

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 22, 2024

PRELUDE:

“Prière Opus 37, No. 3”

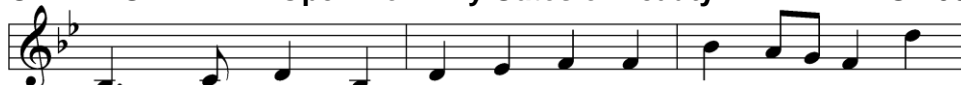
Organ

~Joseph Jongen

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

LSB 901



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty; Zi - on, let me
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore Thee; Come Thou al - so
3 Here Thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed; Here Thy seed is
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en; Let me keep Thy
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee; Let Thy will be



en - ter there, Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty
un - to me. Where we find Thee and a - dore Thee,
du - ly sown. Let my soul, where it is plant - ed,
gift di - vine, How - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en;
done in - deed. May I un - dis - turbed draw near Thee



Waits for Him who an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed
There a heav'n on earth must be. To my heart, O
Bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone, So that all I
May Thy Word still o'er me shine As my guid - ing
While Thou dost Thy peo - ple feed. Here of life the



is this place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!
en - ter Thou; Let it be Thy tem - ple now!
hear may be Fruit - ful un - to life in me.
star through life, As my com - fort in all strife.
foun - tain flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(James 1:17-18)*

L: Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of heavenly lights. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth,

P: **that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS: *(James 2:10 & 5:11b)*

L: Whoever keeps the whole law yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

P: **Holy and gracious God, I confess that I have sinned against You. Some of my sins I know - the thoughts, words and deeds of which I am ashamed - but some are known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask for Your forgiveness. Deliver and restore me. Amen**

L: the Lord is full of compassion and mercy...and on account of Jesus Christ we are forgiven and redeemed. Empowered by His Spirit we go serve Him as we lovingly serve others.

RESPONSIVE HYMN: "Song of God, Eternal Savior" LSB 842

**Choir only on Stanza 3*



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and
2 As You, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us
oth - ers live. Free - ly have Your gifts been grant - ed;



Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in
Free-ly may Your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and Yours the



glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your
sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stew - ards



love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
of Your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.

3 *Come, O Christ, and reign among us,
King of love and Prince of Peace;
Hush the storm of strife and passion,
Bid its cruel discords cease.
By Your patient years of toiling,
By Your silent hours of pain,
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,
Stem our selfish greed of gain.*

4 Son of God, eternal Savior,
Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
Hallows all our human race:
By Your praying, by Your willing
That Your people should be one,
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition:
Here on earth Your will be done.

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD: (*James 1:22*)

L: Do not merely listen to the word; do what it says.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Jeremiah 11:18-20*

The Lord revealed their plot to me so that I would understand. He showed me what they were doing. I was like a trusting lamb brought to the slaughter. I didn't know that they were plotting against me. They were saying, "Let's destroy the tree with its fruit. Let's cut Jeremiah off from this world of the living so that we won't be reminded of him anymore."

O Lord of Armies, You judge fairly
and test motives and thoughts.
I want to see You take revenge on them,
because I've brought my case to You.-GW®

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

"Welcome"
~Jeffrey Blersch

Bethany Choir

EPISTLE READING: *James 4:1-12*

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Aren't they caused by the selfish desires that fight to control you? You want what you don't have, so you commit murder. You're determined to have things, but you can't get what you want. You quarrel and fight. You don't have the things you want, because you don't pray for them. When you pray for things, you don't get them because you want them for the wrong reason—for your own pleasure.

You unfaithful people! Don't you know that love for this evil world is hatred toward God? Whoever wants to be a friend of this world is an enemy of God. Do you think this passage means nothing? It says, "The Spirit that lives in us wants us to be His own." But God shows us even more kindness. Scripture says,

"God opposes arrogant people,
but He is kind to humble people."

So place yourselves under God's authority. Resist the devil, and he will run away from you. Come close to God, and He will come close to you. Clean up your lives, you sinners, and clear your minds, you doubters. Be miserable, mourn, and cry. Turn your laughter into mourning and your joy into gloom. Humble yourselves in the Lord's presence. Then He will give you a high position.

Brothers and sisters, stop slandering each other. Those who slander and judge other believers, slander and judge God's laws. If you judge God's teachings, you are no longer following them. Instead, you are judging them. There is only one who creates laws and judges on the basis of them. He is able to save or destroy you. So who are you to judge your neighbor? -GW®

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: *Mark 9:30-37*

They left that place and were passing through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where He was because He was teaching His disciples. He taught them, "The Son of Man will be betrayed and handed over to people. They will kill Him, but on the third day He will come back to life."

The disciples didn't understand what He meant and were afraid to ask Him.

Then they came to Capernaum. While Jesus was at home, He asked the disciples, "What were you arguing about on the road?" They were silent. On the road they had argued about who was the greatest.

He sat down and called the twelve apostles. He told them, "Whoever wants to be the most important person must take the last place and be a servant to everyone else." Then He took a little child and had him stand among them. He put His arms around the child and said to them, "Whoever welcomes a child like this in My name welcomes Me. Whoever welcomes Me welcomes not Me but the One who sent Me."-GW®

SERMON HYMN: "Children of the Heavenly Father"

LSB 725



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly
2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the
4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His



in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He
Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



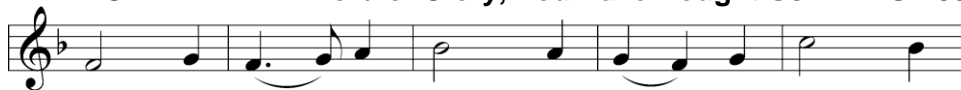
heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.
show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.
sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

MESSAGE:

"Grudge Match"

(James 4:1-12)

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us" LSB 851



1 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Glad - ly,
 3 Won - drous hon - or You have giv - en To our
 4 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your



life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the
 free - ly of Your own. With the sun - shine of Your
 hum - blest char - i - ty In Your own mys - te - rious
 life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the



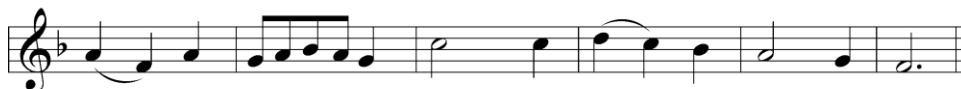
lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;
 good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone
 sen - tence, "You have done it all to Me."
 lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.



And with that have free - ly giv - en Bless - ings
 Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by
 Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, That You
 Give us faith to trust You bold - ly, Hope, to



count - less as the sand To the un - thank - ful
 You, at length be - lieve That more hap - py
 deign for alms to sue, Say - ing by Your
 stay our souls on You; But, oh, best of



and the e - vil With Your own un - spar - ing hand.
 and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you?"
 all Your grac - es, With Your love our love re - new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: O God, our teacher and guide, You draw us to yourself and welcome us as Your beloved children.

P: **Help us set aside envy, pride and self-ambition, that we might follow Your Son in the way of humble, obedient, loving service to the glory of His holy name. Amen.**

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: *(James 1:17-18)*

- L:** Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming from the Father of lights;
- P:** **He chose to give us birth through the word of truth,**
- L:** that we might be a kind of first-fruits of all he created.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- L:** Freed by God in Christ to live, love and serve, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.
- L:** Gracious God, You call us to be Your body, opening arms of love and speaking the word of truth. Empower us to serve our neighbors and welcome the strangers among us. Lord in Your Mercy,
- P:** **Hear our prayer.**
- L:** Almighty Creator, You brought forth order from chaos. Watch over the nations of the earth, guide leaders and bless citizens who strive toward the community for which You long. Lord in Your Mercy,
- P:** **Hear our prayer.**
- L:** Providing Shepherd, You give us all we need. When Your children suffer hunger, poverty, loneliness, injury, persecution or illness, send companions and healers that You might restore that which needs mending. Especially today we remember.... Lord in Your Mercy,
- P:** **Hear our prayer.**
- L:** Into Your waiting hands of merciful power, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in our Lord Jesus Christ who has taught us to pray,

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.**

***** For our 8:00 a.m. worshippers, the service continues on the bottom of page 11 with Announcements.**

***** For our 9:30 a.m. worshippers, the service continues with the Celebration of Holy Communion:**

+ 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.

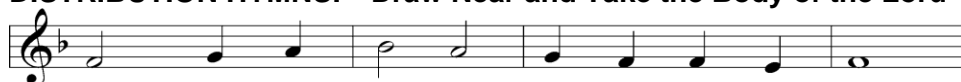
To prepare for communion you can find prayer prompts on the front page of the burgundy hymnal. Or simply pray: "Dear Lord Jesus, at Your gracious invitation, You invite me to come to You; to eat and drink Your holy body and blood as You Yourself have promised to give in this sacred meal. Forgive me of 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 HYMNS: "Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord" LSB 637



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,
2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;
To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;
And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.



Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,
With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,
O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow



Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.
Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

“Taste and See”

Bethany Choir

*Taste and see, taste and see
The goodness of the Lord.
Oh, taste and see, taste and see
The goodness of the Lord...*

*I will bless the Lord at all times
Praise shall always be on my lips;
My soul shall glory in the Lord;
For God has been so good to me*

*Taste and see, taste and see
The goodness of the Lord.
Oh, taste and see, taste and see
The goodness of the Lord...*

*Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us all praise God's name.
I called the Lord who answered me;
From all my troubles, I was set free.*

*Taste and see, taste and see
The goodness of the Lord.
Oh, taste and see, taste and see
The goodness of the Lord...
Of the Lord.*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

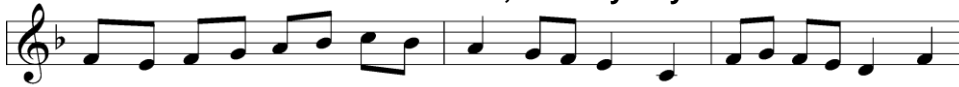
ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION: *(James 5:8)*

[L]: Be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

CLOSING HYMN: "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"

LSB 594



1 God's own child, I glad - ly say it: I am bap-tized
 2 Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er: I am bap-tized
 3 Sa - tan, hear this proc - la - ma - tion: I am bap-tized
 4 Death, you can - not end my glad-ness: I am bap-tized
 5 There is noth - ing worth com - par - ing To this life-long



in - to Christ! He, be - cause I could not pay it,
 in - to Christ! I have com - fort e - ven strong-er:
 in - to Christ! Drop your ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion,
 in - to Christ! When I die, I leave all sad - ness
 com - fort sure! O - pen - eyed my grave is star - ing:



Gave my full re - demp - tion price. Do I need earth's
 Je - sus' cleans - ing sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y
 I am not so soon en - ticed. Now that to the
 To in - her - it par - a - dise! Though I lie in
 E - ven there I'll sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a -



trea - sures man - y? I have one worth
 con - science seize me Since my Bap - tism
 font I've trav - eled, All your might has
 dust and ash - es Faith's as - sur - ance
 waits its rais - ing, Still my soul con -



more than an - y That brought me sal -
 did re - lease me In a dear for -
 come un - rav - eled, And, a - gainst your
 bright - ly flash - es: Bap - tism has the
 tin - ues prais - ing: I am bap - tized



va - tion free Last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!
 giv - ing flood, Sprin - kling me with Je - sus' blood?
 tyr - an - ny, God, my Lord, u - nites with me!
 strength di - vine To make life im - mor - tal mine.
 in - to Christ; I'm a child of par - a - dise!

POSTLUDE:

“Toccata in Seven”

Organ

~Sir John Rutter

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“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty” LSB 901

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt. Tune: Joachim Neander 1650-80. Text and music: Public domain.

“Son of God, Eternal Savior” LSB 842

Text: Somerset T.C. Lowry, 1855-1932, alt.

Tune: *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse . . . Contradanseu*, Amsterdam, c. 1710; Text and tune: Public domain.

Setting: Henry V. Gerike, b. 1948. Setting: ©2006 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.

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“Children of the Heavenly Father” LSB 725

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870-1958.

Music: *Lofsånger och andeliga visor*, Sweden, 1873.

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Music: Public domain

“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us” LSB 851

Text: Eliza C. Alderson, 1818-89, alt. Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-87.

Text and tune: Public domain.

“Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord” LSB 637

Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.

Tune: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois;

setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941*.

Text and music: Public domain.

“Taste and See”

James Moore

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“God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It” LSB 594

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671-1756, tr. Robert E. Voelker, b. 1957.

Tune: Johann Caspar Bachofen, 1695-1755, alt.

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Tune: Public domain.

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SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:

Acolyte 8:00...
Acolyte 9:30...
Liturgist...Karl Fink (9:30)
Lector 8:00...Ruth Lopez
Director of Music...Noah Freeman
Accompanist...Kevin Bowers

Crucifer 8:00...
Crucifer 9:30...
Preacher...Pastor Kevin Kritzer
9:30...Mike Riordan
Organist...Robert Bottoms
Children’s Message...Kayleigh Lopez

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Today’s Flowers are given to the glory of God:

~In loving memory of “The Flower Lady”, Lou Wade~

~by Lauren Cerulle



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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>

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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: