

# 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."*

---

## 5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 am Sunday, July 13, 2025

*Pastor David Johnson*

### TODAY'S REFLECTION



To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God's mercy in responding to one's neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the "gospel that has come to you"—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you.

---

*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**

*"What A Fellowship What A Joy Divine", page 9*

▲ **Confession & Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*Silence for Reflection*

Merciful God,  
**you free us to love others,  
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.  
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,  
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.  
You surround us with patience, kindness,  
and generosity,  
but we grow weary in doing what is right.  
In your mercy, forgive us.  
Do not give up on us.  
Heal us, break our bonds,  
and show us the path of life. Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus  
and you are God's children through faith.  
In the cross of † Christ,  
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
your sins are forgiven.  
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

## ▲ Prayer of the Day

O Lord God,  
your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of  
everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of 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 Deuteronomy 30:9-14*

The Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, when you obey the Lord your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. "Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

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

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

*Psalm 25:1-10*

Make To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.

**Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.**

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love  
remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

**Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way.

**All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

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

*The Second Reading is from Colossians 1:1-14*

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit. For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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

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

*The Holy Gospel according to Luke 10:25-37*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

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

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

▼ **Hymn of the Day**

*“They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love”, 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**

By the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to God our Father in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord, making intercession for the Church, the world, and for all people according to their need.

*A brief silence*

Thank you, Lord, for giving us the ministry of showing mercy to others. We confess that sometimes we are distracted or self-absorbed. We make excuses for “passing by on the other side.” Forgive us, Father, and kindle your Holy Spirit within our hearts. Make us signs of your love to those who need it most. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

When your Church lies wounded and bleeding, and its leaders pass by on the other side, send your dear Son to be her Good Samaritan. Anoint her with the oil of healing and gladness. Feed her with the medicine of immortality, the Body and Blood of her Savior. And raise her up to be your “Mercy Hospital” for a hurting and hurtful world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fill the hearts of everyone in this congregation with kindness and mercy. Make us holy and humble, gentle and good, courageous and compassionate, all in equal measure. Make us into your kindly beasts of burden who bear wounded and dying souls to the healing presence of Jesus, their Good Physician. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our persecuted sisters and brothers cry to you for help. Give them strength, hope, and courage in their suffering. Do not let us ignore their plight. Forgive and transform evildoers who have wounded them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give sharp eyes, wise hearts, and generous hands to our elected and appointed leaders, wherever they are given authority and power. Help each of us to notice our neighbor’s distress. Give us all the grace and the willingness to show them mercy. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Protect the farms, businesses, and homes of those affected by flood, fire, wind, or drought. Keep safe all who work to repair and strengthen bridges, roads, dams, and levees. Open wide the hands of all your people, to help provide for those whose homes and livelihoods have been washed or shriveled away. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring the healing balm of Jesus' grace and mercy to all who are wounded in body, mind, or spirit, *especially remember those we name before you now (either in silence or out loud)*. Bless all who act as Good Samaritans to them. Let all that is needed for health and hope be provided, and restore them to full fellowship with all who love them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for giving your fullest healing to our beloved dead. Bind up the hearts of those still wounded by grief. Help us to show kindness and mercy to everyone we meet throughout our earthly pilgrimage, for we do not know the burden of suffering they bear. Fill us with your life-giving Spirit. And, by your grace, bring us into your house of healing, life, love, and peace, which your Son has prepared for all whom he has redeemed, and where we shall abide with you forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the power of the Holy Spirit, we entrust our prayers and petitions into your hands, gracious Father, for the sake of your beloved 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.*

## **THE MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

### ▼ **Offering and Presentation of the Gifts**

*July—September Mission Designation*

*Good Samaritan Fund/Feeding America*

### ▼ **Offering Prayer**

Creator God,

**in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful.**

**Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor,  
that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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 ovenant 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**

The kingdom of God is set before you.

Eat and rejoice.

### 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: BREAL 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**

Mothering God,  
you gathered us to your table  
and we drank deeply of your grace.  
Send us out by your Spirit  
to love our neighbors as ourselves  
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.  
**Amen.**

## **THE SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

▼ **Closing Hymn**

*"Sent Forth By God's Blessing", 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. Live by the Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**



# What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

## *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*



- 1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
- 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
- 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?

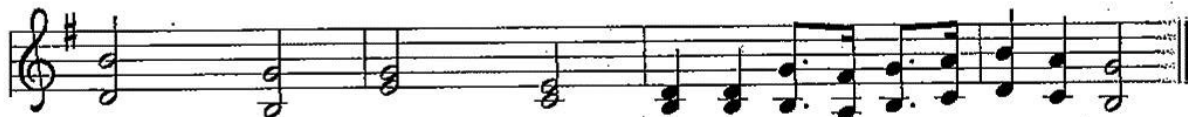


what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms,  
 oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms,  
 I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

### *Refrain*



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.

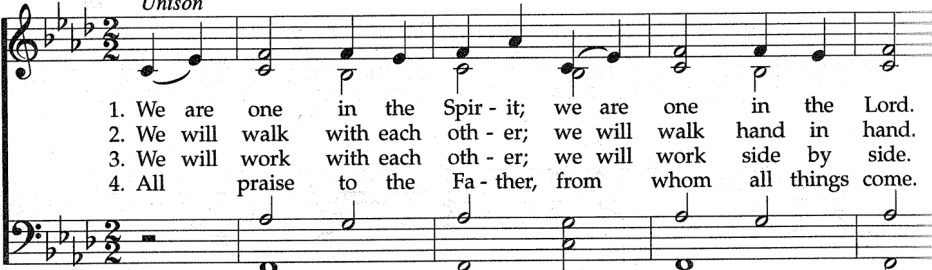
Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839-1919  
 Music: Anthony J. Showalter, 1858-1924

SHOWALTER  
 10 9 10 9 and refrain

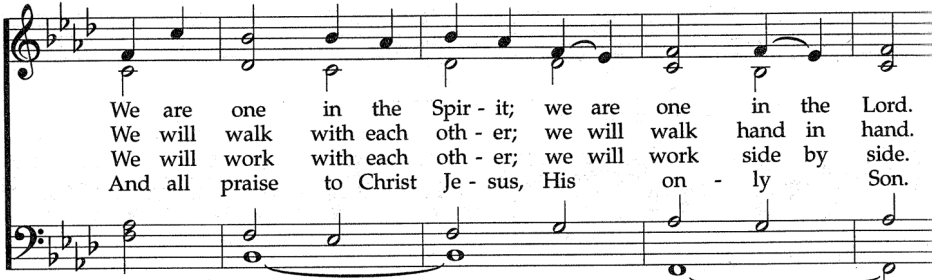
# 429 They'll Know We Are Christians

*By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another. John 13:35*

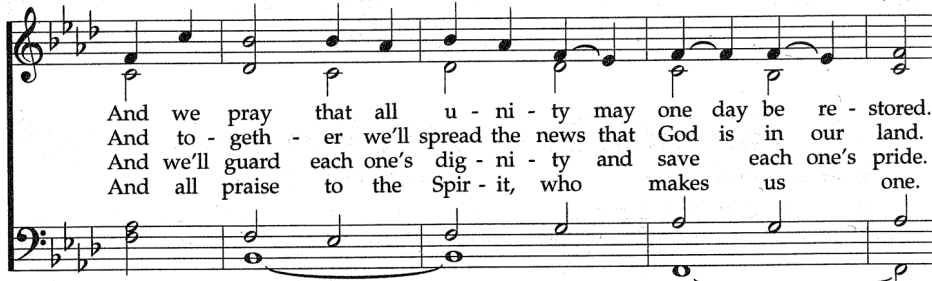
*Unison*



1. We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.  
 2. We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.  
 3. We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.  
 4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come.

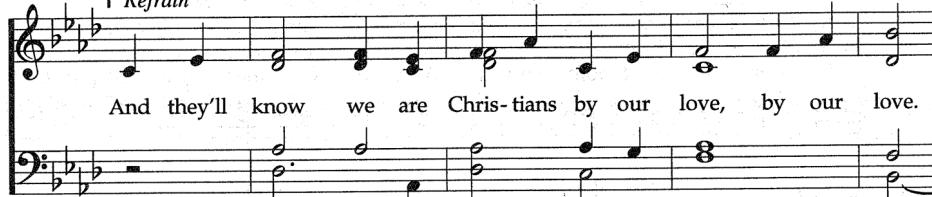


We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.  
 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.  
 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.  
 And all praise to Christ Je - sus, His on - ly Son.

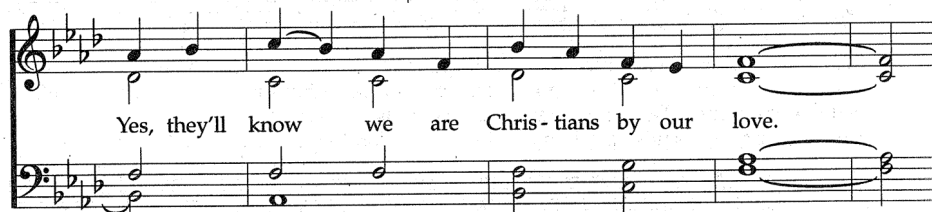


And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.  
 And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.  
 And we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride.  
 And all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one.

☐ *Refrain*



And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love.



Yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

TEXT: Peter Scholtes; based on John 13:35

MUSIC: Peter Scholtes

© Copyright 1966 by F.E.L. Publications. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

ST. BRENDAN'S  
Irregular meter

## Sent Forth by God's Blessing

- 1 Sent forth by God's blessing,  
our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended.  
Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of Christ's teaching,  
receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
Your grace shall incite us,  
your love shall unite us  
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.
  
- 2 With praise and thanksgiving  
to God ever-living,  
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—  
our faith ever sharing,  
in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children, the whole human race.  
With your feast you feed us,  
with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living  
with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.

Text © 1964 World Library Publications, 3708 River Rd., Suite 400, Franklin Park, IL 60131. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

130 O'Dill Drive, Norway, Michigan 49870      [www.norwaybethany.org](http://www.norwaybethany.org)

OFFICE PHONE 906-563-8472      EMAIL [bethanyoffice@norwaymi.com](mailto:bethanyoffice@norwaymi.com)

### Pastor Dave Johnson

PHONE/TEXT 651-769-3365      EMAIL [ftp565@yahoo.com](mailto:ftp565@yahoo.com)

## ONLINE BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH OFFERING DONATIONS

are available following these easy steps from our secure Website or Facebook Page

**[norwaybethany.org](http://norwaybethany.org):** Click the donate button on the upper right side of the page to directly access Bethany's secure PayPal Account.

**[facebook.com/BethanyLutheranChurchElca](https://www.facebook.com/BethanyLutheranChurchElca):** Click the "Shop Now" button on the upper right corner to directly access Bethany's secure PayPal Account.

## 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

<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 am Worship, in the Great Room and Facebook Live-Stream/Video
<b>Tuesday</b>	9:00 am Community Coffee in Great Room 9:00 am Cover Girls in Classroom
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00 am Women's Bible Study via ZOOM
<b>Thursday</b>	7:00 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study in Great Room 10:00 am Women's Bible Study in Conference Room

### Copyright Permissions:

- From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2005 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #46211
- OneLicense.net License #A-722709
- CCLI—Christian Copyright Licensing #11270064
- New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.