

The Gift of Song
Singing Through the Seasons of Life

Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)
July 12, 2026

This worship is being streamed live via Facebook and posted to our YouTube channel.
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

The assembly stands and responds with the words printed in bold.

CALL TO WORSHIP

There is a season for every matter under heaven.

We gather from many seasons of life.

Some come with hearts full of gratitude.

Some come carrying worry or fear.

Some come seeking strength for the journey.

Some come remembering God's faithfulness through the years.

Some come holding fast to hope.

Through every season, God is with us.

And through every season, God's people have lifted their voices in song.

**Let us worship the Triune God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
with praise, prayer, thanksgiving, and hope.**

PRAYER

Let us pray.

Faithful God, through every season of life you are with us. You give us songs of thanksgiving and trust, songs of strength and remembrance, and songs of hope that proclaim your steadfast love. As we worship you today, open our ears to hear your word, our hearts to receive your grace, and our voices to sing your praise. Through every season, remind us that you are with us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We Sing When We Are Thankful

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 100:1-5

¹ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

² **Serve the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.**

³ Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ **Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.**

Give thanks to him; bless his name.

⁵ For the Lord is good;

his steadfast love endures forever
and his faithfulness to all generations.

REFLECTION

God's people have always lifted songs of thanksgiving. When words alone seem insufficient, music helps us express our gratitude for God's goodness and steadfast love.

PRAYER

Gracious God, receive our songs of gratitude for the many blessings you have given us. Open our hearts to recognize your goodness each day. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer. Amen.

HYMN: Now Thank We All Our God (ELW 840, verses 1 and 3)



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to-day,
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

The assembly is seated.

We Sing When We Are Afraid

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 41:8-10

⁸ But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend; ⁹ you whom I took from the ends of the earth and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant; I have chosen you and not cast you off"; ¹⁰ do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

REFLECTION

Fear is part of being human. Through every generation, God's people have sung, trusting in the One who walks beside them will give calm their souls and sustain them through trials and tribulations.

PRAYER

God of refuge, when fear and uncertainty surround us, remind us that you are near. Let your presence be our comfort and our peace. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer. Amen.

HYMN: Though the Earth Shall Change (ACS 1035) See next page.



Though the earth shall change, though the moun-tains trem-ble,



though the wa - ters rage, you, God, are here.



Though the na - tions war, though the peo - ples bat - tle,



though the em - pire fal - ters, we will not fear.

We Sing When We Need Strength

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness. So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰ Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ, for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

REFLECTION

There are seasons when we feel weak, weary, or burdened. Yet Christ meets us not only in our strengths but also in our weaknesses. God's grace sustains us when our own strength is not enough.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, when we grow weary or burdened, renew us with your grace. Strengthen us for the journey and help us rest in your promises. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer. Amen.

HYMN: Day by Day (ELW 790, verses 1 and 2) *See next page.*



1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter



mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,



lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

We Sing When We Remember

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 77:11-15

- ¹¹ I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord;
I will remember your wonders of old.
- ¹² **I will meditate on all your work
and muse on your mighty deeds.**
- ¹³ Your way, O God, is holy.
What god is so great as our God?
- ¹⁴ **You are the God who works wonders;
you have displayed your might among the peoples.**
- ¹⁵ With your strong arm you redeemed your people,
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

REFLECTION

Songs help us remember God's faithfulness. Many of us learned the faith through hymns sung by parents, grandparents, teachers, and fellow believers.

PRAYER

Faithful God, we thank you for those who have taught us the faith through word and song. Keep us connected to the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer. Amen.

HYMN: Great is Thy Faithfulness (ELW 733)



1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear



shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright



pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy



hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

We Sing Because We Have Hope

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:3-5

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

REFLECTION

Christian hope is rooted in God's promises and in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Even when life is uncertain, we trust that God is at work and that nothing can separate us from God's love. Because Christ is risen, we live with a living hope that carries us through every season of life.

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, fill us with confidence in Christ's promises. Let our songs bear witness to the hope that sustains us today and the joy that awaits us in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen.**

HYMN: My Hope is Built on Nothing Less (ELW 597, verses 1 and 4)



1 My hope is built on nothing 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.

We Sing the Songs that Sustain Us

Throughout our lives, God gives us songs for every season—songs of thanksgiving and trust, songs of comfort and hope. You are now invited to share a hymn that has sustained you on your journey of faith with Jesus. If you wish, you may also share a sentence or two about why it has been meaningful to you.

At the conclusion of the hymn sing, the assembly stands.

Christ Is With Us

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:20

[Jesus said], "And remember, I am with you always."

PRAYER

God of harmony,
you give us music rich in variety,
to connect us with you and all creation.

**We thank you for inspiring poets and musicians
who bring praise to our lips
and give voice to our prayers.**

Through every season of life,
your songs have comforted us, strengthened us,
and reminded us of your faithful presence.

**Let your hope, faith, love, and joy
resound in us and ring throughout the earth.**

Fill us with the rhythm of your heartbeat
as you guide and nurture us in mission with you.

**Send us forth with the promise of Christ,
who is with us always, and in whose name we pray.
Amen.**

HYMN: Go, My Children, with My Blessing (ELW 543, verse 1)



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, clos - er to me.



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."

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

As you depart, share signs of peace with one another.

POSTLUDE

Please join us in the fellowship hall for refreshments.



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

Ministers of:	Today	July 19th
Music	Jill Barnhart	Jill Barnhart
Proclamation (Lector)	Kami Poppen	Patsy Ernst
Technology	Paula Casper	Jill Taylor
Hospitality	Wayne Frauenholtz	John & Linda Black
Worship (Altar Care)	John & Linda Black	John & Linda Black
Food & Fellowship	Marsh Family	Heidi Christensen

OUR
mission

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



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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