

***Do you think  
that I have come  
to bring peace  
to the earth?***

**LUKE 12:51**

**August 17, 2025**

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)

**Introduction to the day**

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

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 and responds with the words printed in bold.

**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.**

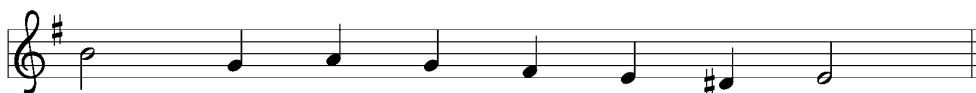
**GATHERING HYMN *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (ELW 517)***



1 Lord, keep us stead-fast in your word; curb those who  
2 Lord Je-sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are  
3 O Com-fort-er of price-less worth, send peace and



by de- ceit or sword would wrest the king-dom from your Son  
Lord of lords a-lone; de-fend your ho-ly church, that we  
u-ni-ty on earth; sup-port us in our fi-nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.  
may sing your praise e-ter-nal-ly.  
and lead us out of death to life.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

## WORD

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

### FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29

*Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.*

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>23</sup> Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? <sup>24</sup> Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. <sup>25</sup> I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" <sup>26</sup> How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? <sup>27</sup> They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. <sup>28</sup> Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. <sup>29</sup> Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 82

<sup>1</sup> God stands to charge the divine council assembled,  
giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

<sup>2</sup> **"How long will you judge unjustly,  
and show favor to the wicked?"**

<sup>3</sup> Save the weak and the orphan;  
defend the humble and needy;

<sup>4</sup> **rescue the weak and the poor;  
deliver them from the power of the wicked.**

<sup>5</sup> They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness;  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

<sup>6</sup> **Now I say to you, 'You are gods,  
and all of you children of the Most High;**

<sup>7</sup> nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,  
and fall like any prince.' "

<sup>8</sup> **Arise, O God, and rule the earth,  
for you shall take all nations for your own.**

### SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

*The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.*

A reading from Hebrews.

<sup>29</sup> By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. <sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup> By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

<sup>32</sup> And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup> Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup> Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented <sup>38</sup> of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup> Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

<sup>12:1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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 READING: Luke 10:38-42**

*Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>49</sup> "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! <sup>50</sup> I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup> Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup> From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup> they will be divided:

father against son  
and son against father,  
mother against daughter  
and daughter against mother,  
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law  
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

<sup>54</sup> He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to

rain,' and so it happens. <sup>55</sup> And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. <sup>56</sup> You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

## SERMON

The assembly stands.

## HYMN OF THE DAY *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord (ELW 580)*



1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call  
2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;  
3 We mar - vel how your saints be - come in hin - dranc - es more sure;  
4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,



to live ac - cord - ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored,  
if world - ly pres - sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un - wind  
whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your name,  
in old rou - tines or ven - tures new, may we not cease to look to you,



that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.  
its tan - gled skein of care: our in - ward life re - pair.  
and by our faults ob - scure your pow'r to cleanse and cure.  
the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored done.

## 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" and the people of God responds, "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.**

## 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, 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



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.

**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, 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.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

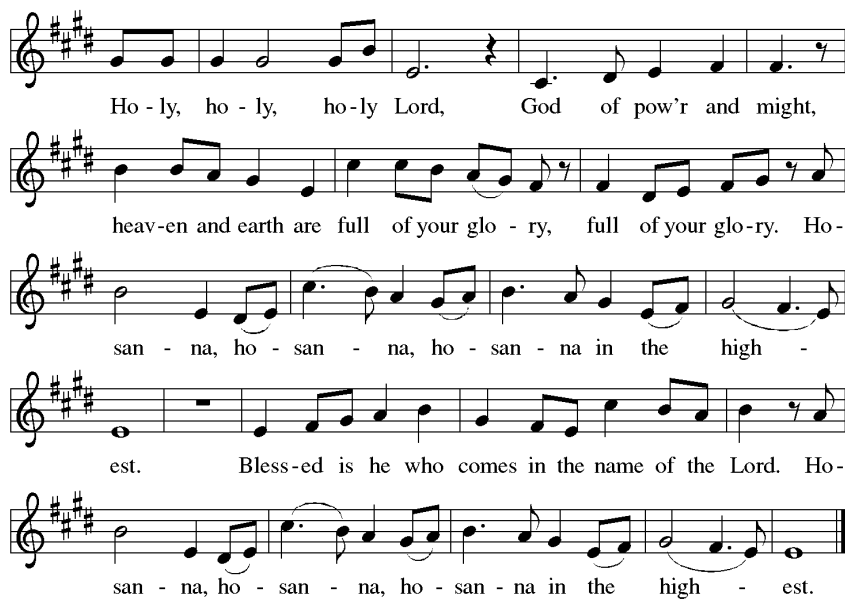
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

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:



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

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.**

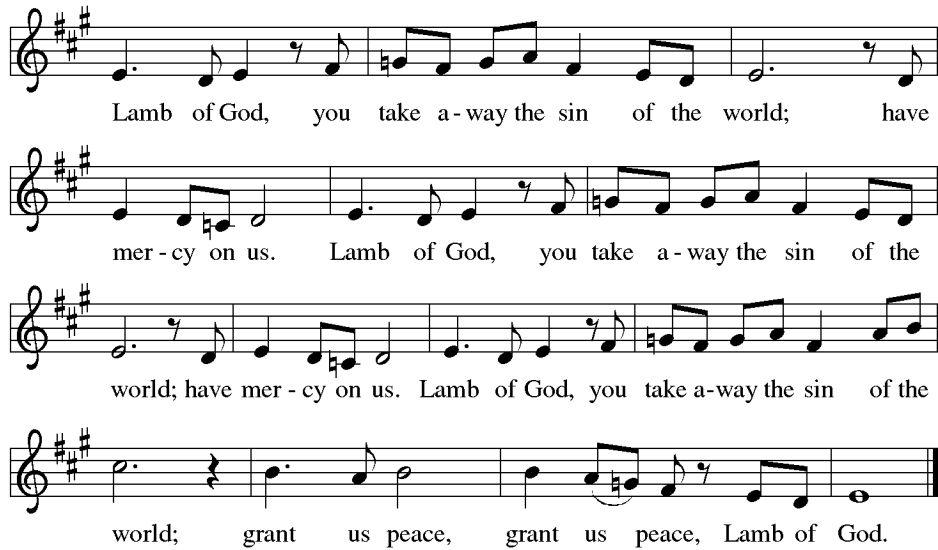
**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

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



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)

Leader or All




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,

All



come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.  
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.  
in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.  
rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.

Leader or All



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,

All



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.

**For the Bread Which You Have Broken (ELW 494)**



1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the wine which you have poured,  
2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re - stored,  
3 With the saints who now a - dore you, seat-ed at the heav'n - ly board,  
4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;



for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.  
by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.  
may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.  
in the world to which you send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

The assembly stands.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

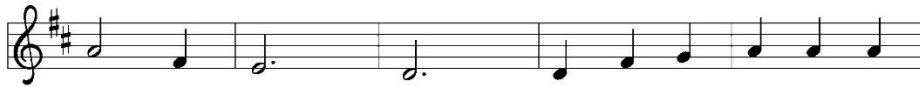
We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN / *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (ELW 815)**



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,  
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

**BLESSING**

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

**Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

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 24
Music	Jill Barnhart	Jill Barnhart
Proclamation (Lector)	Jon Twing	John Black
Hospitality (Greeter)	John & Linda Black	Dave & Kami Poppen
Technology	Jill Taylor	Dave Poppen & Kent Kaufman
Worship (Altar Care)	Paula Casper & Patsy Ernst	Paula Casper & Patsy Ernst

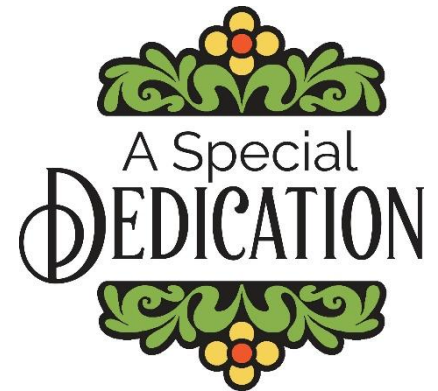


Thank you for worshipping with us today. Just as Jesus welcomed the stranger, we believe all are welcome here. Please join us again next week.

For more information about our life together in Christ, visit:

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

Next Sunday, we will dedicate the water fountain purchased through the Delores Paulsen memorial. The stewardship committee will also be handing out reusable water bottles and providing brunch following worship. Please plan to join us!



## Blessing of Backpacks

**Sunday, August 24  
9:30 AM**

You are invited! Join us in worship and bring your backpack. All are welcome!





**“God’s work. Our hands.” is Sept. 7, 2025!**

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.

**BLC is organizing three service opportunities, welcoming all ages and skill levels to participate and experience the joy of helping others:**

1. **Serving People** – Help members of our congregation and community with household tasks such as minor repairs, cleaning, or moving assistance.

*Do you need a helping hand? Know someone who might? Please contact:*

- David Poppen – (563) 940-8012, dkpoppen@hotmail.com
- Darla Crosthwaite – (563) 357-3624, darlakc2011@hotmail.com

2. **Serving Our Church** – Join us in caring for our church property through landscaping, cleaning, and light repair projects to help beautify our shared place of worship.
3. **Serving Those in Need** – Help assemble school supply kits for children in our community who could use a little extra support as they head back to school.

 **Mark your calendar and join us!**

Let’s be the hands of Christ in our church, community, and beyond.

*Reaching out to find those who would benefit from our services:*

- Need help around the house.
- Do you have a few items that you don’t know how to get repaired?
- Do you have things that you used to be able to do but now find difficult and frustrating.

Bethany Lutheran Church is organizing a repair day. God’s Work Our Hands is a program where the church reaches out to help community members get things done. Typical projects include light cleaning, small landscaping or painting jobs, small repairs around the house, moving furniture.

Please contact David Poppen if you have any projects that you need done.

563-940-8012

dkpoppen@hotmail.com

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## 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.*

