

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."

TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 am on Sunday, October 11 , 2020

Holy Communion Worship

Pastor Dave Johnson, presiding



In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

ALL ARE WELCOME

The family of Bethany hopes that your worship experience is spiritually fulfilling and your day begins with our Lord's gifts of peace and joy.

As Christians of the Reformation tradition, we believe that the Sacrament of the Altar is the Real Presence of Christ's body and blood, instituted by Christ Himself as a sign of unity. All baptized and confessing believers are welcome to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. For those who are worshipping online at home, communion kits may be picked up in the parking lot at Bethany on Saturdays between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. and on Sundays between 8 and 8:30 a.m.

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR PENTECOST SEASON

Minister/Leaders speak regular print—Congregation speaks bold print

THE GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

▼ **Prelude Reflections for Meditation**

▼ **Welcome and Greeting**

▼ **Prayers and Praises**

▲ **Invocation**

We gather together in the name of the Father,
the † Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

▲ **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

Faithful God,
have mercy on us.

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you**

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:
Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.
Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

▼ **Greeting**

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**

Lord of the feast,
**you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with
abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is
honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness
and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

▼ **God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)**

A reading from Isaiah 25:1-9

O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

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

▼ **God's Word from the Psalms (NRSV)**

Let us read responsively from Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

▼ **God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)**

A reading from Philippians 4:1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your

gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

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

▲ The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 22:1-14
Glory to You, O Lord

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

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

▼ **Hymn of the Day**

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing,” 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 Intercession**

With confidence in God’s grace and mercy, let us pray for the church,
 the world, and all those in need.

brief silence

Gracious host, fill your church with a spirit of joyous hospitality.
 We pray for bishops, teachers, church leaders, and all children of God
 as they invite others to your table of boundless grace.
 Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, as creation waits with eager longing for redemption,
 protect your creatures that are mistreated.
 Restore valleys, mountains and pastures, and still and running waters.
 Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, as you set a table in the presence of enemies, so bless the efforts of diplomats, international peace workers, and world leaders who navigate conflict. May they proceed with dialogue and understanding, so that justice and peace prevails.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, let your gentleness be known among those who are weary, grieving, or ill especially *the family of Rod Walter, Tim, Barbara, Mike Day; Ava Johnson Mitchell (Pastor Dave's Aunt); those who have received prayer shawls and are in need of comfort; those who have requested special prayers through our website; and others that we now name silently or aloud.*

brief silence

Strengthen doctors, medical care workers, and caretakers who see to their needs.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, when we are quick to judge outward appearance, remind us how you clothe all in your mercy. We pray for ministries that provide needed clothing and other personal care assistance in this community.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear now these other intercessions.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, as we remember those who have died and are gathered at the heavenly banquet, comfort us with your presence.

Assure us of your peace at all times.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of 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 love and the sign of Christ's peace.

▼ **Offering and Presentation of the Gifts***October—December Mission ~ Adopt-A-Family*▲ **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 To Communion**

Come to the banquet table
where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

▼ **Distribution of Communion**

▲ **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**

We give you thanks, gracious God,
**that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare,
the body and blood of Christ.**
**Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,
into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and
thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ
and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

▲ **Hymn of Sending**

“For the Fruit of All Creation,” page 11

▲ **Blessing**

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.

Announcements

Anyone is welcome to announce upcoming events or share thoughts of interest.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

For the Fruit of All Creation



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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ALTAR FLOWERS

Are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of Alpha Wendt & husband Mickey by Pat Horwitz & Family

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Christ in Our Home, the daily devotion booklets, are now available for October through December in regular and large print formats. Pick them up at the church when communion kits are distributed or at the entrance to Sunday worship. Contact the church office to have the devotions mailed to your home.

All are invited to Community Coffee at 9 a.m. every Tuesday in the Pavilion and **The Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** at 7 a.m. every Thursday in the Great Room.

Please contact the church office to request additions or to make changes to the prayer list published in our weekly bulletin and newsletter.

Communion kits are available for pick-up in the Bethany parking lot from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday and 8 to 8:30 a.m. on Saturday. This is done so those who worship online from their homes have the opportunity to receive communion.

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor Dave Johnson, phone and e-mail: 651-769-3365, ftp565@yahoo.com

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.—12 noon, Monday and Thursday, and by appointment.

Tuesday and Wednesday: by appointment.

Lori Ward, Secretary

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