



**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

AUGUST 23, 2026

Bethany Lutheran Church *Long Beach & Cypress, CA*

As We Gather

"This epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament, and is truly the purest gospel. It is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but also that he should occupy himself with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul. We can never read it or ponder over it too much; for the more we deal with it, the more precious it becomes and the better it tastes." Martin Luther Luther's Works vol. 35:365

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: "Come, Thou Almighty King"

LSB 905



1 Come, Thou al - might - y King, Help us Thy
3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, Thy sa - cred
4 To Thee, great One in Three, E - ter - nal



name to sing; Help us to praise; Fa - ther all -
wit - ness bear In this glad hour! Thou, who al -
prais - es be Hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign



glo - ri - ous, O'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
might - y art, Now rule in ev - 'ry heart,
maj - es - ty May we in glo - ry see,



Come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
And ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
And to e - ter - ni - ty Love and a - dore.

INVOCATION:

[I]: Grace and peace to you from God our Father, from the Lord Jesus Christ and from the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from both. (*Romans 1:7*)

[P]: Amen

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: Jesus Christ, through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead. (*Romans 1:4*)

P: **We are among those who have been called to belong to Him.** (*Romans 1:6*)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

L: When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race.

P: **Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned, including me.** (*Romans 5:12*)

L: The Law of God is good. The trouble is with me!

P: **I am bound in sin. I don't even fully understand myself. There are times in which I really want to do what is good and right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do the very thing I despise. I am a hypocrite. I know perfectly well that what I do is at times wrong, and my guilty conscience shows that I agree that the law is good. But I can't help myself. So far as my sinful nature is concerned, I am rotten to the core. No matter which way I turn, I can't make myself do right. So many have been the times that I have wanted to do right, but I couldn't. I wanted to do good, but didn't. So often when I have tried not to do wrong, I have done so anyway. What a miserable person I am! Lord, free me from the life that is dominated by sin, and rescue me from death. For the sake of Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.** (*Romans 7:18-19&25*)

L: I am here to announce that there is no condemnation for you who are Christ's own people. God didn't deal with the problem of sin as something remote or unimportant. In His Son, Jesus, He personally took on the human condition and set it right once and for all. Now God has taken up residence in your life, go in peace and serve the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: Oh, the depth of the riches of Your wisdom and knowledge, O God.

P: **From You and through You and to You are all things. To You be glory forever!** (*Romans 11:33 & 36*)

RESPONSIVE HYMN: “The Church’s One Foundation”

LSB 644



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op - pressed,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,
And mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, “How long?”
O bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
That we, like saints be - fore us, May see You face to face.

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 56:1, 6-8*

This is what the Lord says:

Preserve justice, and do what is right.
My salvation is about to come.
My righteousness is about to be revealed.

And I will remember the foreigners who have joined the Lord to worship Him, to love the Lord's name, and to be His servants. All of them will keep the day of rest—a holy day, from becoming unholy and will faithfully observe the conditions of my promise. Then I will bring them to my holy mountain and make them happy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar, because my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.

The Almighty Lord, who gathers the scattered people of Israel, declares, “I will gather still others besides those I have already gathered.” —GW®

SECOND READING: *Romans 11:33-36*

God's riches, wisdom, and knowledge are so deep that it is impossible to explain His decisions or to understand His ways.

"Who knows how the Lord thinks?

Who can become His adviser?"

Who gave the Lord something which the Lord must pay back?

Everything is from Him and by Him and for Him.

Glory belongs to Him forever! Amen! —GW®

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 16:13-20*

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

They answered, "Some say You are John the Baptizer, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

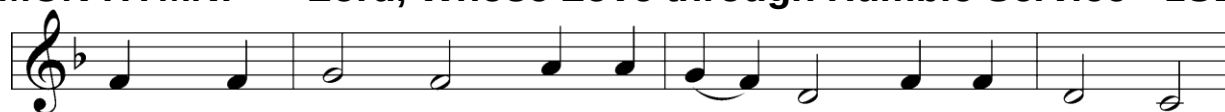
He asked them, "But who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God!"

Jesus replied, "Simon, son of Jonah, you are blessed! No human revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven revealed it to you. You are Peter, and I can guarantee that on this rock I will build my church. And the gates of hell will not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you imprison, God will imprison. And whatever you set free, God will set free."

Then He strictly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that He was the Messiah. —GW®

SERMON HYMN: "Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service" LSB 848



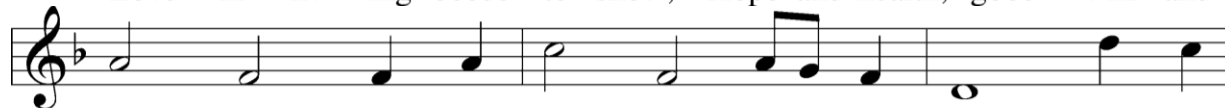
1 Lord, whose love through hum - ble ser - vice Bore the weight of
2 Still Your chil - dren wan - der home - less; Still the hun - gry
3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, Till Your love's re -
4 Called by wor - ship to Your ser - vice, Forth in Your dear



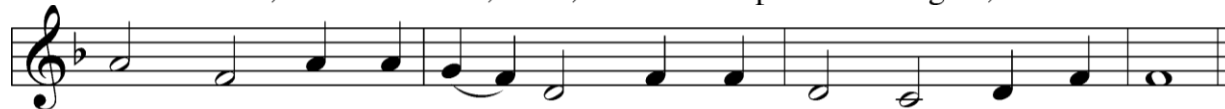
hu - man need, Who up - on the cross, for - sak - en,
cry for bread; Still the cap - tives long for free - dom;
veal - ing light In its height and depth and great - ness,
name we go, To the child, the youth, the a - ged,



Of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed, We, Your ser - vants, bring the
Still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, Your deep com -
Dawns up - on our quick - ened sight, Mak - ing known the needs and
Love in liv - ing deeds to show; Hope and health, good - will and



wor - ship Not of voice a - lone, but heart, Con - se -
pas - sion Healed the sick and freed the soul, Use the
bur - dens Your com - pas - sion bids us bear, Stir - ring
com - fort, Coun - sel, aid, and peace we give, That Your



crat - ing to Your pur - pose Ev - 'ry gift that You im - part.
love Your Spir - it kin - dles Still to save and make us whole.
us to tire - less striv - ing, Your a - bun - dant life to share.
ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom May Your mer - cy know and live.

MESSAGE: Romans 11:33-36

HYMN OF THE DAY:

"Built on the Rock"

LSB 645



1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand E - ven when
 3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built for His
 5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done, That, when the



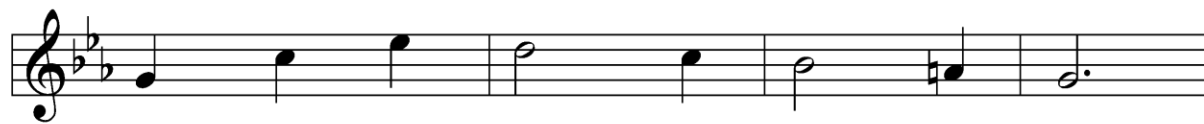
stee - ples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in
 own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal
 church bells are ring - ing, Man - y in sav - ing



ev - 'ry land; Bells still are chim - ing and call -
 grace us owns Heirs of His won - drous sal - va -
 faith may come Where Christ His mes - sage is bring -



ing, Call - ing the young and old to rest,
 tion. Were we but two His name to tell,
 ing: "I know My own; My own know Me.



But a - bove all the souls dis - tressed,
 Yet He would deign with us to dwell
 You, not the world, My face shall see.



Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.
 With all His grace and His fa - vor.
 My peace I leave with you. A - men."

CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED (**catholic means the universal Christian Church*)

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.**

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 Andria at arosas@bethanylutheran.org or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

CONSECRATING THE GIFTS:

L: Lord of all good, our gifts we bring You now;

P: Use them Your holy purpose to fulfill.

L: Tokens of love and pledges they shall be

P: that our whole life is offered to Your will.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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.**

*** At our 8:00 a.m. service, we will continue on page 10 with Announcements.

*** At our 9:30 a.m. service, we continue with the Service of Holy Communion:

✠ Service of Holy Communion ✠

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 Lutheran Service Book. 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."

For those communing, who so desire, center cups in each tray are alcohol free.

For those with dietary restrictions, the wafers next to the Christ candle are gluten free:

We will practice the Easter tradition of continuous communion. We will not kneel at the altar, rather we 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION:

"Your Table I Approach"

LSB 628



- 1 Your ta - ble I ap - proach; Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer.
2 Lord, I con - fess my sins And mourn their wretch - ed bands;
3 Your bod - y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
4 Search not how this takes place, This won - drous mys - ter - y;



Let not an un - re - pen - tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there.
A con - trite heart is sure to find For - give - ness at Your hands.
Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty.
God can ac - com - plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be.

- 5 O grant, most blessèd Lord,
That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament
Raise doubt within my mind.
- 6 Oh, may I never fail
To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood,
O God, my peace and light.

“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.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER



HOLY BAPTISM:

9:30



PENELOPE HOPE VELEZ



Elder: Through Baptism, God has made **Penelope** a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that together we may present the forgiveness of God in Christ to our world.

People: **We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ and a worker with us in the kingdom of God.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION:

[L]: Our salvation is nearer now than when we first believe. So let us be clothed with Christ and forget about satisfying the sinful self. (*Romans 13:11&14*)

CLOSING HYMN: “Almighty Father, Bless the Word” LSB 923



1 Al - might - y Fa - ther, bless the Word Which through Your
 2 We praise You for the means of grace As home - ward
 3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
 grace we now have heard. Oh, may the pre - cious
 now our steps we trace. Grant, Lord, that we who
 crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye
 seed take root, Spring up, and bear a - bun - dant fruit!
 wor - shiped here May all at last in heav'n ap - pear.
 heav'n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

POSTLUDE



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“Come, Thou Almighty King” LSB 905

Text: English, before 1760, alt

Tune: Felice de Giardini, 1716-96; setting: *Lutheran Book of Worship: Select Hymns*, 1985. Text and music: Public domain

“The Church’s One Foundation” LSB 644

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900, alt.

Music: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-76. Text and music: Public domain

“Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service” LSB 848

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-84, alt. Tune: *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Text: © 1961 Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149. Tune: Public domain.

“Built on the Rock” LSB 645

Text: Nikolai Fredrik Severin Grundvig, 1783-1872, abr.; tr. Carl Döving, 1867-1937, alt.

Tune: Ludvig M. Linderman, 1812-87; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and Music: Public domain.

“Your Table I Approach” LSB 628

Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633-1722; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828-1915, alt.

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

Setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and tune: Public domain.

“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.

Text: © 1925 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149. Music: Public domain

“Almighty Father, Bless the Word” LSB 923

Text: *Church Poetry*, Philadelphia, sts. 1-2, alt.; Thomas Ken, st. 3. Tune: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois

Setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and music: Public domain.

SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Lector 8:00...Tom & Sheri Esswein

Liturgist 8:00...Karl Fink

Director of Music Ministries & Worship Arts...Noah Freeman

Children's Message...Alissa Brege

Lector 9:30...John & Josette Utke

Preacher...Pastor Kevin Kritzer

Sound/Production...Felix Rivera, Jon Widmann



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



~ In celebration of Penelope Hope's Baptism ~

~ with Love from the Rongcal, Treimer, and Velez families



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.



Parents of Young Children: We are so glad you and your children are here! Children are a joyful part of worship—after all, God created them with curiosity, energy, and yes, a few wiggles. Please don't feel pressure to keep them perfectly still in God's house. Their presence is truly a gift to our church family.

Worship is where we learn, together, how to listen and speak to God alongside our brothers and sisters in faith. You are welcome to quietly explain parts of the service and what our worship leaders are doing—children learn how to worship by watching and imitating you.

If it would be helpful, "worship bags" are available in the Narthex with items designed to support children and families during worship. Childcare is also available in our Nursery for children from birth through age five. Our caring and qualified staff look forward to welcoming your little one into a safe and loving environment.

Bethany's Nursery is located across the courtyard. Please feel free to ask an usher if you need directions—we're happy to help.

