

# BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

*You have a place here!*

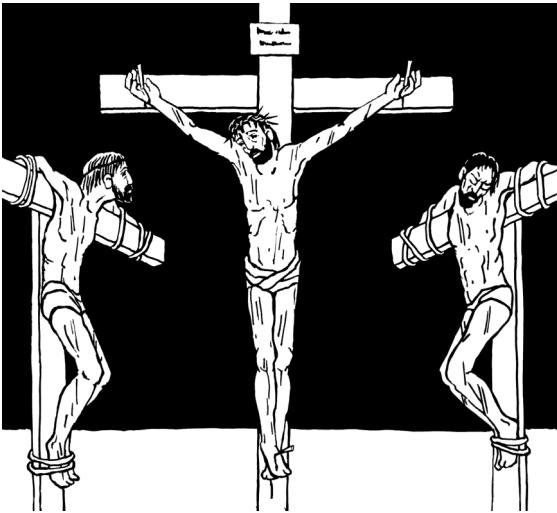
*"Joyfully we profess our faith through God's unconditional love.  
Here and now God dwells in all of our lives,  
bears our sins on the cross, and forgives us all."*

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## 24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 am Sunday, November 23, 2025

*Pastor Dave Johnson*



### TODAY'S REFLECTION

Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.

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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**

*“Holy, Holy, Holy” page 9*

▲ **Confession & Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*Silence for Reflection*

Faithful God,  
**have shown us the ways of your heart,  
yet we stray from your paths.**  
**We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression  
and do not embrace the freedom  
of your faithful promises.**  
**We ignore our neighbors.**  
**We exploit the earth.**  
**We reject your abundance,  
trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love.**  
**Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken,  
renew our hearts, and bring us to new life. Amen.**

Hear the good news:

God the Faithful One loves you, † in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free. **Amen.**

## ▲ **Prayer of the Day**

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom,  
**and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give  
 thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a  
 fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,  
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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 Jeremiah 23:1-6*

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

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

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

*Psalm 46*

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,**

**though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,**

though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. Selah

**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

**The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice; the earth melts.**

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah

**Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.**

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;

he burns the shields with fire.

**"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth."**

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah

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

*The Second Reading is from Colossians 1:11-20*

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. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

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

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

*The Holy Gospel according to Luke 23:33-43*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

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

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

▼ **Hymn of the Day**

*"Crown Him With Many Crowns", 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.**

In the power of the Spirit, let us pray to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ on behalf of the Church, the world, and all people according to their need.

*A brief silence*

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus to be our King, whose throne was first the Cross, and whose crown was first the thorns. Thank you for his glorious and gentle rule. Thank you for filling us with your Holy Spirit, so we have the faith to acclaim him as King and love him as Savior and Brother. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You have made the Church the Body of which Christ Jesus is the head. Fill the Church with your Spirit, so that through its words and deeds, many are delivered from the domain of darkness, receive forgiveness and redemption, and are transferred into the Kingdom of your beloved Son. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make this congregation your treasured possession. Form us in the image of Jesus. Use us to proclaim his love and draw others to his Cross, until the whole world adores him as King, Savior, and God. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Unite the suffering of your persecuted people to the Passion of Christ. Let their tormentors see Jesus' love in their actions, hear his forgiveness on their lips, and turn to him in repentance and faith. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our enemies, for criminals, evildoers, and hatemongers, and for everyone who is hard to forgive. Teach us to pray with Jesus, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Let him subdue every sinful heart to his will, so that he might truly be all in all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Say to our rulers: "Be still; and know that I alone am God." School their proud and disobedient wills to your commands. Be a strong bulwark and mighty fortress for the poor, weak, and innocent. Let peace, justice, health, and mercy be established in every land. Teach us all to acclaim Jesus as King of kings and Lord of all nations, and cause his peace to rule undisturbed in every heart. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make war to cease in all the world. Break the bow, shatter the spear, and burn the shields with fire. Hasten the day when we need not lift up prayers for those in the military, or for first responders. Until then, equip them with integrity, competence, and courage. Preserve them in safety and heal them when they falter. When they return, use them in new ways to benefit our communities and nation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Exalt yourself, O Lord; be the refuge and strength of all who are afflicted by evil and suffering. This day, *we especially remember before you those we name before you now (either in silence or out loud).* Be their present help in time of trouble; and make their hearts glad. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Dear Father, your Son promises Paradise to any who, like the repentant thief, turns in faith to him. We entrust to you our beloved dead. Help us to comfort and encourage each other to trust and follow Jesus. Teach us to pray, "Jesus, remember me, when you come into your Kingdom." And in your mercy, fulfill those words! Grant that we shall be with him in Paradise! Let us, with all the redeemed, adore and bless him forever, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, as Savior, Lord, King, and God. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

6 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**

God of healing and hope,

**you bless those who are hungry,**

**promising to fill them with good things.**

**Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts.**

**Nourish us with the abundance of your feast**

**and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior,**

**now and forever. 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**

There is a place for you at the table of God.  
Come, receive the food that does not perish,  
a taste of life eternal.

**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**

God of field and flower, wheat and grape,  
**you have nourished us with the bread of heaven  
that gives life to the world.**  
**Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son,  
send us out to gather your good gifts for all who  
hunger and thirst,  
and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name. Amen.**

**THE SENDING**

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

▼ **Closing Hymn**

*"How Deep The Father's Love For Us" 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. Share the harvest.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**



# Holy, Holy, Holy



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!  
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,  
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,  
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.  
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
 though the eye made blind by sin thy glo - ry may not see,  
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,  
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
 which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.  
 per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.  
 God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.

Music: NICAEA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

# Crown Him with Many Crowns



1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;  
 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,  
 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,  
 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave  
 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.  
 whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;  
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.  
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.  
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,  
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,  
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,  
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.  
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.  
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.  
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

# How Deep The Father's Love For Us

Words and Music by  
Stuart Townend

$\text{♩} = 54$

## VERSE

D Em D/F# G D/F# D/A A



1. How deep the Fa-ther's love for us, how vast be-yond all meas - ure that  
(2. Be) - hold the Man up - on a cross, my sin up - on His shoul - ders. A -  
(3. I) will not boast in an - y - thing: No gifts, no pow'r, no wis - dom. But

D Em D/F# G D/F# A D



He should give His on - ly Son to make a wretch His treas - ure. How  
-shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call out a - mong the scof - fers. It  
I will boast in Je - sus Christ: His death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why

Em D/F# G D/F# Bm A



great the pain of sear - ing loss. The Fa - ther turns His face a - way as  
was my sin that held Him there un - til it was ac - com - plished; His  
should I gain from His re - ward? I can - not give an an - swer. But

D Em D/F# G D/F# A



wounds which mar the Cho - sen One bring man - y sons to glo -  
dy - ing breath has brought me life. I know that it is fin -  
this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ran -

## TURNAROUND

D G/B D/A D G<sup>2</sup> D.C. al Fine



-ry.  
-ished.  
-som.

2. Be -  
3. I

## Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

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### Pastor Dave Johnson

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## 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 11:00 am Crossroad's Bible Study For ALL in Conference Room

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