

BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

You have a place here!

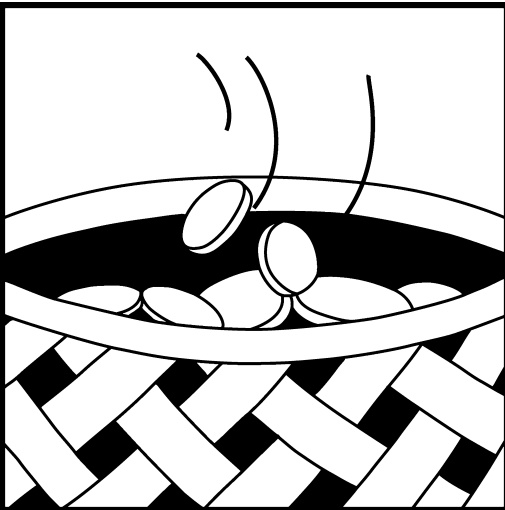
*"Joyfully we profess our faith through God's unconditional love.
Here and now God dwells in all of our lives,
bears our sins on the cross, and forgives us all."*

25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 am Sunday, November 10, 2024

Pastor Dave Johnson

TODAY'S REFLECTION



Widows are visible everywhere in today's readings. Jesus denounces those scribes who pray impressive prayers but devour widows' houses. He commends the poor widow who in his view gave far more than the major donors. Jesus doesn't see her simply as an object of compassion or charity. She, like the widow of Zarephath who shares her last bit of food with Elijah, does something of great importance.

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**

“This Is My Father’s World” 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

O God,
 you show forth your almighty power chiefly by reaching out to us in mercy. Grant us the fullness of your grace, strengthen our trust in your promises, and bring all the world to share in the treasures that come through your Son, 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)

The First Reading is from 1 Kings 17:8-16

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you." So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink." As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." But she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth." She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

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

▼ God's Word from the Psalms (NRSV)

Psalm 146

The Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,
who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;
 who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

**the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
 the Lord loves the righteous.**

The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow,
 but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

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

The Second Reading is from Hebrews 9:24-28

For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

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

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

The Holy Gospel according to Mark 12:38-44

Glory to you, O Lord.

As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation." He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

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

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

▼ **Hymn of the Day**

"Come, You Thankful People, Come", 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*

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

Father, sometimes it's hard to trust that you will provide what we truly need. Whether we face a personal crisis, a regional weather catastrophe, or a time of national uncertainty or strife, we're more apt to trust Ben Franklin's line that "God helps those who help themselves!" Help us to cast all our cares on you. Help us to be generous to others in need, even when we feel the pinch. Help us to commend ourselves, one another, and our whole lives to you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Adorn your whole church in the loveliness of faith, hope, and charity. Let its words and deeds show Jesus to the world. Use it to enrich the empty-hearted, the broken-hearted, and the hard-hearted with the generosity, forgiveness, and grace of your dear Son, who gave himself for their salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give strength and healing to everyone who is persecuted on account of their faith in Jesus. Fill them with your unfailing and gracious presence. By their witness, soften the hearts of all who hate your Son and his followers, until the whole world is united in praising him. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sometimes we're afraid to be generous as we look at rising costs and shrinking offerings! Grant bold trust and wise generosity to the people of this congregation, dear Lord. Give us wisdom and ingenuity to find creative and faithful ways of sharing the blessings – material and spiritual – you've lavished upon us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We ask your blessing upon our nation; upon all newly-elected leaders; and upon all who may be called upon to serve their country in a new administration. Pour out upon them, and on us all, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge and fear of the Lord, and joy in your presence. Help us to do your will in ways small and great, knowing that in so doing, we glorify you and build up all your people, here and throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless, heal, comfort, and cheer all who suffer and cry to you for help, *especially for those we name before you now (either in silence or out loud)*. Give them grace to cast all their cares on you, trusting that you care for them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal Father, your mercy is great toward all who fear, trust, and love you. Thank you for keeping our beloved dead safely in your eternal care. Keep us there, too, we humbly pray. Help us to cling to Jesus with one hand, and to reach out to a neighbor in need with the other. By your grace, lead us to your eternal home, where with all whom Jesus has redeemed by his Cross, death, and resurrection, we will rejoice in your amazing grace and lavish love forever. 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 of 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*

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

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

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.

▼ **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**

“Praise And Thanksgiving” 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!

This Is My Father's World



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
 2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
 3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,



na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
 morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
 This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
 This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
 rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.
 Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858–1901

Music: TERRA PATRIS, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852–1930, adapt.

Come, You Thankful People, Come



1 Come, you thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield.
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to your fi - nal har - vest home.



All is safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way,
 Gath - er all your peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, does pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in your gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come, with all your an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.

Music: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

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Praise and Thanksgiving

C Am Dm G Am G Am

1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, Fa - ther, we of - fer For all things
 2 Bless, Lord, the la - bor We bring to serve you, That with our
 3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing Food for your chil - dren, By your wise
 4 Then will your bless - ing Reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, Free - ly con -

Em Am Em G C Am F C

liv - ing, Cre - at - ed good: Har - vest of sown fields, Fruits of the
 neigh - bor We may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, We would work
 guid - ing Teach us to share One with an - oth - er, So that, re -
 fess - ing Your gra - cious hand. Where all o - bey you, No one will

Am G C G Am G C

or - chard, Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood.
 with you, Har - vest - ing, mill - ing For dai - ly bread.
 joic - ing With us, all oth - ers May know your care.
 hun - ger; In your love's sway you Nour - ish the land.

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

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ONLINE BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH OFFERING DONATIONS

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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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