

Sunday, July 9, 2023 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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.

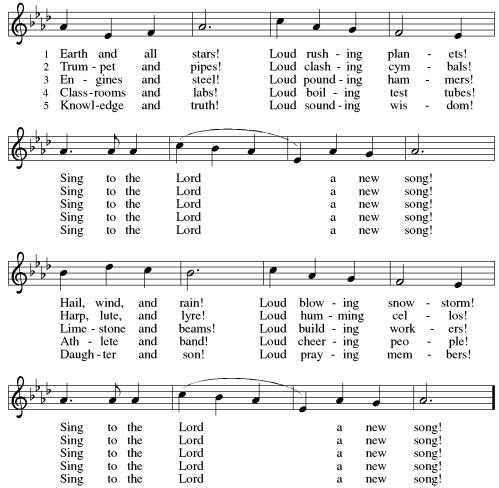
Gracious God,

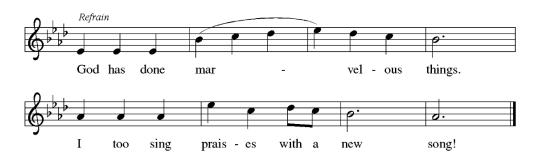
have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, 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 Earth and All Stars! (ELW 731)





Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987 Text and music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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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.

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through 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: Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

A reading from Zechariah.

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:8-14

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹LORD, you are good to all,

and your compassion is over all your works.

¹⁰All your works shall praise you, O LORD, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,

¹²that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages. You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works. ¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall

and lifts up those who are bowed down.

SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

A reading from Romans.

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The people of God stand.

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le _ lu Hal - le, hal - le, hal jah. 0 le lu jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal le. lu jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu iah. -

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Halle, Halle, Hallelujah ELW 172

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 11:25-30

The holy gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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

The people of God are seated.

SERMON

HYMN Praise and Thanks and Adoration (ELW 783)



Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Music: FREU DICH SEHR, Trente quatre pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551 Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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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 the hymn below "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" (ELW 752)



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943 Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema Text and music © 1973 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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 (<u>www.wbbethany.org</u>) 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.



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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through 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.

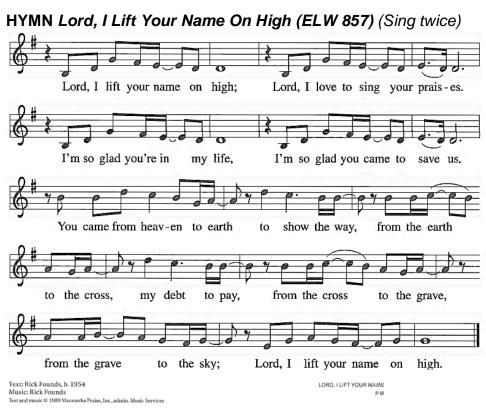
BLESSING

The 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.



SENDING

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

POSTLUDE

OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS		
Ministers of:	Today	July 16
Music	Jill Barnhart	Jill Barnhart
Proclamation (Lector)	Wayne Frauenholtz	John Black
Minister of Technology	Dave Poppen	Cole Crosthwaite & Tate Frantz
Worship (Altar Care)	Nancy Bruns	Nancy Bruns

Please join us immediately following worship as we dedicate and bless our Butterfly Garden.







Thank you for worshipping with us today. Just as Jesus welcomed the stranger, we believe all are welcome here. Please join us again next week. For more information about our life together in Christ, visit: www.wbbethany.org

Ministry Opportunities This Week

Wednesday, July 12 7:00 AM — Men's Bible Study with Breakfast Thursday, July 13 6:00 AM — Women's Bible Study 1:00-3:30 PM —Quilters Sunday, July 16 8:30-9:15AM — Childrens Playdate

- 9:30 AM Worship
- 10:30 AM Fellowship





VBS 2023 Information

<u>Student Registration</u> Bethany Lutheran Church invites all children to join us for Vacation Bible School this summer! This year, our program will be held in the evenings. Our VBS 4-day program is from 5:30-8:00 PM for the days of Tuesday, July 18 through Friday, July 21. Children currently or will be in Preschool- 6th grade are invited!

Please register online at https://forms.gle/XHYG6DDgy91hg22y7.

Thank you for your support with VBS at Bethany Lutheran Church!

VBS Coordinators, Courtney Heid, Kristen Van Scoyoc, Amber Marsh, Kristin McElhinney

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Land Acknowledgement

at BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 18-21

5:30-8 PM

Dinner served @ 5:30 pm

Preschool- Grade 6

MORE INFO bit.ly/bethanyvbs23

Bethany Lutheran is located in the original and ancestral homelands of the lowa, Sauk, Fox, Kickapoo and Oceti Sakowin peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.



It supports... youth ministries

30 children were able to attend Vacation Bible School 2 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 Wedneday at 9:00an

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 Churc It helps us invest in technology to expand our reach beyond the church doors



Average Online attendance = 112 viewers

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