



Do you think  
that I have come  
to bring peace to  
the earth?

LUKE 12:51

Sunday, August 14th, 2022  
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)

**PRELUDE  
RINGING OF BELL  
WELCOME**

*The people of God stand.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

**HYMN *This is My Fathers World (ELW 824)***



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all  
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the  
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,



na-ture sings, and round me rings the mu-sic of the spheres.  
morn-ing light, the lil-y white, de-clare their mak-er's praise.  
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul-er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of  
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the  
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won-ders wrought.  
rus-ling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.  
Lord is king, let heav-en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

## 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

Let us pray.

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The people of God are seated.*

## WORD

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

## FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29

*Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.*

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>23</sup>Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? <sup>24</sup>Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. <sup>25</sup>I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" <sup>26</sup>How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? <sup>27</sup>They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. <sup>28</sup>Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. <sup>29</sup>Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 82

*Psalm 82 is a plea for justice.*

<sup>1</sup>God stands to charge the divine council assembled,  
giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

<sup>2</sup>**How long will you judge unjustly,  
and show favor to the wicked?**

<sup>3</sup>Save the weak and the orphan;  
defend the humble and needy;

<sup>4</sup>**rescue the weak and the poor;  
deliver them from the power of the wicked.**

<sup>5</sup>They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness;  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

<sup>6</sup>**Now I say to you, 'You are gods,  
and all of you children of the Most High;**

<sup>7</sup>nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,  
and fall like any prince.'"

<sup>8</sup>**Arise, O God, and rule the earth,  
for you shall take all nations for your own.**

## SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:29--12:2

*The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this “cloud of witnesses,” we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.*

A reading from Hebrews.

<sup>29</sup>By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. <sup>30</sup>By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup>By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

<sup>32</sup>And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—<sup>33</sup>who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup>quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup>Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup>Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup>They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—<sup>38</sup>of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup>Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup>since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

<sup>12:1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The people of God stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -  
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -  
lu - iah. Hal - le - lu - iah. Hal - le - lu - iah.

## GOSPEL READING: Luke 12:49-56

*Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>49</sup>I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup>I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup>Do you think

that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup>From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup>they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

<sup>54</sup>He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. <sup>55</sup>And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. <sup>56</sup>You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

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

*The people of God are seated.*

## SERMON

### HYMN *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord (ELW 580)*



1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call  
2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;  
3 We mar - vel how your saints be - come in hin - dranc - es more sure;  
4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,



to live ac - cord - ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored,  
if world - ly pres - sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un - wind  
whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your name,  
in old rou - tines or ven - tures new, may we not cease to look to you,



that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.  
its tan - gled skein of care: our in - ward life re - pair.  
and by our faults ob - scure your pow'r to cleanse and cure.  
the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored done.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000  
Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918  
Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## 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.**

## OFFERING

*We are grateful for your gifts, and they are needed to continue the work of the church. For those worshipping online please visit our website ([www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)) and click on the blue "Give Now" button on the home page. Thank you!*

*Offerings received are brought forward and placed on the altar as the hymn below is sung.*

The people of God stand.

## Sanctuary

Words and Music by  
John W. Thompson  
and Randy Scruggs

$\text{♩} = 46$

D/A Em/A D A G Em<sup>7</sup>

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and ho - ly, tried and

4 D A F#m/A Em/A D  
true; With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a

6 A G Em<sup>7</sup> F#m/A A<sup>7</sup> D  
liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for You.

CCLI Song # 24140  
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### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life.**

**Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

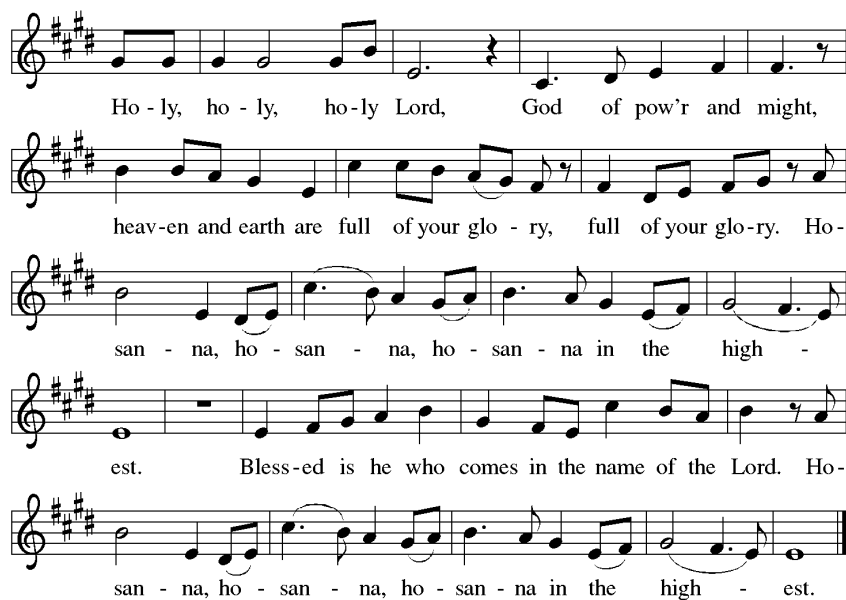
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is 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 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.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

*The people of God are seated.*

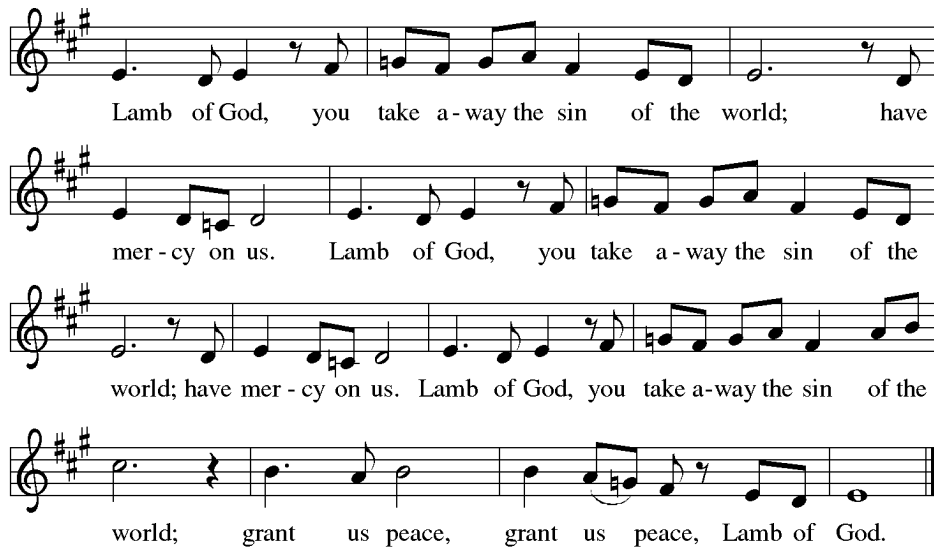
## COMMUNION

*Communion today will be distributed in a continuous line. The cups in the center of the tray contain white grape juice. All other cups are wine. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

*All gathered who believe Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior are invited to come to Holy Communion with repentant hearts believing that Christ forgives our sins and guides our lives. Strengthened, forgiven, and nourished through this meal the Spirit sends us forth in service and to proclaim the good news of Christ's love. Children and adults who do not take communion may come forward for a blessing.*

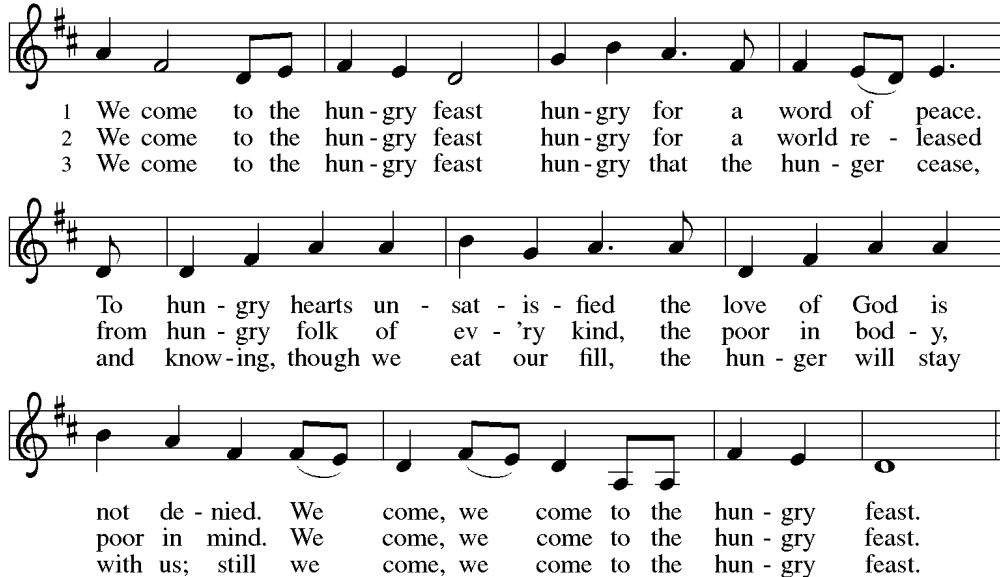
## HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

### Lamb of God (ELW 191)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

### We Come to the Hungry Feast (ELW 479)



1 We come to the hun-gry feast hun-gry for a word of peace.  
2 We come to the hun-gry feast hun-gry for a world re - leased  
3 We come to the hun-gry feast hun-gry that the hun - ger cease,  
To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is  
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,  
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay  
not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.  
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.  
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943  
Music: HUNGRY FEAST, Ray Makeever  
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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

### SENDING

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

## 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 HUNDREDETH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

## SENDING

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

## POSTLUDE

OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS		
Ministers of:	Today	August 21
Music	Jill Barnhart	Jill Barnhart
Proclamation (Lector)	Mike Fryauf	Lisa Zimmerman
Minister of Technology	Paula Casper	Alex P.
Worship (Altar Care)	Paula Casper	Paula Casper
	Fetzer 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!

**FAITH FORMATION**  
 Incoming Grades 4-8  
**STARTS SEPT. 7TH WITH FAMILY NIGHT KICK-OFF**  
 6:30 - 7:30 PM | WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

**sunday school** with Bethany Lutheran Church  
 Preschool - Grade 3 (Fall 2022)  
**September 11, 18, 25**  
 8:45 - 9:15 AM | WORSHIP AT 9:30 AM

Bethany Lutheran Church's Annual  
**BACKPACK BLESSING**  
 September 11th during Outdoor Worship | All Ages

## Men's Group

WEDNESDAYS @ 7:00 AM  
Breakfast, Bible Study and  
Discussion



MEETS IN THE  
GREAT HALL



## Women's Group

Thursdays at 6:00 AM  
Small Fellowship Hall

## SUPPORT THE MANY MINISTRIES BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1

### OFFERING PLATE

Money can be placed in offering plate on Sunday morning or mailed to:  
Bethany Lutheran Church Box 236, West Branch, IA 52358.

2

### ON-LINE DONATIONS

<https://wbbethany.org>. Click on the blue "Give Now" button.

3

### AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL

Sign up for the "Simply Giving" program for automatic withdrawals from your account. Contact [blcsecretary@lcom.net](mailto:blcsecretary@lcom.net)

4

### MOBILE APP

Download the new Vanco Mobile App from your smartphone app store. Select Bethany Lutheran Church, West Branch, IA and make your donation

5

### TEXT 844-430-1834

Enter the amount you would like to donate  
Ex: if you want to give \$25, enter 25 in message and click send. You will receive instructions to complete the donation

**Thank you for your gifts!**



Visit our virtual  
prayer wall



<https://bit.ly/bethanyprays>

Bethany Lutheran Church

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