

BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

You have a place here!

*"Joyfully we profess our faith through God's unconditional love.
Here and now God dwells in all of our lives,
bears our sins on the cross, and forgives us all."*

12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 am Sunday, August 16, 2026

Pastor David Johnson

TODAYS REFLECTION



In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

All baptized and confessing believers are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

*We hope that your worship experience is spiritually fulfilling
and your day begins with our Lord's gifts of peace and joy*

▼ **Prelude Reflections for Meditation**

▼ **Welcome Greeting—Prayers and Praises**

▲ **Opening Hymn**

“Day of Arising” page 9

▲ **Confession & Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence for Reflection

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.” In the name of God,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

Amen.

▲ **Prayer of the Day**

God of all peoples, **your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you.
Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy,
that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. Amen**

▼ God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)

The First Reading is from Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8

"Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed.

And foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant— these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." The Sovereign Lord declares— he who gathers the exiles of Israel: "I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

▼ God's Word from the Psalms (NRSV)

Psalms 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us **and make his face shine on us—**

so that your ways may be known on earth, **your salvation among all nations.**

May the peoples praise you, God; **may all the peoples praise you.**

May the nations be glad and sing for joy, **for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations of the earth.**

May the peoples praise you, God; **may all the peoples praise you.**

The land yields its harvest; **God, our God, blesses us.**

May God bless us still, **so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.**

▼ God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)

The Second Reading is from Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Don't you know what Scripture says in the passage about Elijah—how he appealed to God against Israel: for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

▼ **Children's Sermon**

▲ **God's Word from the Gospel (NRSV)**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 15: 10-20, 29-32

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them." Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?" He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit."

Peter said, "Explain the parable to us." "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them."

Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly." Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."

He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said. He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." "Yes it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

▼ **Sermon—God's Word Applied to Life**

▼ **Hymn of the Day**

"You Are My All in All" page 10

▲ The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 the Church

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence

For believers around the world who stream to your holy mountain, that all be united in faith and harmony in the body of Christ. Let your church on earth be a witness to the beloved community of your heavenly kingdom. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For your wondrous creation, that it thrives and flourishes as you intend. Raise up wise stewards to defend the natural world against carelessness and destruction. Safeguard endangered species and their habitats. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the nations of the world and all in authority, that they heed the cry of the outcast and ensure care for the most vulnerable. Give wisdom to leaders of countries, congregations, and communities, that they lead and serve justly. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all who are lonely, grieving, or struggling with chronic pain, that they find comfort, community, and hope. Send relief to all who struggle with illness of any kind (*especially those we name before you now*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For this congregation, for visitors and those new to this faith community, that all may recognize the presence of Christ in each new face. Draw this community together in love and strengthen it in unwavering faith. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the saints before us whose work is done, that their faithful example continues to direct your church. May their witness remind us that your gifts and calling are irrevocable, whether in life or death. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

▲ Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Greet each other with a sign of Christ's peace.

▼ **Offering and Presentation of the Gifts**

Mission Designation July-September—**Feed America-Good Samaritan**

▼ **Offering Prayer**

Loving God,
 we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
 Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
 so that all creation can taste your abundance.
 We ask this in the name of Jesus,
 through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
 Amen.

▼ **The Great Thanksgiving and 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, 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.

▼ **The Lord's Prayer**

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 and Distribution of Communion**

Heaven has come near.
 Come, share in the feast!

Let Us Break Bread Together



1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

▼ *Post Communion Blessing*

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you
 and keep you in His grace until He comes again. In the name of the Father,
 and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

▼ **Post Communion Prayer**

Compassionate God,
 through the gifts of bread and wine
 our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
 Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
 may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
 We ask this in the name of Jesus,
 through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
 Amen.

THE SENDING*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*▼ **Closing Hymn***“Precious Lord, Take My Hand” page 11*▼ **Announcements***Anyone is welcome to make announcements at this time*▲ **Blessing and Dismissal**

The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
 In the name of the Father and the † Son and the Holy Spirit.
 Amen.

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Day of Arising



1 Day of a - ris - ing, Christ on the road - way,
 2 When we are walk - ing, doubt - ful and dread - ing,
 3 Lo, I am with you, Je - sus has spo - ken.
 4 Christ, our com - pan - ion, hope for the jour - ney,



un - known com - pan - ion walks with his own.
 blind - ed by sad - ness, slow - ness of heart,
 This is Christ's prom - ise, this is Christ's sign:
 bread of com - pas - sion, o - pen our eyes.



When they in - vite him, as fades the first day,
 yet Christ walks with us ev - er a - wait - ing
 when the church gath - ers, when bread is bro - ken,
 Grant us your vi - sion, set all hearts burn - ing



and bread is bro - ken, Christ is made known.
 our in - vi - ta - tion: Stay, do not part.
 there Christ is with us in bread and wine.
 that all cre - a - tion with you may rise.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic melody

Text © 1996 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress

You Are My All In All

Words and Music by
Dennis Jernigan

♩ = 80

VERSE

D A Bm Bm⁷ F#m



1. You are my strength when I am weak. You are the treas - ure that I
2. Tak - ing my sin, my cross, my shame, Ris - ing a - gain I bless Your

3 Em⁷ D/A A⁷ D A⁷ D A



seek. You are my all in all. _____ Seek-ing You as a pre - cious
name; You are my all in all. _____ When I fall down, You pick me

CHORUS

6 Bm Bm⁷ F#m Em⁷ D/A A⁷ G/D D D A



jew'l, Lord, to give up I'd be a fool. You are my all in all. Je - sus,
up; When I am dry, You fill my cup; You are my all in all.

10 Bm Bm⁷ F#m Em⁷ D/A A⁷ D A⁷



Lamb of God, wor - thy is Your name! _____

13 D A Bm Bm⁷ F#m Em⁷ D/A A⁷ G/D D



Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is Your name!

Precious Lord, Take My Hand



1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me
 2. When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger
 3. When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws



stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
 near, When my life is al - most gone,
 near, And the day is past and gone,



Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the
 Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand lest I
 At the riv - er I stand, Guide my feet, hold my



light, Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
 fall. Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
 hand. Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993

Tune: PRECIOUS LORD, 66 9 D; George N. Allen; arr. by Kelly Dobbs Mickus, b.1966

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Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

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MORE SPECIAL WAYS TO GIVE THROUGH YOUR TIME AND TALENTS

Sunday Worship Lectors and Communion Assistants are needed

Maintenance chores around the facility

Christian Education Volunteers

BETHANY WEEKLY EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday	9:00 am Worship, in the Great Room and Facebook Live-Stream/Video
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Tuesday	9:00 am Community Coffee in Great Room
	9:00 am Cover Girls in Classroom

Wednesday	10:30 am Women's Bible Study via ZOOM
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Thursday	7:00 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study in Great Room
	11:00 am Women's Bible Study in Conference Room
	6:30 Pub Theology

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