

# 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."*

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## 8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 am Sunday, August 3, 2025

*Pastor David Johnson*



### TODAY'S REFLECTION

Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

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*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**

*"Servant Song", 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*

Benevolent God,  
**you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving,  
 to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight,  
 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)*

*The First Reading is from Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23*

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. Remember your creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years draw near when you will say, "I have no pleasure in them"; before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return with the rain; in the day when the guards of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the women who grind cease working because they are few, and those who look through the windows see dimly; when the doors on the street are shut, and the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low; when one is afraid of heights, and terrors are in the road; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and the caper bud falls; because all must go to their eternal home, and the mourners will go about the streets; before the silver cord is snapped, and the golden bowl is broken, and the pitcher is broken at the fountain, and the wheel broken at the cistern, and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the breath returns to God who gave it. Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher; all is vanity.

Besides being wise, the Teacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs. The Teacher sought to find pleasing words, and he wrote words of truth plainly. The sayings of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings that are given by one shepherd. Of anything beyond these, my child, beware. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh. The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God, and keep his commandments, for that is the whole duty of everyone. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil. I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

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

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

*Psalms 49:1-12*

Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all inhabitants of the world,  
 both low and high, rich and poor together.

**My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.**

I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle to the music of the harp.

**Why should I fear in times of trouble, when the iniquity of my persecutors surrounds me,**

**those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches?**

Truly, no ransom avails for one's life; there is no price one can give to God for it.

**For the ransom of life is costly and can never suffice, that one should live on forever  
and never see the Pit.**

When we look at the wise, they die; fool and dolt perish together and leave their wealth to others.

**Their graves are their homes forever, their dwelling places to all generations,  
though they named lands their own.**

Mortals cannot abide in their pomp; they are like the animals that perish.

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

*The Second Reading is from Colossians 3:1-11*

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

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

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

*The Holy Gospel according to Luke 12:13-21*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

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

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

### ▼ **Hymn of the Day**

*"Will You Let Me Be Your Servant", 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 Let us pray for the Church, the world, and for one another.

*A brief silence*

Heavenly Father, you bless greatly, us even when we think we have very little! You give us life and breath. Each new day gives us a chance to repent, forgive, and share Jesus' love. Help us to thank you for these things, to enjoy them rightly; and to share them generously. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Clothe your Church with Christ. Put away from it all evil desires, words, and deeds. Fill it with your Spirit, so it abounds in every good gift, overflows with Jesus' life, and leads many to faith in him. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fill the people of this congregation with wisdom and humility. Remind us that everything is done for you, not for ourselves, and that we must one day render an account of our stewardship of your blessings. Make us faithful, generous, and holy. Use us to draw many people into your fatherly embrace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Keep your persecuted Church in your care, and bless their faithful witness. Help us to provide for our suffering sisters and brothers from the storehouses of our spiritual and material riches. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your blessing upon our nation – and for all nations. Guide our leaders with your Spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might. Remind them that they are to be faithful and honest stewards of the power and authority entrusted to them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, lead us on the hard path of discipleship. Teach us virtues that are often unpopular: responsibility, accountability, and self-sacrifice, grounded in faith toward you and fervent love for one another. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift before you the suffering and sorrow of your people, *especially remember those we name before you now (either in silence or out loud)*. Anoint them with the oil of gladness. Heal wounds to body, mind, and soul. Grant that, with those who love them, they may enter your gates with thanksgiving, and go into your courts with praise. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, keep our beloved dead close to your heart. Comfort all whose grief runs deep. By the power of your Spirit, turn our hearts from the folly of sin. Keep us focused on Jesus and his love for us. Make us channels of his forgiveness and grace, because so many people need them. By your mercy, bring us into your Kingdom, where with all the redeemed, we shall praise and adore you forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear our prayers, gracious Father, offered through the power of the Spirit; and for the sake of your dear Son, grant us all that is in accordance with your merciful will, to your glory and for the good of your people. **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 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*

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*

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▼ **Closing Hymn**

*"Will You Come And Follow Me", 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!**



# SERVANT SONG

Donna Marie McGargill, OSM

## Verses



1. What do you want of me, Lord? Where do you
2. I hear you call my name, Lord, and I am
3. A - bove, be - low, and a - round me, be - fore, be -
4. You are the light in my dark - ness. You are my
5. I am your song and ser - vant, sing - ing your



1. want me to serve you? Where can I sing your
2. moved with - in me. Your Spir - it stirs my
3. hind, and all through me, your Spir - it burns deep with -
4. strength when I'm wea - ry. You give me sight when I'm
5. praise like Ma - ry. Sur - ren - dered to your

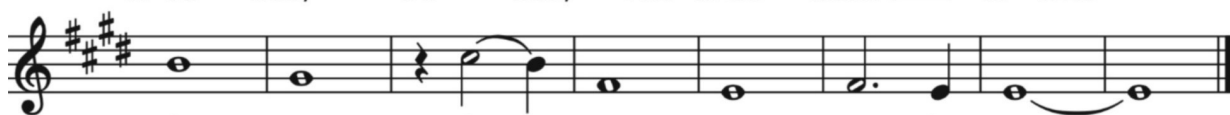


1. prais - es? I am your song.
2. deep - est self. Sing your songs in me.
3. in me. Fire my life with your love.
4. blind - ed. Come, see for me.
5. Spir - it, "Let it be done to me."

## Refrain



1. Je - sus, Je - sus, you are the Lord.
2. Je - sus, Je - sus, you are my Lord.
3. Je - sus, Je - sus, be the warmth of my heart.
4. Je - sus, Je - sus, you are my Light.
5. Je - sus, Je - sus, "Let it be done to me."



- 1-5. Je - sus, Je - sus, you are the way.

## Will You Let Me Be Your Servant



1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as  
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers  
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time  
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll  
 5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as



Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to  
 on the road; we are here to help each oth - er  
 of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,  
 laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row  
 Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to



let you be my ser - vant, too.  
 walk the mile and bear the load.  
 speak the peace you long to hear.  
 till we've seen this jour - ney through.  
 let you be my ser - vant, too.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953

Music: THE SERVANT SONG, Richard Gillard

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 c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Coady Road, Mobile AL 36695.

# Will You Come and Follow Me

## *The Summons*

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call  
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call  
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call  
4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call  
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't  
your name? Will you care for cruel and  
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners  
your name? Will you quell the fear in -  
my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?  
kind and nev - er be the same?  
free and nev - er be the same?  
side and nev - er be the same?  
you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my  
Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -  
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as  
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the  
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be  
tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer  
this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I  
world a - round, through my sight and touch and  
foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"  
pray'r in you and you in me?"  
mean in you and you in me?"  
sound in you and you in me?"  
grow in you and you in me.

## Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

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## ONLINE BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH OFFERING DONATIONS

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

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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

<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

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