

*The one who  
eats this bread  
will live forever*

JOHN 6:58

**August 18, 2024**

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)

**Introduction to the day**

Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.

This worship is being streamed live via Facebook and will be posted to our Website and X (formerly Twitter). The camera captures anyone in the first few pews of our worship space and beyond extending to the altar.

PRELUDE  
LIGHTING OF CANDLES  
RINGING OF BELL  
WELCOME

### GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

The assembly stands.

Please respond with the words printed in bold.

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

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.**

### GATHERING SONG *Praise and Thanks and Adoration* (ELW 783)



1 Praise and thanks and ad - o - ra - tion, Son of God, to you we give,  
2 Hold me ev - er in your keep - ing, com - fort me in pain and strife;



for you chose to serve cre - a - tion, died that sin - ers all might live.  
through my laugh - ter and my weep - ing, lift me to a no - bler life.



Dear Lord Je - sus, guide my way; faith - ful let me day by day  
Draw my fer - vent love to you; con - stant hope and faith re - new



fol - low where your steps are lead - ing, find ad - ven - ture, joys ex - ceed - ing!  
in your birth, your life and pas - sion, in your death and res - ur - rec - tion.

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

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

### **WORD**

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

#### **FIRST READING: Proverbs 9:1-6**

*Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom's food—insight and understanding—is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom's banquet is the way to life.*

A reading from Proverbs.

<sup>1</sup> Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars.

<sup>2</sup> She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table.

<sup>3</sup> She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls from the highest places in the town,

<sup>4</sup> "You that are simple, turn in here!" To those without sense she says,

<sup>5</sup> "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.

<sup>6</sup> Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **PSALM 34:9-14**

<sup>9</sup> Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD,  
for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.

<sup>10</sup> **The lions are in want and suffer hunger,  
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.**

<sup>11</sup> Come, children, and listen to me;  
I will teach you reverence for the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> **Who among you takes pleasure in life  
and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?**

<sup>13</sup> Keep your tongue from evil  
and your lips from lying words.

<sup>14</sup> **Turn from evil and do good;  
seek peace and pursue it.**

#### **SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:15-20**

*True wisdom integrates our new reality in Christ with our Christian fellowship and daily conduct. Because we are filled with the Spirit, Christians regularly rejoice together, give thanks to God for one another, and care for one another. In this way we revere our Lord Jesus Christ.*

A reading from Ephesians.

<sup>15</sup> Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> So do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

**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: John 6:51-58**

*In John's gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true "bread of life." Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church's celebration of holy communion.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

<sup>52</sup> The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" <sup>53</sup> So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; <sup>55</sup> for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

**SERMON**

The assembly stands.

**HYMN OF THE DAY *O Living Bread From Heaven* (ELW 542) See next page.**



1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest!  
 2 My Sav - ior, you have led me with - in your ho - liest place,  
 3 You gave me all I want - ed; this food can death de - stroy.  
 4 Oh, grant me then, well - strength - ened with heav'n - ly food, while here



The gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest.  
 and here your - self have fed me with trea - sures of your grace;  
 And you have free - ly grant - ed the cup of end - less joy,  
 my course on earth is length - ened, to serve you, free from fear;



O won - drous food of bless - ing! O cup that heals our woes!  
 for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy,  
 My Lord, I do not mer - it the fa - vor you have shown,  
 and bring me home to praise you where none can peace de - stroy,



My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, in thank - ful song o'er - flows!  
 the bread of life from heav - en, that now I shall not die.  
 and all my soul and spir - it bow down be - fore your throne.  
 where I will ev - er raise you glad songs in end - less joy.

**APOSTLES' CREED (ELW p. 189)**

**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 on the next page, "Hear Our Prayer" (ELW 178).*



Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:  
 peace to all peo - ple, hope for each soul.  
 God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

Text and music: Paul Andress, b. 1956  
 Text and music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 189)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

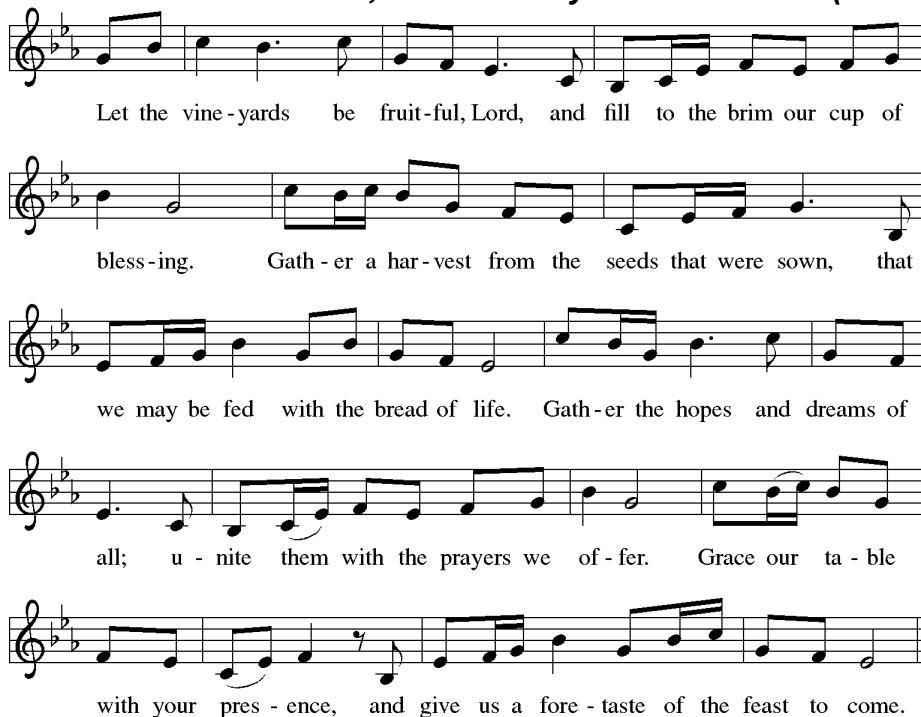
**And also with you.**

The assembly is seated.

**OFFERING (ELW p. 190)**

*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, the people of God stand and sing the hymn below as the gifts are brought forward.*

**OFFERTORY HYMN Lord, Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW 184)**



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
 bless-ing. 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 (ELW p. 190)**

Let us pray.

**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## DIALOGUE (ELW p. 190)

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.**

## PREFACE (ELW p. 190)

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 all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 190)



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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 190)

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 (ELW p. 191)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW p. 191)

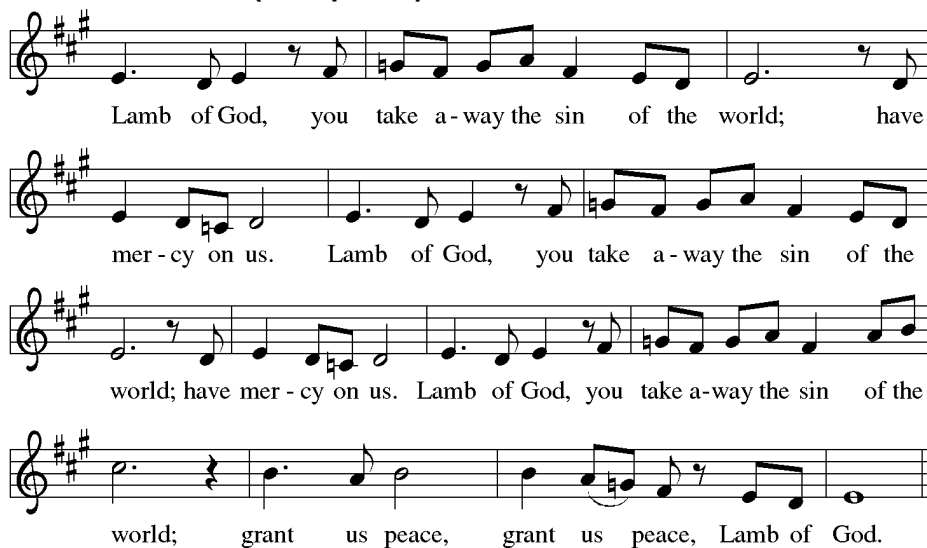
Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

The assembly is 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.*

## COMMUNION SONG (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.

**Come, Let Us Eat (ELW 491)** See next page.





1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,  
2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,  
3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,  
4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,



come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.  
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in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.  
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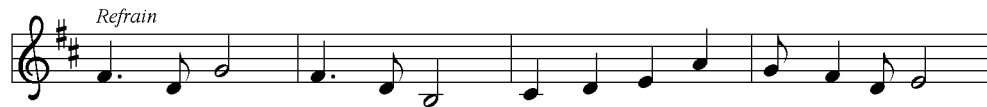
Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,  
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,  
In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,  
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,



our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.  
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.  
in the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.  
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom.

Text: Billema Kwillia, b. 1925, sts. 1-3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1-3, alt.  
Music: A VA DE, Billema Kwillia, adapt.  
Text sts. 1-3 and tune © Lutheran World Federation; text st. 4 and music adapt. © 1972 *Contemporary Worship 4*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup (ELW 492)



Eat this bread, drink this cup. Taste and see the good-ness of God.



Bread of life, cup of love, we re-joice in your pres-ence.



1 I will bless the Lord at all times, praise with heart and voice;  
2 Look up - on the Lord, be ra - diant, nev - er turn a - way.  
3 An - gels fold their wings a - round us, guard through good and ill.  
4 Saints of God, bow down and wor - ship, bless the ho - ly name.



in my God I glo - ry for - ev - er: lis - ten and re - joice!  
God will save in ev - 'ry af - flic - tion, hear us when we pray.  
Those who seek the Lord will lack noth - ing; taste, and have your fill.  
Rise to tell God's great - ness for - ev - er, won - drous deeds pro - claim!

Text: Jeremy Young, b. 1948, refrain; *With One Voice*, stanzas, based on Ps. 34  
Music: STONERIDGE, Jeremy Young  
Text and music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

The assembly stands.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 191)**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG *Give to Our God Immortal Praise!* (ELW 848)**



1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and  
2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and  
3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; the King of



truth are all his ways. Won - ders of grace to  
dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to  
kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er



God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.  
God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.  
shall en - dure when lords and kings are known no more!

**BLESSING (ELW p. 192)**

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL (ELW p. 192)**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in the Great Hall following worship.*

OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS		
Ministers of:	Today	August 25
Music	Beth Kaufman	Jill Barnhart
Proclamation (Lector)	John Black	Wayne Frauenholtz
Hospitality (Greeter)	Stacy Beyer	Nancy Bruns
Technology	Dave Poppen	Paula Casper
Worship (Altar Care)	Patsy Ernst & Paula Casper	Patsy Ernst & Paula Casper



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)



God's work. Our hands.



September 8, 2024



## Outdoor Worship and Fellowship

September 15

9:30 AM

Please bring a lawn chair.  
Following worship, a meal will be provided.

*Celebration of God's work!*

*Wednesday*  
**Faith Formation**  
Grades 3-8  
Family Kickoff  
(Parents and Students)  
Wednesday, September 4  
6:30-7:30 PM  
Pizza will be served.  
RSVP to [pastor@wbbethany.org](mailto:pastor@wbbethany.org)

*Attention Singers*  
*Choir will begin September 4th.*  
Bethany's choir could use more voices. If you love to sing, please join us Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:00.  
Let me know. Thanks!  
Jill Barnhart (319)541-9738



<https://faithforwardnow.org/church/bethanywestbranch/>

## Five Faith Promises

### #1 Prayer

We promise to pray together every day.

### #2 Bible Reading

We promise to read the Bible together regularly.

### #3 Faith Conversations

We promise to talk together often about Jesus and our faith.

### #4 Acts of Service

We promise to perform acts of service together in our community, our congregation, and our homes.

### #5 Shared Mealtimes

We promise to share five or more meals together each week, and to engage in other rituals and traditions together.



<https://faithforwardnow.org/church/BethanyWestBranch/>

# 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



Scan QR code with your phone or visit our website  
<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

### IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

Tax-free donation directly from an IRA to Bethany Lutheran Church  
This is a tax-free way to give your required minimum distributions from your IRA to charity.

## 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.

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