

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."*

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

9:00 am Sunday, November 3, 2024

Pastor Dave Johnson

TODAY'S REFLECTION



Of all three years of the lectionary cycle, this year's All Saints readings have the most tears. Isaiah and Revelation look forward to the day when God will wipe away all tears; in John's gospel, Jesus weeps along with Mary and all the gathered mourners before he demonstrates his power over death. On All Saints Day we celebrate the victory won for all the faithful dead, but we grieve for our beloved dead as well, knowing that God honors our tears. We bring our grief to the table and find there a foretaste of Isaiah's feast to come.

ACOLYTE AND GREETER

**OWEN DUNKES
WYATT DUNKES**

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**

“Wonderful Words Of Life” page 9

▲ **Confession & Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our refuge, our delight,
our beginning and our end. **Amen.**

Let us come in truth before the one who loves us
and has freed us from our sin.

Silence for Reflection

Eternal One, robed in majesty and mercy,
**we confess that sin has taken hold of us
and we are complicit in its power.**

We are disturbed in spirit and our hearts cannot rest.

Unbind us and set us free.

**Lead us again to the waters of rebirth,
that we may live just and generous lives
for the good of your world
and the care of our neighbors,**

following in the servant way of Jesus. Amen.

These words are trustworthy and true:
Christ bore our sins once, for all, on the cross,
swallowing up death forever.

For his sake, you are, † forgiven
and God remembers your sin no more.

Let your heart be glad again,
and rejoice in your salvation. **Amen.**

▲ Prayer of the Day

Almighty God,

you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

▼ God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)

The First Reading is from Isaiah 25:6-9

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)

Psalm 24

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;
for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?

Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation.

Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah

Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

Who is the King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah.

▼ God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)

The Second Reading is from Revelation 21:1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one

who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

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

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

The Holy Gospel according to John 11:32-44

Glory to you, O Lord.

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

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

▼ **Confirmand's Faith Statement**

Owen and Wyatt Dunkes

▼ **Hymn of the Day**

"He Lives", page 10

▼ **Affirmation of Baptism**

I present Owen and Wyatt Dunkes
who desires to make public affirmation of their baptism.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for brothers, Owen and Wyatt, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit and nourished them in the community of faith.

Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism,
and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.

We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

I ask you both to profess your faith in Christ Jesus,
reject sin and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
Confirmand response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
Confirmand response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
Confirmand response: I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Confirmand response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support these brothers
and pray for them in his life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit
you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin and raise us to eternal life.

Stir up in Owen and Wyatt the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us rejoice with our brothers in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

▲ *Prayers of the Church*

Let us intercede before the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for the sake of the Church, the world, and one another.

A brief silence

Thank you, dear Lord, for those forgiven sinners we call saints. Thank you for giving us a glimpse of your glory shining through their words and deeds. Thank you that, in Jesus, you have wiped away all their tears and taken away all their shame. Thank you for promising this to us, too. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Save and defend your Church, purchased with the blood of Christ. Give it righteous pastors and bishops. Defend it when it is attacked. Purify and heal it when it sins. Make it perfect in love and good works. Keep it steadfast in the faith once delivered to the saints, so that one holy Church may bear witness to you, the creator and redeemer of all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give your persecuted Church the blessings promised by Jesus. Let it rejoice in being united to his Passion. Give it the peace that passes human understanding. Grant repentance and faith to all who hate the name of Jesus. Give them grace to bind up the wounds they have inflicted upon the Body of Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Draw to yourself the hearts of this congregation's members. Guide our minds; fill our imaginations; control our wills, so that we may be wholly yours. Use us as you will, always to your glory and the welfare of your people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Set before us the example of your saints, great and small. Inspire us by their faith, generosity, and compassion. Strengthen us to endure, as they did, hardship and persecution for the sake of proclaiming Christ crucified to an unbelieving world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We commend all nations into your merciful care. Let everyone live in peace and be guided by your providence. Give those in authority the wisdom to know your will and the strength to do it. Grant to them – and to all of us! – a double portion of your Spirit, so that justice, mercy, righteousness, and peace may prevail. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We ask your special blessing as many of us approach a national election. Give us wisdom, discernment, and the grace to put your will for our country above personal or partisan interests. Grant us a peaceful and uncontested outcome and transfer of power. Bless us with your healing and holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Comfort with the grace of your Holy Spirit all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, *especially for those we name before you now (either in silence or out loud)*. Give wholeness and hope to all who cry out to you for help. Have mercy on the dying, and comfort the grieving. And to all, grant a measure of your love, shielding them with your tender care. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for all of our blessed dead who rest now in your care. Raise them to the life promised to all whom you have redeemed by the Cross and Resurrection of your Son. Grant that we, who walk as yet by faith and not by sight, may by your Holy Spirit continue our course on earth with steadfast hope, constant love, and unquenchable joy. Gather us, with all of your people, at that eternal high feast that celebrates your victory over sin and death, won for us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For Jesus' sake, dear Father, graciously hear and generously answer our fervent petitions, to your glory and for the benefit off for whom we pray. **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.

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

▼ **Offering and Presentation of the Gifts**

October—December Mission Designation ~ **Adopt-A-Family/Senior**

▼ **Offering Prayer**

Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup,
you offered yourself in love for the world,
and in this meal you nourish us with your life.

Fill us with your abundance,
that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger,
trusting in your name. Amen.

▼ **The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution** *See Bulletin Insert*

▼ **The Lord's Prayer**

See Bulletin Insert

▼ **Invitation and Distribution of Communion**

Behold, God is making all things new.
Take your place in the new creation.

“Let Us Break Bread Together” **See Bulletin Insert**

▼ **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**

Faithful God,
**you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink
in the body and blood of your Son.
Now send us out to labor with you,
in service to the world you have made,
and among the people you have made your home,
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

▼ **Closing Hymn**

“You Fill All Creation” 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.**

Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Wonderful Words of Life



1 Sing them o - ver a - gain to me, won - der - ful words of life;
 2 Christ, the bless - ed One, gives to all won - der - ful words of life;
 3 Sweet - ly ech - o the gos - pel call, won - der - ful words of life;



let me more of their beau - ty see, won - der - ful words of life.
 sin - ner, list to the lov - ing call, won - der - ful words of life.
 of - fer par - don and peace to all, won - der - ful words of life.



Words of life and beau - ty, teach me faith and du - ty:
 All so free - ly giv - en, woo - ing us to heav - en:
 Je - sus, on - ly Sav - ior, sanc - ti - fy for - ev - er:



Beau - ti - ful words, won - der - ful words, won - der - ful words of life.

life.

He Lives

Words and Music by
Alfred Henry Ackley



1. I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, He's in the world to - day; — I
2. In all the world a - round me I see His lov - ing care; — And
3. Re - joice, re - joice, O Chris - tian, lift up your voice and sing — E -



know that He is liv - ing, what - ev - er men may say. — I see His hand of
though my heart grows wea - ry, I nev - er will de - spair. — I know that He is
-ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ, the King! — The Hope of all who



mer - cy, I hear His voice of cheer, — and just the time I need Him, — He's
lead - ing through all the storm - y blast; — The day of His ap - pear - ing — will
seek Him, the Help of all who find, — none oth - er is so lov - ing, — so



al - ways near. He lives, — He lives! — Christ Je - sus lives — to -
come at last.
good and kind.



-day! — He walks with me and talks with me a - long life's nar - row way. — He



lives, — He lives, — sal - va - tion to im - part! — You



ask me how I know He lives? He lives with - in my heart! —

CCLI Song # 17597

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You Fill All Creation



1 You fill all cre - a - tion, O Source and Sum - ma - tion, de -
2 O In - fi - nite Cen - ter, our o - pen hearts en - ter, take



scend - ed, as - cend - ed, you fill all the earth.
from us all false - ness, un - ho - ly, un - wise;



You, Christ, are the meas - ure of life's tru - est treas - ure; your
then bathed in God's boun - ty and bound to your bod - y, your



grace is our be - ing; your pres - ence, our worth.
peo - ple may flour - ish and grow in - to Christ.



To each you have giv - en the gifts of your
One faith is our sto - ry, one God is our



heav - en and called us to ser - vice un - self - ish and true.
glo - ry, one hope holds cre - a - tion be - low and a - bove:



So graced by one Spir - it your peace we in - her - it, and
that God in Christ dwell - ing with Spir - it up - well - ing may



all our small la - bors con - verge in - to you.
fash - ion one peo - ple u - nit - ed by love.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien

Music: THE ASH GROVE; Welsh folk tune

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MORE SPECIAL WAYS TO GIVE THROUGH YOUR TIME AND TALENTS

Sunday Worship Lectors and Communion Assistants are needed

Service Assistant to advance projected bulletin slides

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
Tuesday	9:00 am Community Coffee in Great Room 9:00 am Cover Girls in Classroom
Wednesday	10:00 am Women's Bible Study via ZOOM
Thursday	7:00 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study in Great Room 10:00 am Women's Bible Study in Conference Room

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