

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."*

19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 am Sunday, October 19, 2025

Pastor David Johnson



TODAY'S REFLECTION

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

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**

"Christ Be Our Light", 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 Lord God,
tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries.
**Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice
for all this suffering world, 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 Genesis 32:22-31

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

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

▼ God's Word from the Psalms (NRSV)

Psalms 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

**The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on
and forevermore.**

▼ God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)

The Second Reading is from 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to

instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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

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

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 18:1-8

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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

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

▼ **Hymn of the Day**

"You Are Mine", 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.

Let us pray in the name of Jesus to our heavenly Father for the Church, the world, and one another.

A brief silence

Heavenly Father, sometimes our ears itch because we desire convenient untruths. Sometimes we wrestle with your Word and come away hobbling. Sometimes it's hard to love, trust, and obey you! Thank you for hearing our prayers anyhow. Thank you for touching us with healing and blessing, not just rebuke and warning. Thank you for Jesus, who is your Truth, Blessing, Word, and Love incarnate. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make your Church throughout the world always confess and preach that all Scripture is inspired, useful for teaching and reproof. Fill it with your Holy Spirit, so that it penetrates itching ears with the pure doctrine of Christ, crucified and raised from the dead for the forgiveness of sin unto life everlasting. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Keep everyone in this congregation in your merciful care. Conform our hearts to your will. Help us pray boldly and persistently. In all things, let us glorify you, bear witness to your holy and gracious Word, and lead lives worthy of our calling as your children. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Do not slumber or sleep, O Lord, while your suffering Church prays to you. Hear their cries and come to their aid. Soften the hearts of their unjust judges and persecutors. Make those repent of their evil and do what is right in your sight. Grant faith, persistence, and compassion to all who preach the Gospel to those who have not heard the name of Christ aright. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless our war-torn world with your peace. Give it leaders who do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly in your sight. Look with kindness upon the poor and needy, the widow and orphan, and all to whom justice has been denied. Spur us to give practical, compassionate help, so all receive your blessings. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for lawyers, judges, magistrates, and for all who make or interpret laws and administer justice. Give them uprightness of heart and a passion for truth. Make them wise, fair, and impartial in their decisions. Through their work, accomplish your holy and gracious will in our midst. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear the cries of all who suffer, *especially for those we name before you now (either in silence or out loud)*. Bring them safely through their trials, and give them faith in your gracious love. Bless and strengthen everyone who assists in their care. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you, dear Father, for our loved ones who have died and are asleep in your arms. Until we are reunited with them and with all whom you have redeemed, keep us steadfast in faith, persistent in prayer, and attentive to your Word. Let enter your presence in the company of all the saints, and forever worship, praise, and adore you for your love, given through your Son Jesus Christ our Savior. 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**

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

▼ **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**

"Standing On The Promises", page 11

▼ **Announcements**

Anyone is welcome to make announcements at this time.

▲ **Blessing and Dismissal**

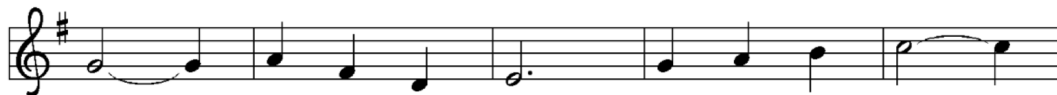
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father and the † Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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You Are Mine

Text: David Haas, b. 1957

Music: YOU ARE MINE, David Haas

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1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,
2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,
3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
(4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom,

I



I will lift you from all your fear.
I am eyes for all who long to see.
heal-ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
am the peace the world can - not give.

(2) In the



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be
shad-ows of the night, I will be your light.
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here.
Come and rest in me.
all will know my name.
up, now walk and live!

To stanza 2

To refrain

To refrain

To refrain



Refrain

Do not be a-fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol-low me, I will bring you home; I

To stanzas 3 and 4



love you and you are mine."

4 "I

Standing On The Promises

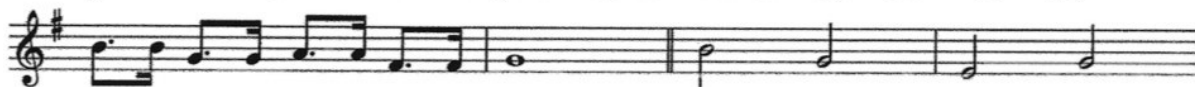
Words and Music by
Russell Kelso Carter



- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Stand-ing on the prom-is-es of Christ, my King! | Through e-ter-nal a-ges let His |
| 2. Stand-ing on the prom-is-es that can-not fail, | when the howl-ing storms of doubt and |
| 3. Stand-ing on the prom-is-es, I now can see | per-fect, pres-ent cleans-ing in the |
| 4. Stand-ing on the prom-is-es of Christ, the Lord, | bound to Him e-ter-nal-ly by |
| 5. Stand-ing on the prom-is-es, I can-not fall, | lis-t'ning ev-'ry mo-ment to the |



prais-es ring;	"Glo-ry in the high-est!" I will shout and sing,
fear as-sail,	by the liv-ing Word of God I shall pre-vail,
blood for me;	Stand-ing in the lib-er-ty where Christ makes free,
love's strong cord;	O-ver-com-ing dai-ly with the Spir-it's Sword,
Spir-it's call,	rest-ing in my Sav-ior as my All in All,



stand-ing on the prom-is-es of God.	Stand-ing,	stand-ing,
stand-ing on the prom-is-es of God.		
stand-ing on the prom-is-es of God.		
stand-ing on the prom-is-es of God.		
stand-ing on the prom-is-es of God.		



stand-ing on the prom-is-es of God, my Sav-ior; Stand-ing,



stand-ing, I'm stand-ing on the prom-is-es of God.

CCLI Song # 31803

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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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