

**August 27, 2023**  
**13th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)**

**PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES  
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.**

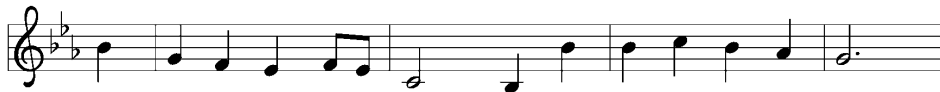
**Amen.**

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.**

**HYMM *We All Are One In Mission* (ELW 576)**



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,  
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit-ness in God's name.  
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.  
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:  
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove  
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,  
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.  
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.  
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

## **GREETING** (ELW p.184)

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, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through 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: Isaiah 51:1-6**

*Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.*

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. <sup>2</sup>Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. <sup>3</sup>For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. <sup>4</sup>Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. <sup>5</sup>I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. <sup>6</sup>Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 138**

<sup>1</sup>I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I will sing your praise.

<sup>2</sup>**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,  
because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;  
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

<sup>3</sup>When I called, you answered me;  
you increased my strength within me.

<sup>4</sup>**All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,  
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

<sup>5</sup>They will sing of the ways of the LORD,  
that great is the glory of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,  
perceiving the haughty from afar.**

<sup>7</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

<sup>8</sup>**You will make good your purpose for me;**

**O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

## SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

*In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.*

A reading from Romans.

<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The people of God stand.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (ELW 172)*

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

### GOSPEL READING Matthew 16:13-20

*At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup>And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup>He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup>Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The gospel of the Lord.

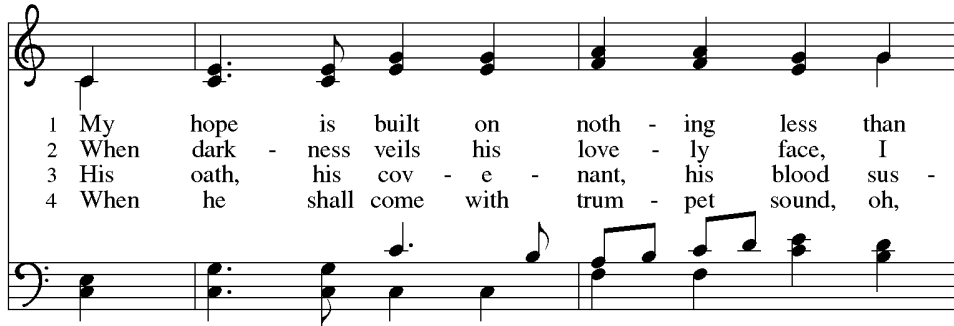
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The people of God are seated.*

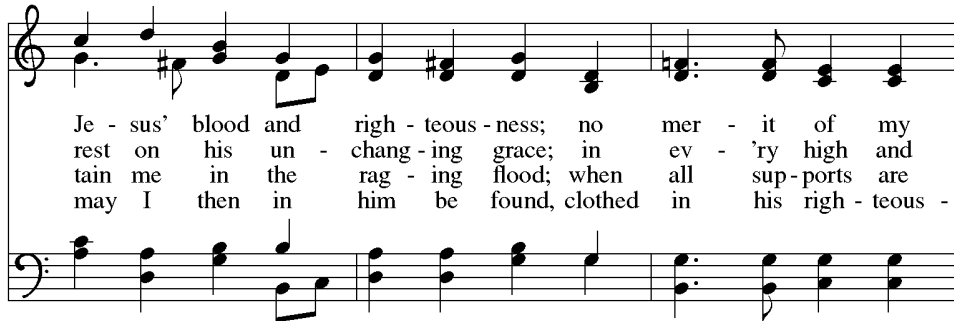
# SERMON

*The people of God stand.*

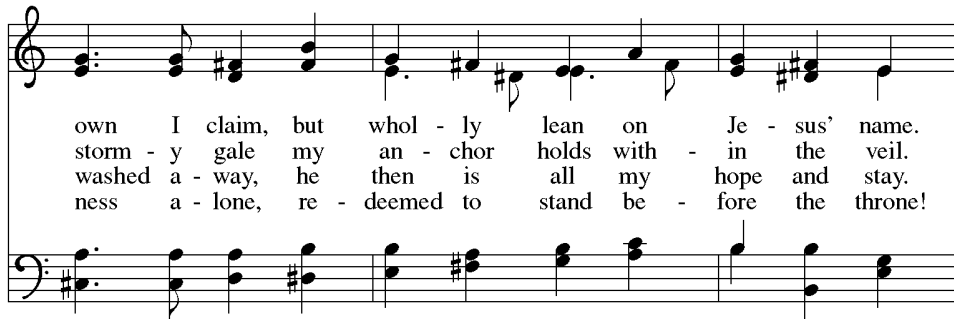
## HYMN *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* (ELW 597)



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than  
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I  
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -  
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,

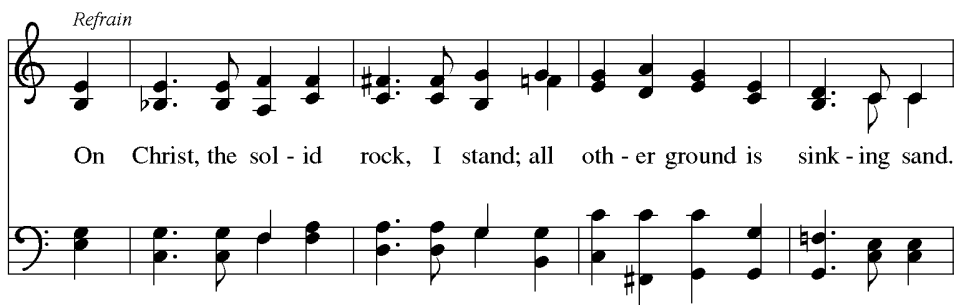


Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my  
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and  
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are  
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

*Refrain*



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

## 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." 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.

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.

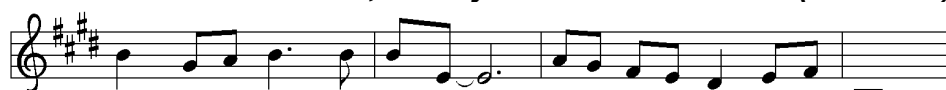
**And also with you.**

*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, options on ways to give are found on our website ([www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)). Thank you! After the offering is gathered, we sing the people of God stand and sign the hymn below as the gifts are brought forward.*

### **OFFERTORY 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

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 (ELW p.191).

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.

## BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

### HYMN *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* (ELW 543)



- 1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
- 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
- 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.  
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."  
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."  
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

## 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

*Please join us refreshments and fellowship in the fellowship hall.*

## OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ministers of:	Today	September 3
<b>Music</b>	Jill Barnhart	Jill Barnhart
<b>Proclamation (Lector)</b>	Jill Barnhart	Jon Twing
<b>Minister of Technology</b>	Jill Taylor	Cole Crosthwaite & Tate Frantz
<b>Worship (Altar Care)</b>	Patsy Ernst & Cindy Knoop	Dave & Kami Poppen



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](http://www.wbbethany.org)

### Ministry Opportunities This Week

- Wednesday, August 30th**  
7:00 AM — Men's Bible Study with Breakfast
- Thursday, August 31**  
6:00 AM — Women's Bible Study  
1:00 PM — Quilting Group
- Sunday, September 3**  
9:30 AM — Worship  
10:30 AM — Fellowship

### Land Acknowledgement

Bethany Lutheran is located in the original and ancestral homelands of the Iowa, 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.

# OUR

*mission*

To grow so deep in Christ through worship, education, and fellowship that we celebrate by reaching out to others.

▼  
[WWW.WBBETHANY.ORG](http://WWW.WBBETHANY.ORG)

## UNITED IN *Prayer*

Visit our virtual prayer wall

https://bit.ly/  
bethanyprays

Bethany Lutheran Church





Join us for the Community meal tonight.  
 5:00-6:00PM in the Great Hall!  
 Everyone is welcome.

**Faith Formation Kickoff**  
 Wednesday, September 6th  
 6:30 PM  
 Youth 3rd-8th grade and parents too.  
 Pizza and drinks provided.

Let your light shine... (Matthew 5:16)

**Hope Chest News**

For many years, our community Hope Chest has been one way in which we have lived into our mission statement of, "growing so deep in Christ ... that we celebrate by reaching out to others." We have provided clothing for over 700 clients. Thank you to Neil and Chris Korsmo for tracking the numbers and faithfully stewarding this ministry over the years. Thanks also to Paula who often received donations and welcomed clients. Thanks to all who have assisted with this ministry in one way or another.

There has been a significant decline in the last few years of requests for clothing. Neil, Chris and Paula have expressed their desire to step aside from this ministry. If this ministry is to continue, we are seeking individuals who might wish to steward it into the future. If you are interested, please advise Pastor Chad.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP**

September 13 @ 9:00 AM

Join faithful women of Bethany on the second Wednesday of each month for a time of fellowship, faith and Bible study.

*If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another. - 1 John 1:7*

**SUPPORT THE MANY MINISTRIES**  
 BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

- OFFERING PLATE**  
 Money can be placed in offering plate on Sunday morning or mailed to:  
 Bethany Lutheran Church Box 236, West Branch, IA 52358.
- ON-LINE DONATIONS**  
<https://wbbethany.org>. Click on the blue "Give Now" button.
- AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL**  
 Sign up for the "Simply Giving" program for automatic withdrawals from your account. Contact [blcsecretary@lcom.net](mailto:blcsecretary@lcom.net)
- MOBILE APP**  
 Download the new Vanco Mobile App from your smartphone app store. Select Bethany Lutheran Church, West Branch, IA and make your donation
- 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

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