

Holy Cross Sunday

September 1, 2024

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING SONG: “United in Christ”

Verse 1

People of the Lord come now and sing
Every nation and tongue to Christ our King
With empty hands His gifts receive

Verse 2

Whether young or old you're a child of God
Whether rich or poor no matter what you got
He gathers all at the foot of the cross

Chorus

His body broken makes this body whole
His resurrection it assures us all
No darkness nor doubting nor pain in this life
Could keep us from being united in Christ

Verse 3

Sinners and saints you have a place
With the Spirit's gifts proclaim His grace
There's nothing too small
To be used by the Living God

Bridge

We are the body Christ is the head
Sealed with the promise through blood He shed
We are the body Christ is the head
His grace the heartbeat our confidence
We are the body Christ is the head
Sealed with the promise through blood He shed
We are the body Christ is the head
His grace the heartbeat our confidence
Our confidence

Tag

No darkness nor doubting nor pain in this life
Could keep us from being united in Christ

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(based on Eph. 1:2)*

L: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS: *(based on Eph. 4:22-24)*

L: God's Word has taught us to put off the old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in attitude of our minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

P: **Almighty God, though the Spirit testifies that I am a new creature in Christ Jesus, I must confess that the old nature is still alive and well within me. My actions, thoughts and words have often lacked righteousness and holiness. I know that I deserve Your punishment on account of my sins and iniquities, but I am truly sorry for my sins and sincerely repent of them. Lord of boundless mercy, for the sake of Jesus' righteous life and His holy, innocent, sufferings and death, forgive me and restore me. Amen.**

L: As a servant of the Lord, I assure you that in the mercy and love of God, Jesus was given for you. He has declared you holy and clean, washing you with water and the Word. By grace through faith Christ presents you to the Father, radiant, without stain, wrinkle or any other blemish, holy and blameless; like Himself. Go with sin forgiven, a new creation in Christ. Amen.

RESPONSIVE SONG: "His Mercy is More"

Verse 1

What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient all knowing He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Verse 2

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Verse 3

What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Chorus

Praise the Lord His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness new every morn
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9*

Israel, listen to the laws and rules I am about to teach you. Obey them so that you will live and be able to enter and take possession of the land that the Lord God of your ancestors is giving you. Never add anything to what I command you, or take anything away from it. Then you will be able to obey the commands of the Lord your God that I give you.

Faithfully obey these laws. This will show the people of the world your wisdom and insight. When they hear about all these laws, they will say, "What wise and insightful people there are in this great nation!"

What great nation ever had their gods as near to them as the Lord our God is near to us whenever we pray to him? Or what other great nation has such fair laws and rules as all these teachings I am giving you today?

However, be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you don't forget the things which you have seen with your own eyes. Don't let them fade from your memory as long as you live. Teach them to your children and grandchildren. -GW®

EPISTLE READING: *Ephesians 4:4-6*

There is one body and one Spirit. In the same way you were called to share one hope. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over everything, through everything, and in everything. -GW®

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: *Mark 7:14-23*

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and try to understand! Nothing that goes into a person from the outside can make him unclean. It's what comes out of a person that makes him unclean. Let the person who has ears listen!"

When he had left the people and gone home, his disciples asked him about this illustration.

Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand? Don't you know that whatever goes into a person from the outside can't make him unclean? It doesn't go into his thoughts but into his stomach and then into a toilet." (By saying this, Jesus declared all foods acceptable.) He continued, "It's what comes out of a person that makes him unclean. Evil thoughts, sexual sins, stealing, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, cheating, shameless lust, envy, cursing, arrogance, and foolishness come from within a person. All these evils come from within and make a person unclean."-GW®

SERMON SONG: “Come Thou Fount”

Verse 1

Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee;
May I still Thy goodness prove.

Verse 2

Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

Verse 3

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Verse 4

Oh, that day when freed from sinning,
I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen,
How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;
Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry
Me to realms of endless day.

MESSAGE: “Won by Christ”

SONG OF THE DAY: “All Creatures of Our God and King”

Verse 1

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Oh praise Him
Alleluia
Thou burning sun with golden beam
Thou silver moon with softer gleam
Oh praise Him Oh praise Him
Alleluia alleluia alleluia

Verse 2

Let all things their Creator bless
And worship Him in humbleness
Oh praise Him
Alleluia
Praise praise the Father praise the Son
And praise the Spirit Three-in-One
Oh praise Him Oh praise Him
Alleluia alleluia alleluia

Verse 3

All the redeemed washed by His blood
Come and rejoice in His great love
Oh praise Him
Alleluia
Christ has defeated every sin
Cast all your burdens now on Him
Oh praise Him Oh praise Him
Alleluia alleluia alleluia

Verse 4

He shall return in pow'r to reign
Heaven and earth will join to say
Oh praise Him
Alleluia
Then who shall fall on bended knee
All creatures of our God and King
Oh praise Him Oh praise Him
Alleluia alleluia alleluia

CONFESSION OF FAITH:

NICENE CREED: (**catholic means the universal Christian Church*)

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy *catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

OFFERING: *The Offering Box is located in the center aisle. If you so desire, Text Giving is now available by texting GIVE to 562-210-0463. For On-line Giving information, contact Maraley at mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

CONSECRATION OF GIFTS:

L: Almighty God, through these gifts enable Your people to be strong in You and in Your mighty power. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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.

+ Service of the Sacrament +

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Bethany in the joyful confession that our Lord gives us His very Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins in this sacrament. God intends this gift for His children who recognize their sin, trust in Christ as their Savior, desire to live for Him alone, and join in this joyful confession.

To prepare for communion you can find prayer prompts on the front page of the burgundy hymnal. Or simply pray: "Dear Lord Jesus, at Your gracious invitation, You invite me to come to You; to eat and drink Your holy body and blood as You Yourself have promised to give in this sacred meal. Forgive me of my sin, through this Your meal of Forgiveness. Let me experience the fullness of Your love, through this Your meal of love. Strengthen my faith, through this meal of Yours that calls for and bestows faith. Empower me to live for You, through this Your meal that promises life everlasting and equips me for daily living as one who has received You and Your gifts. Amen."

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*For those communing, who so desire, the center cups in each tray are **alcohol free**. The wafers on the stand next to the pillar pulpit side (when kneeling for communion) or on the stand in front of the baptismal font (when processing for communion) are **gluten free**.*

In our 9:30 a.m. service we will practice the Easter tradition of continuous communion. We will not kneel at the altar, rather we will join the procession of saints and come forward and remain standing as we receive the bread and wine. After receiving the elements, you are invited to return to your seat and continue in meditation, prayer and song.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS:

“Amazing Grace”

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me.
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe so far,
His grace will see me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease;
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven's joy and peace.

All thanks to Christ, whose death in love,
Grace to the world revealed
By water and Word, His Body and blood,
His grace to me is sealed!
His grace to me is sealed!
His grace to me is sealed!

“Ignite”

Verse 1

Lord you call us
To be people of peace
To reconcile
And to redeem
Lord we're willing
But we are weak
Give us strength to serve
All we meet

Pre-Chorus

To the weak and the poor made known
May your love through us be shown

Chorus 1

Spirit of God ignite our hearts
To burn bright for yours
Let us be the light to all
All the dark

Verse 2

Lord you call us
To be people of love
Living sacrifice
To your glory of Lord
Transform us
By the blood of your Son
Bringing justice and mercy
Walking with you God

Pre-Chorus

To the weak and the poor made known
May your love through us be shown

Chorus 2

Spirit of God ignite our hearts
To burn bright for yours
Let us be the light to all
All the dark

Bridge

Ignite in us pure holiness
Cleanse us from all selfishness
Lead us in paths of righteousness
To the work You prepared in advance for us

Chorus 3

Spirit of God ignite our hearts
To burn bright for yours
Let us be the light to all
All the dark

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER: *(based on Eph. 2:16)*

L: Through Your own blood dear Lord Jesus You have brought us, once far away, near to Yourself and Your Father.

P: **Through this gift of Yourself Lord, enable us to be imitators of God and live a life of love, just as You loved us and gave Yourself for us. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING: *(based on Eph. 3:20-21)*

L: Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all you ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within you, to Him give glory in life and through eternity. Amen.

CLOSING SONG: “Send Me”

Verse 1

Here I am
Send me
Your grace has set me free
I will go where You lead
Be Your hands and feet

Verse 2

To the hurting and weak
To all of those in need
We will go where You lead
Be Your hands and feet

Chorus

Jesus lead on
We are listenin’
Jesus lead on
We have heard
Savior we’ll follow
Where You’re leadin’
To the ends of the earth (REPEAT)

Verse 3

As we go
Lord lead
May Your path be at our feet
As we live move and breathe
Spirit of God fall afresh on me

Bridge

Whom shall I fear
You are God yeah
You are God so
Whom shall I fear
You are God yeah
You are God so
Whom shall I fear

Tag

Here I Am
Send me

POSTLUDE

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“United in Christ”

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“His Mercy is More”

CCLI Song #7065053

Matt Boswell | Matt Papas

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“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” LSB 686

“Ebenezer” means “Thus far has the LORD helped us

This was the name given to the stone of remembrance

that Samuel raised to God’s glory (1 Sam. 7:12).

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-90, alt.

Music: *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, Harrisburg, 1813.

Text and music: Public domain.

Arr. Blake Flattley

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“All Creatures of Our God and King”

CCLI Song # 6529800

Jonathan Baird | Ryan Baird | St. Francis of Assisi | William Henry Draper

Words: Public Domain

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“Amazing Grace” LSB 744

Text: John Newton, sts. 1-4, alt.; *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, Richmond, 1790, st. 5;

Tune: *Columbian Harmony*, Cincinnati, 1829; setting: Joseph Herl. B. 1959.

Additional text: stza. 5, William Cwirla, used by permission.

Arr. Blake Flattley

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“Ignite”

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“Send Me”

CCLI# 7064064 |Blake Flattley|

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SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:

Acolyte 9:30...Alice Kienitz

Liturgist...Pastor Kyle Blake

Lector 8:00...Tom Esswein

Artist in Residence...Blake Flattley

Preacher...Pastor Seth Moorman

9:30...Nola Seaman

Keyboard...Pat Gagan

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Summer average Worship Attendance June—August BOTH campuses:

Summer 2024: 318 per week

Summer 2023: 294 per week

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If You’re a Visitor, WELCOME! We are so glad you have joined us for worship today. If you would like more information about Bethany and its ministries, please scan the QR code to the right. You will be directed to Bethany’s fillable information form.



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Please visit our websites to find out more about our Church, School and Preschool. Get weekly updates by signing up for the **Bethany Bullet**—our weekly capsule of worship highlights and campus-wide information.

Bethany Lutheran Church and its Ministries are found at:

www.bethanylutheran.org

Bethany Lutheran School information can be found by visiting their website at:

www.bethanylutheran.org/school/

Bethany Preschool's website:

www.bethanylutheran.org/preschool/

To sign up for the weekly **Bethany Bullet**: <https://bit.ly/BethanyBulletSignUp>



BIBLE STUDY & FELLOWSHIP GROUPS—STARTING SOON!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP AND STUDY HOUR

Date: Starting up on Sunday, September 22

Time: Following the 9:30 service (approx. 10:45am)

Where: Parish Lounge on the Bethany Campus

Who: Men of Bethany and Holy Cross Lutheran

Facilitated by: Bob Lange boblange@ca.rr.com
David Akins david.akins@live.com

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: *THE GOOD AND BEAUTIFUL YOU*

Date: Starts on Sunday, September 8, 2024

Time: Following the 9:30 service at 10:45 am – Noon

Where: Room 215 (Multi-Purpose Room), Bethany Campus

Led by: Mary Kay Esswein

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: *UNFAILING, GOD'S ASSURANCE FOR TIMES OF CHANGE*

Date: Starts on Sunday, September 15, 2024

Time: Following the 9:30 service approx. 10:45 am – Noon

Where: Bethany School Library, Room #105

Facilitated by: Sheri Esswein & Mara Widmann

WOMEN'S THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Date: Resumes Thursday, September 12, 2024

Time: 9:30 am –11:00 am

Where: Parish Lounge on the Bethany Campus

Facilitated by: Meg Veliz (562) 426-4262

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DONATE TO BETHANY'S FLOWER FUND!

Flowers are used to decorate the altar every Sunday, for special seasons such as Christmas and Easter, as well as other important dates during the church calendar. You are able to make two types of donations to the Altar Flower Fund: a general donation and a special request with recognition.



- **A SPECIAL REQUEST WITH RECOGNITION*** is a special type of Altar Flower donation. This request will be printed in the bulletin. For example, it could be given in memory of a person who has gone before us, for a wedding anniversary, baptismal birthday or a birthday celebration, etc. **This recognition has a suggested donation of \$75.**
- **A GENERAL DONATION TO THE ALTAR FLOWER FUND** enables Bethany to have flowers in worship and for our shut-in and hospitalized members to receive flowers from our flower ministry team, even when no one has ordered flowers for specific purposes on Sunday. **This General Donation is for any amount you wish to give.**

*If you are making a **Special Request with Recognition**, please use this form to let us know of your donation **for a specific Sunday date** and what the significance of that donation is towards. **IMPORTANT:** Please complete this form at least **2 weeks prior** to that date, so that information regarding your donation can be **printed in the Sunday bulletin** for the date requested.

Sign up to donate to Bethany's Altar Flower Fund, please use this URL:

<https://bit.ly/BLCAltarFlowers>



Or scan Bethany's Flower Fund QR code to the right: