

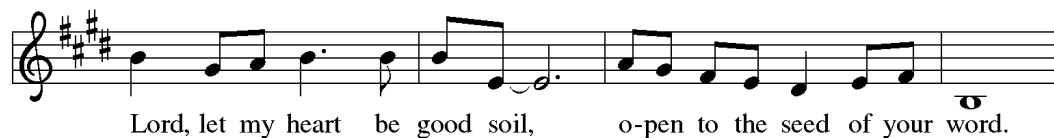
**And also with you.**

## OFFERING

*We are grateful for your gifts and they are needed to continue the work of the church. Options on ways to give are found on our website ([www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)). Thank you!*

*Offerings received throughout the week and from those in attendance are brought forward and placed on the altar as the hymn on the next page is sung.*

## HYMN *Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil (ELW 512)*



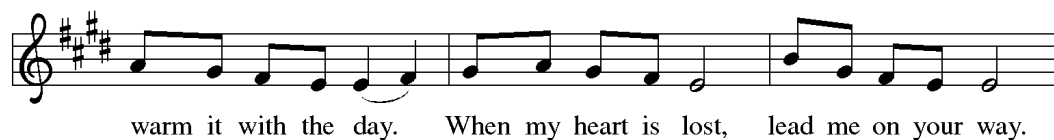
Lord, let my heart be good soil, o - pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un - der - stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

## **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.

## **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## **BLESSING**

The God of compassion, hope and joy,  
Bless your feet to carry you into places of need.  
Bless your lips to proclaim love and mercy.  
Bless your heart to love and listen to those you encounter.  
Bless your hands to care for the needs of your neighbors.  
Bless you to be a blessing to others,  
Now and always.  
**Amen.**

**HYMN *To Be Your Presence (ELW 546)***



1 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion here, to show com -  
 2 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion bold, to feed the  
 3 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion blest, to speak for  
 4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your  
  
 pas - sion's face and lis - t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer - cy  
 poor and shel - ter home - less cold, to be your hands of jus - tice,  
 all the bro - ken and op - pressed, to be your voice of hope, your  
 peo - ple is our call and choice, and in this mis - sion we, the  
  
 ev - er near,  
 right up - hold, al - le - lu - ia!  
 love ex - pressed,  
 church, re - joice,

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939  
 Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924  
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**SENDING**

You are loved. Go in peace.  
 Be God's hands and do God's work.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**



**God's work.**  
**Our hands.**

OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS		
Ministers of:	Today	October 3
Music	Jill Barnhart	Jill Barnhart
Proclamation (Lector)	Tonya Samuelson	Paula Casper
Christ's Light (Acolytes)		
Minister of Technology	Paula Casper	Alex P.
Worship (Altar Care)	Peaches Sweat and Patsy Ernst	Samuelson Family



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

If you are interested in learning more about Bethany Lutheran or interested in becoming a member, please contact Pastor Chad Whaley at 319-643-5998 or email ([pastor@wbbethany.org](mailto:pastor@wbbethany.org)).

If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter and email updates, please send your email address to our Administrative Assistant Paula Casper ([blcsecretary@lcom.net](mailto:blcsecretary@lcom.net)).



Join us for worship indoors on the first and third Sunday of the month in which the Sacrament of Holy Communion will also be celebrated. On the second and fourth Sunday of the month we will gather outdoors if weather permits. All worship services will be streamed online via Facebook.

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, October 3 Mark 10:17-31



Children and youth in grades 4-8<sup>th</sup> are invited to serve during worship in a very special way by being a Minister of Christ's Light or Acolyte. An online signup has been created and can be accessed at the link below. If you need training, please see Pastor Chad.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b48afad2caafd0-minister1>

† GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

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**5-7 PM**

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# THANK YOU!!!

## Together we have made a BIG difference for Iowa!

BLC 2020 offerings contributed to the **\$339,000** raised to fund the Southeastern Iowa Synod missions in Iowa, including...

- Lutheran Services in Iowa
- LSI Disaster Response Fund
- Support for Southeastern Iowa Synod seminary students.

**The members of BLC continue to provide hope and peace for many!**



Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

**1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)**

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**You are loved!**