

YOU  
CANNOT  
SERVE  
GOD AND  
WEALTH

LUKE 16:13



**September 18, 2022**  
**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)**

**PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES  
RINGING OF BELL  
WELCOME**

*The people of God stand.*

**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.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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.**

**HYMN *Let Justice Flow like Streams* (ELW 717)**

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling wa - ter, pure,  
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,  
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.  
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.  
and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926  
Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731-1776  
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## **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.

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in 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: Amos 8:4-7**

*Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.*

A reading from Amos.

<sup>4</sup>Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, <sup>5</sup>saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, <sup>6</sup>buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat." <sup>7</sup>The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 113**

*Psalm 113 is a hymn of praise.*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;  
praise the name of the LORD.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the name of the LORD be blessed,  
from this time forth forevermore.**

<sup>3</sup>From the rising of the sun to its going down  
let the name of the LORD be praised.

<sup>4</sup>**The LORD is high above all nations;  
God's glory above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Who is like the LORD our God,  
who sits enthroned on high,

<sup>6</sup>**but stoops to behold  
the heavens and the earth?**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust  
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

<sup>8</sup>**enthroning them with the rulers,  
with the rulers of the people.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD makes the woman of a childless house  
to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

## **SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7**

*The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.*

A reading from 1 Timothy.

<sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup>This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, <sup>6</sup>who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. <sup>7</sup>For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The people of God stand.*

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (ELW p.188)

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: Luke 16:1-13**

*Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup>So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ <sup>3</sup>Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup>I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ <sup>5</sup>So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup>He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ <sup>7</sup>Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ <sup>8</sup>And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup>And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

<sup>10</sup>“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup>If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup>And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup>No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The people of God are seated.*

**SERMON**

*The people of God stand.*

**HYMN *Son of God, Eternal Savior* (ELW 655)**



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,  
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.  
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;  
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.  
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.  
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:  
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,  
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.  
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedjes en Contradansen*, 1710

**APOSTLES' CREED (ELW P. 105)**

**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." 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.**

*The people of God are seated.*

## 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! The people of God stand as the offering is brought forward.*

## HYMN *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW 184)*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer 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 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

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.**

*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 p.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.

## Take My Life, That I May Be (ELW 685)

1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;  
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;  
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;  
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

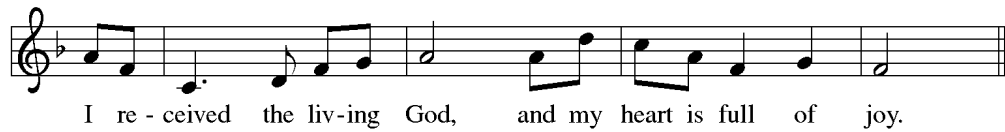
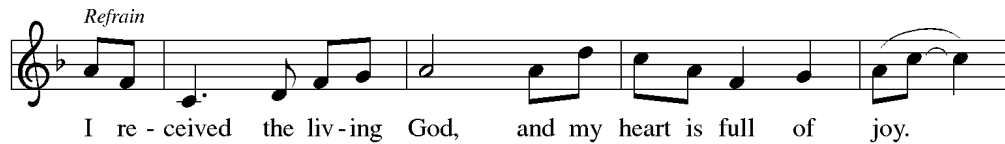
take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.  
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

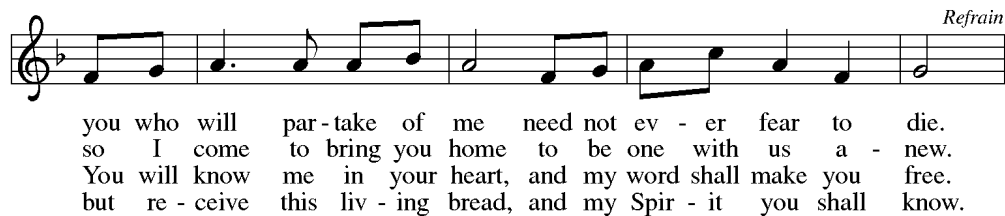
6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.



## I Received the Living God (ELW 477)



- 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,



Text: Anonymous

Music: LIVING GOD, Anonymous

*The people of God stand.*

## 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

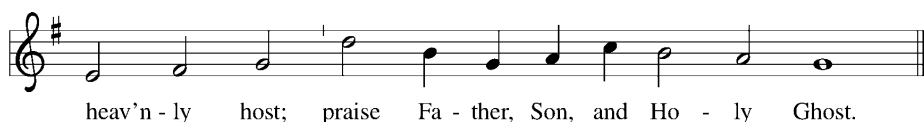
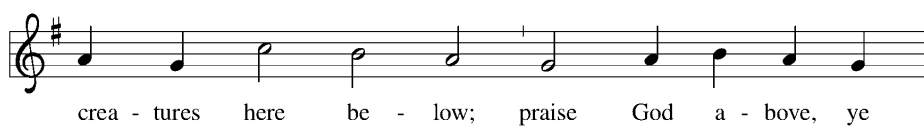
The Lord bless you and keep you.

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*



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, alt.

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

## SENDING

Go in peace! Share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

*Thank you for worshipping with us.  
Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in the Great Hall.*

OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS		
Ministers of:	Today	September 25
Music	Jill Barnhart	Jill Barnhart
Proclamation (Lector)	Jill Barnhart	Toni Dodds
Minister of Technology	Paula Casper	Alex Poppen
Worship (Altar Care)	Patsy Ernst & Paula Casper	Patsy Ernst & Paula Casper
Outdoor Setup		Cindy Knoop



Thank you for worship ping with us this morning! We invite you to join us again next Sunday at 9:30 AM. Weather permitting, we will worship outdoors. The sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated. 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!

✝ GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS  
BETHANY'S SECOND ANNUAL

## Spaghetti Dinner

*Come Eat!*

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 25TH: 5-7 PM**

Drive-Thru, Dine In, or Delivery



*Volunteer Help Needed* →

SATURDAY KITCHEN PREP & SUNDAY EVENT

**Sign-Up Sheet near north entrance doors**

**Volunteer Opportunities:**

- Kitchen Helpers
- Dishwashers
- Dining Room Helpers
- Drive-Thru Runners
- Delivery Drivers

# Let's Hike!

Thursday, September 22  
6:15 PM

Meet at the Hoover Library  
and Museum Shelter House



# Reminder! Congregational Meeting

NEXT SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

Immediately following worship we will hold a special meeting to approve the purchase of a new copy machine. An online option will be made available.



## Did you know... How your weekly offering makes an impact?

### It supports... youth ministries

30 children were able to attend Vacation Bible School  
12 Children were given Bibles in the spring + 15 more this fall  
Wednesday Faith Formation - Starts September 7  
Sunday School resumes - September 11



### It supports... small group Bible Studies

Wednesday Mornings - Men's Study Group - 7:00am  
Thursday Mornings - Woman's Study Group - 6:00am  
Monthly Women's Bible Study - 2nd Wednesday at 9:00am



### It supports... community outreach programs

Like the Hope Chest & the Food Pantry  
which provide clothing and food to those in need

### It supports... meals and fellowship

Free dinner on the 4th Sunday of the month  
the annual community tailgate  
Angel Meals  
annual Spaghetti Dinner

**Thank you for your gifts,  
which support these and many more  
great ministries at Bethany Lutheran Church**

## Thank You

FOR WORSHIPPING  
WITH US



**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

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