

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."*

16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 am Sunday, September 28, 2025

Pastor David Johnson



TODAY'S REFLECTION

Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those "at our gate," visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed

All baptized and confessing believers are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

THE GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

*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**

"I Will Call Upon The Lord ", page 9

▲ **Confession & Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for Reflection

Merciful and loving God,
we are your stiff-necked people.
We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others.
We turn away from the poor.
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
and have been found.

Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

You who were lost have been found.

In the name of † Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

Amen.

▲ Prayer of the Day

O God,
rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and
grant us the treasure that comes only from you, 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 Amos 6:1, 4-7

Woe to those who are at ease in Zion and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria, the notables of the first of the nations, to whom the house of Israel resorts! Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and lounge on their couches and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the stall, who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David improvise on instruments of music, who drink wine from bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

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

▼ God's Word from the Psalms (NRSV)

Psalm 146

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 1 Timothy 6:6-19

First Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

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

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

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 16:19-31

Glory to you, O Lord.

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

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

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

▼ **Hymn of the Day**

“I Surrender All”, 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 pray in the name of Jesus to our heavenly Father for the Church, the world, and one another.

A brief silence

Father, thank you for words of warning and wisdom. Sometimes we don't want to hear how faith and finances are connected! Sometimes we think they're about other people, not us. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, and defend us with your holy angels, so we can listen to your Word and faithfully do your will. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give your Church pastors, bishops, deacons, and theologians who adorn your Gospel with holy lives and grace-filled words. Through their wise leadership, lead many people to deeper faith, unshakable hope, and generous charity. {For St. Michael, Add: Send your holy angels to defend your Church from error, evil, and everything that threatens your people.} Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Look with kindness upon the people and ministries of this congregation. Help us to care for your "little ones" by loving you, and generously sharing your love with others, however and wherever we can. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the persecuted church, especially in Nigeria, Pakistan, and North Korea. {For St. Michael, add: As Michael defended Israel from its enemies, may his strong protection stand between those suffering for their faith in Jesus, and those who seek to destroy them.} Keep your people steadfast in faith. Help us to speak boldly in their defense. Turn the hearts of their tormentors away from their folly, and bring them to repentant faith in you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our country, and for its elected and appointed leaders. Heal the suspicion, division, and hatred that weakens and fractures us. Bless everyone who works to restore integrity, common sense, and impartial justice, tempered with mercy, in our common life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, it's too easy to ignore the poor, or blame them for their plight. It's also easy to do unhelpful things, thinking we're being compassionate. Give us wisdom as well as generosity. Help us to listen and see, to ponder and discuss, so we work with poor people to help them work for, and walk into, a better life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear and answer the prayers of all who cry out to you for help. *Especially we pray for the needs of those we name before you now (either in silence or out loud).* Refresh them in their time of trial, let your holy angels surround them with strength and courage, and bless them with skilled and kindly care. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Dear Father, thank you for gathering our beloved dead into your own bosom. {For St. Michael's, add: Thank you for the unseen ministry of angels, who welcome them into your Kingdom.} Comfort all who mourn the loss of loved ones. Give us your Holy Spirit, so we encourage, challenge, and support each other as we strive to walk in your ways. Bring us, with all whom you have redeemed by the blood of Jesus, into the holy peace and eternal joy of your Kingdom. 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**

Lord of the harvest,

we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.

**Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.**

**Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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**

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy.

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**

O God,
**through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our possessions
with all in need.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.**

THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

▼ **Closing Hymn**

"In Christ Alone", 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. Do not lose heart.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

I Will Call Upon the Lord 2x



I will call up-on the Lord who is wor-thy to be



praised. So shall I be saved from my en - e - mies.



I will call up - on the Lord. The



Lord liv-eth, and bless-ed be the Rock, and let the God of my sal -



va - tion be ex - alt - ed. The Lord liv-eth, and bless - ed be the Rock,



and let the God of my sal - va - tion be ex - alt - ed.

Text: Michael O'Shields

Music: O'SHIELDS, Michael O'Shields

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I Surrender All

(All To Jesus I Surrender)

Words by
Judson Wheeler Van DeVenter

Music by
Winfield Scott Weedon



1. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der, all to Him I free - ly give;
2. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der, hum - bly at His feet I bow;
3. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der, make me, Sav - ior, whol - ly Thine;
4. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der. Lord, I give my - self to Thee;



I will ev - er love and trust Him, in His pres - ence dai - ly live.
World - ly pleas - ures all for - sak - en, take me, Je - sus, take me now.
Let me feel the Ho - ly Spir - it, tru - ly know that Thou art mine.
Fill me with Thy love and pow - er, let Thy bless - ing fall on me.



I sur - ren - der all, I sur - ren - der all.



All to Thee, my bless - ed Sav - ior, I sur - ren - der all.

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In Christ Alone

Words and Music by
Keith Getty and Stuart Townend



1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found, He is my
2. In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full-ness of
3. There in the ground His bod - y lay, Light of the
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the



light, my strength, — my song; This Cor - ner - stone, this sol - id
God in help - less babe! This gift of love and right - eous -
world by dark - ness slain; Then, burst - ing forth in glo - rious
pow'r of Christ — in me; From life's first cry to fi - nal



Ground, firm through the fierc - est drought — and storm. What heights of
-ness, scorned by the ones He came — to save. Till on that
Day, up from the grave He rose — a - gain! And as He
breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny. No pow'r of



love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings
cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sat - is -
stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on
hell, no scheme of man, can ev - er pluck me from His



cease. My Com - fort - er, my All in All, here in the
-fied. For ev - 'ry sin on Him was laid; Here in the
me; For I am His and He is mine, bought with the
hand; Till He re - turns or calls me home, here in the



love of Christ — I stand.
death of Christ — I live.
pre - cious blood — of Christ.
pow'r of Christ — I'll stand!

CCLI Song # 3350395

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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 Bible Study in Conference Room

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