

## WELCOME TO BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH



### *Christ the King Sunday*

### LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

*November 26, 2023*

*8:00 & 9:30 AM*

#### We are so glad you are here in God's house for worship.

**Before** worship, talk to God! (see inside cover of hymnal for pre-service prayer prompts)

**During** worship, let God talk to you!

**After** worship, talk to one another.

**If You're a Visitor**, let us get to know you.

Scan the QR Code here:



**Parents of Young Children:** *We love to have children in worship.* God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to completely suppress it in God's house. We know the presence of children in worship is a gift to the church! It is in the Lord's house that we learn how to listen and speak to our God with our brothers and sisters in faith. Feel free to quietly explain the parts of the service and the actions of those leading worship. Children learn how to worship by copying you. If you have a need, we have "worship bags" in the Narthex filled with items to help children and families during worship. There is a **Cry Room** across the courtyard in the office complex, where you as a parent may take your little one needing a break. You will still be able to hear the worship service; and thus be able to continue your worship of the Lord.

**Please** place cell phones and electronic devices on mute as you join us in worship this morning. Thank you.

#### **AS WE GATHER:**

Bethany Lutheran exists to **GATHER** God's beloved children into community around His Word and gifts, **CONNECT** them to their brothers and sisters in Christ and their God-given calling, and through the Spirit, **SEND** them empowered for service into their daily lives to be the means through which Jesus continues to "Bless from Bethany".  
(*Luke 24:50*)

**PRELUDE:**

*“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”*

Jubilate Bells

~ Hart Morris

**WELCOME**

**OPENING HYMN:**

*“O Worship the King”*

LSB 804



1 O wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.  
 2 O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,  
 3 This earth, with its store of won - ders un - told,  
 4 Thy boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?



O grate - ful - ly sing His pow'r and His love;  
 Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space;  
 Al - might - y, Thy pow'r hath found - ed of old,  
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,



Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,  
 His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,  
 Es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,  
 It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,



Pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.  
 And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.  
 And round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.  
 And sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

**Leader:** In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just,  
will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)*

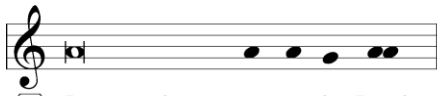
Leader: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father,

People: **Most merciful God,  
we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean.  
We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved You with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.  
For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.  
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will  
and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Leader: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you  
and for His sake forgives you all your sins.  
As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority,  
I therefore forgive you all your sins  
in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

## KYRIE: “*Lord, Have Mercy*”



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



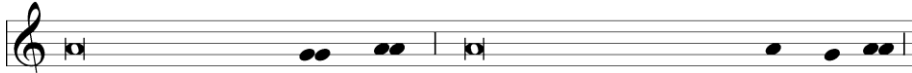
**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



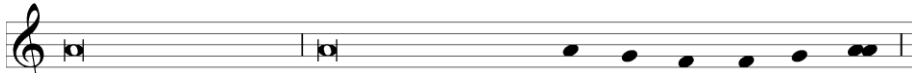
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



**G** A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Gloria in Excelsis – Glory to God in the Highest" LSB 170

**A** Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth.

**G** Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and  
Fa - ther: We wor - ship You, we give You thanks, we  
praise You for Your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly  
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You  
take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the  
Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For You a-lone are the  
Ho - ly One, You a-lone are the Lord, You a-  
lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,  
in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: *1 Thessalonians 5:1-11***

**B**rothers and sisters, you don't need anyone to write to you about times and dates. You know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When people say, "Everything is safe and sound!" destruction will suddenly strike them. It will be as sudden as labor pains come to a pregnant woman. They won't be able to escape. But, brothers and sisters, you don't live in the dark. That day won't take you by surprise as a thief would. You belong to the day and the light not to the night and the dark. Therefore, we must not fall asleep like other people, but we must stay awake and be sober. People who sleep, sleep at night; people who get drunk, get drunk at night. Since we belong to the day, we must be sober. We must put on faith and love as a breastplate and the hope of salvation as a helmet. It was not God's intention that we experience His anger but that we obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake in this life or asleep in death, we will live together with Him. Therefore, encourage each other and strengthen one another as you are doing. – GW ®

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC: “*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*”** Jubilate Bells  
~ arr. Kevin McChesney

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 25:31-46***

“**W**hen the Son of Man comes in His glory and all His angels are with Him, He will sit on His glorious throne. The people of every nation will be gathered in front of Him. He will separate them as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on His right but the goats on His left.

“Then the king will say to those on His right, ‘Come, My Father has blessed you! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink. I was a

stranger, and you took Me into your home. I needed clothes, and you gave Me something to wear. I was sick, and you took care of Me. I was in prison, and you visited Me.’

“Then the people who have God’s approval will reply to Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You or see You thirsty and give You something to drink? When did we see You as a stranger and take You into our homes or see You in need of clothes and give You something to wear? When did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?’

“The King will answer them, ‘I can guarantee this truth: Whatever you did for one of my brothers or sisters, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did for Me.’

“Then the King will say to those on His left, ‘Get away from Me! God has cursed you! Go into everlasting fire that was prepared for the devil and his angels! I was hungry, and you gave me nothing to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me nothing to drink. I was a stranger, and you didn’t take me into your homes. I needed clothes, and you didn’t give me anything to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you didn’t take care of me.’

“They, too, will ask, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or as a stranger or in need of clothes or sick or in prison and didn’t help You?’

“He will answer them, ‘I can guarantee this truth: Whatever you failed to do for one of my brothers or sisters, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you failed to do for Me.’

“These people will go away into eternal punishment, but those with God’s approval will go into eternal life.” – GW ®

1 “Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing,” The watch - men on the  
 2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing, And all her heart with  
 3 Now let all the heav’ns a - dore Thee, Let saints and an - gels

heights are cry - ing; “A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!”  
 joy is spring - ing; She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.  
 sing be - fore Thee With harp and cym - bals’ clear - est tone.

Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es And at the thrill - ing  
 For her Lord comes down all - glo - rious, The strong in grace, in  
 Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, Where, join - ing with the

cry re - joic - es: “Oh, where are ye, ye vir - gins wise?  
 truth vic - to - rious; Her star is ris’n, her light is come.  
 choir im - mor - tal, We gath - er round Thy ra - diant throne.

The Bride - groom comes, a - wake! Your lamps with glad - ness take!  
 Now come, Thou Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God’s own Son,  
 No eye has seen the light, No ear has heard the might

Al - le - lu - ia! With brid - al care Your - selves pre - pare  
 Hail! Ho - san - na! We en - ter all The wed - ding hall  
 Of Thy glo - ry; There - fore will we E - ter - nal - ly

To meet the Bride - groom, who is near.”  
 To eat the Sup - per at Thy call.  
 Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

**SERMON: “No Surprises Here!”**

**Text: Matthew 25:31-46**



HYMN OF THE DAY: "The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns" LSB 532

1 The Head that once was crowned with thorns Is  
 2 The high - est place that heav'n af - fords Is  
 3 The Joy of all who dwell a - bove, The  
 4 To them the cross, with all its shame, With

crowned with glo - ry now; A roy - al di - a -  
 His, is His by right, The King of kings and  
 Joy of all be - low To whom He man - i -  
 all its grace, is giv'n; Their name an ev - er -

dem a - dorns The might - y Vic - tor's brow.  
 Lord of lords, And heav'n's e - ter - nal Light;  
 fest His love And grants His name to know.  
 last - ing name, Their joy the joy of heav'n.

**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.**

*(Creed continues on next page.)*

**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.**

## **PRAYER 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.**

**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](mailto:mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org) or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

## **+ *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 help you prepare for communion we invite you to take a few moments of quiet prayer. For aid there are prayers on the front page of the hymnal for both before and after the reception of communion. 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 sacrament of Your altar. 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.***

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

*The wafers next to the Christ candle side are gluten free;*

*for those with dietary restrictions, please take a gluten free wafer.*

*For those wishing to use a self-contained communion chalice, let an usher know.*

*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:

### *“Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed”* LSB 560



1 Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed With heal - ing  
2 Thou know - est all my griefs and fears, Thy grace a -  
3 Wash me and take a - way each stain; Let noth - ing  
4 And then for work to do for Thee, Which shall so



gifts for souls dis - tressed, To find in Thee my  
bused, my mis - spent years; Yet now to Thee with  
of my sin re - main. For cleans - ing, though it  
sweet a ser - vice be That an - gels well might



life, my rest, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.  
con - trite tears, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.  
be through pain, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.  
en - vy me, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.

“Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia”

LSB 466



1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.  
 2 For three long days the grave did its worst  
 3 The an - gel said to them, “Do not fear!  
 4 “Go spread the news: He’s not in the grave;  
 5 Christ has a - ris - en; He sets us free;



Re - joice and praise Him, al - le - lu - ia.  
 Un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.  
 You look for Je - sus who is not here.  
 He has a - ris - en this world to save.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, to Him prais - es be.



For our Re - deem - er burst from the tomb,  
 He who gives life did death un - der - go;  
 See for your - selves the tomb is all bare;  
 Je - sus’ re - deem - ing la - bors are done;  
 Je - sus is liv - ing! Let us all sing;



E - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.  
 And in its con - quest His might did show.  
 On - ly the grave cloths are ly - ing there.”  
 E - ven the bat - tle with sin is won.”  
 He reigns tri - um - phant, heav - en - ly King.

*Refrain*



Let us sing praise to Him with end - less joy;



Death’s fear - ful sting He has come to de - stroy.



Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!



Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT:**

Pastor: Let us pray.  
We give thanks to You, almighty God,  
that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift,  
and we implore You that of Your mercy  
You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You  
and in fervent love toward one another;  
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with You  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.


**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BENEDICTION:**

Leader: 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.

People: Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN: "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" LSB 461**



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com - fort  
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -  
6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'n - ly friend; He lives and  
8 He lives, all glo - ry to His name! He lives, my  
this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who  
ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious  
loves me to the end; He lives, and while He  
Je - sus, still the same; Oh, the sweet joy this  
once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.  
in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.  
lives, I'll sing; He lives, my Proph - et, Priest, and King.  
sen - tence gives: I know that my Re - deem - er lives!

## POSTLUDE

+ + + + + +

### COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS

Liturgy (or the appropriate portion thereof) from *Lutheran Service Book*  
©2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. License #000012696

“O Worship the King” LSB 804

Text: Robert Grant, 1779-1838, alt. Tune: William Croft, 1678-1727. Text and music: Public domain

“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying” LSB 516

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt. Tune: Philipp Nicolai;  
setting: Württembergisches Neues Choralbuch, 1956. Text and Tune: Public domain.  
Setting: ©1956 Bärenreiter. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-706149

“The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns” LSB 532

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769-1855. Tune: Jeremiah Clarke, c. 1674-1707;  
setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941. Text and Music: Public domain

“Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed” LSB 560

Text: Genevieve M. Irons, 1855-1928. Music: Joseph Barnby, 1838-96. Text and music: Public domain

“Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia” LSB 466

Text: Bernard Kyamanywa, b. 1938; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922. Music: Tanzanian.  
Text: © 1977 Howard S. Olson, Augsburg Fortress Publishers. All rights reserved.  
Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149. Music: Public domain.

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives” LSB 461

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-99, abr. Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, d. 1793;  
setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and music: Public domain.

### SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:

Children’s Sermon... Karl Fink

Lector 8:00... Josette and John Utke

Bell Director & Organist... Noah Freeman

Liturgist... Karl Fink

Lector 9:30... Barbara and Neal Hasty

Preacher... Senior Pastor Kevin L. Kritzer

### ARE YOU RECEIVING THE BETHANY BULLET?

The *Bethany Bullet* is a weekly capsule of worship highlights, and important information about events taking place at Bethany Lutheran Church. If you would like to receive the *Bethany Bullet* please email Aimee Coleman at [acoleman@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:acoleman@bethanylutheran.org) with your name and email address. Tell a friend about the *Bethany Bullet*!

### IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HEAR TODAY’S SERMON OR PREVIOUS SERMONS AGAIN...

You can hear them as podcasts on our website [www.bethanylutheran.org](http://www.bethanylutheran.org).

