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**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) See next page.***

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**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.

1Listen 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. 2Look 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. 3For 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. 4Listen 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. 5I 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. 6Lift 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**

1I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;  
 before the gods I will sing your praise.  
2**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.**  
3When I called, you answered me;  
 you increased my strength within me.  
4**All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord,**  
 **when they have heard the words of your mouth.**  
5They will sing of the ways of the Lord,  
 that great is the glory of the Lord.  
6**The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly,**  
 **perceiving the haughty from afar.**  
7Though 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.  
8**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.

1I 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. 2Do 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.

3For 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. 4For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, 5so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. 6We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; 7ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; 8the 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)***

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**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.**

13Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” 17And 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. 18And 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. 19I 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.” 20Then 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)*** *See next page.*

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**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)*

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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)***

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**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)***

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**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** |
| **Music** | Jill Barnhart | Jill Barnhart |
| **Proclamation (Lector)** | Jill Barnhart | Jon Twing |
| **Minister of Technology** | Jill Taylor | Cole Crosthwaite &  Tate Frantz |
| **Worship (Altar Care)** | Patsy Ernst & Cindy Knoop | Dave & Kami Poppen |

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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](file:///C:\Users\Paula\Dropbox\Shared%20Files\Bulletins\Bulletins%20in%20Progress\2023\2023%20Done\www.wbbethany.org)

**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

**Ministry Opportunities This Week**

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A plate with silverware and spoon on it

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Join us for the Community meal tonight.

5:00-6:00PM in the Great Hall!

Everyone is welcome.

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