



# Gathered Connected Sent

Bethany Lutheran Church | Long Beach, CA

THIRD SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

JUNE 29, 2025

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## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

### OPENING HYMN: "God Himself Is Present"

LSB 907

1 God Him - self is pres - ent: Let us now a - dore Him  
2 God Him - self is pres - ent: Hear the harps re - sound - ing;  
3 Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Pu - ri - fy my spir - it,  
And with awe ap - pear be - fore Him. God is in His  
See the hosts the throne sur - round - ing. "Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
Trust-ing on - ly in Your mer - it. Like the ho - ly  
tem - ple; All with - in keep si - lence; Hum - bly kneel in  
ho - ly!" Hear the hymn as - cend - ing, Songs of saints and  
an - gels, Wor - ship - ing be - fore You, May I cease-less -  
deep - est rev - 'rence. He a - lone On His throne  
an - gels blend - ing. Bow Your ear To us here:  
ly a - dore You. Let Your will Ev - er still  
Is our God and Sav - ior; Praise His name for - ev - er!  
Hear, O Christ, the prais - es That Your Church now rais - es.  
Rule Your Church ter - res - trial As the hosts ce - les - tial.

### OPENING VERSICLES:

- L:** This is the day which the Lord has made;  
**P:** **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**  
**L:** From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**P:** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**  
**L:** Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;  
**P:** **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**  
**L:** Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.  
**P:** **Teach me Your paths.**  
**L:** Sanctify us in Your truth.  
**P:** **Your Word is truth.**

**L:** From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**P:** the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**P:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## ✠ READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE ✠

### COLLECT FOR THE WORD:

**L:** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**P:** Amen.

### OLD TESTAMENT READING: *1 Kings 19:9b-21*

Then the Lord spoke His word to Elijah. He asked, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

He answered, "Lord God of Armies, I have eagerly served You. The Israelites have abandoned Your promises, torn down Your altars, and executed Your prophets. I'm the only one left, and they're trying to take my life."

God said, "Go out and stand in front of the Lord on the mountain."

As the Lord was passing by, a fierce wind tore mountains and shattered rocks ahead of the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord wasn't in the earthquake. After the earthquake there was a fire. But the Lord wasn't in the fire. And after the fire there was a quiet, whispering voice. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his coat, went out, and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Then the voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

He answered, "Lord God of Armies, I have eagerly served You. The Israelites have abandoned Your promises, torn down Your altars, and executed Your prophets. I'm the only one left, and they're trying to take my life."

The Lord told him, "Go back to the wilderness near Damascus, the same way you came. When you get there, anoint Hazael as king of Aram. Anoint Jehu, son of Nimshi, as king of Israel. And anoint Elisha, son of Shaphat, from Abel Meholah as prophet to take your place. If anyone escapes from Hazael's sword, Jehu will kill him. And if anyone escapes from Jehu's sword, Elisha will kill him. But I still have 7,000 people in Israel whose knees have not knelt to worship Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him."

Elijah found Elisha, son of Shaphat. Elisha was plowing behind 12 pairs of oxen. He was using the twelfth pair. Elijah took off his coat and put it on Elisha. So, Elisha left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and mother goodbye. Then I will follow you."

"Go back," Elijah answered him. "I'm not stopping you."

Elisha left him, took two oxen, and butchered them. He boiled the meat, using the oxen's yoke for firewood. He gave the meat to the people to eat. Then he left to follow and assist Elijah. -GW®

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**P:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **EPISTLE READING: *Galatians 5:1, 13-25***

Christ has freed us so that we may enjoy the benefits of freedom. Therefore, be firm in this freedom, and don't become slaves again.

You were indeed called to be free, brothers and sisters. Don't turn this freedom into an excuse for your corrupt nature to express itself. Rather, serve each other through love. All of Moses' Teachings are summarized in a single statement, "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." But if you criticize and attack each other, be careful that you don't destroy each other.

Let me explain further. Live your life as your spiritual nature directs you. Then you will never follow through on what your corrupt nature wants. What your corrupt nature wants is contrary to what your spiritual nature wants, and what your spiritual nature wants is contrary to what your corrupt nature wants. They are opposed to each other. As a result, you don't always do what you intend to do. If your spiritual nature is your guide, you are not subject to Moses' laws.

Now, the effects of the corrupt nature are obvious: illicit sex, perversion, promiscuity, idolatry, drug use, hatred, rivalry, jealousy, angry outbursts, selfish ambition, conflict, factions, envy, drunkenness, wild partying, and similar things. I've told you in the past and I'm telling you again that people who do these kinds of things will not inherit God's kingdom.

But the spiritual nature produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There are no laws against things like that. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their corrupt nature along with its passions and desires. If we live by our spiritual nature, then our lives need to conform to our spiritual nature. -GW®

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**P:** **Thanks be to God.**

# HYMN OF PRAISE: "All You Works of God, Bless the Lord" LSB 930



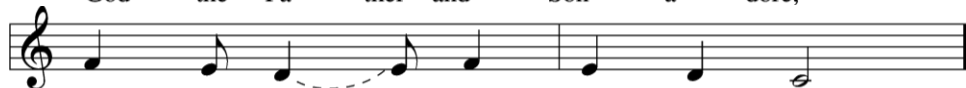
1 All you works of God, bless the Lord!  
 5 Come, hu - man - i - ty, sing a - long,  
 6 Bless the Lord, all you pure of heart;



All you an - gels, now bless the Lord;  
 Sing, you peo - ple of God, a song;  
 All you hum - ble, His praise im - part;



Come, you heav - ens and pow'rs that be,  
 Priests and ser - vants, your Lord now bless,  
 God the Fa - ther and Son a - dore,



Praise the Lord and His maj - es - ty:  
 Join, you spir - its and souls at rest:  
 Bless the Spir - it for - ev - er - more!

*Refrain*



Raise your voic - es high, praise and mag - ni - fy,



All you works of God, bless the Lord!



Raise your voic - es high, praise and mag - ni - fy,



All you works of God, bless the Lord!

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

8:00 & 9:30

**L:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter:

### THE HOLY GOSPEL: *Luke 9:51-62*

The time was coming closer for Jesus to be taken to heaven. So, He was determined to go to Jerusalem. He sent messengers ahead of Him. They went into a Samaritan village to arrange a place for Him to stay. But the people didn't welcome Him, because He was on His way to Jerusalem. James and John, His disciples, saw this. They asked, "Lord, do You want us to call down fire from heaven to burn them up?"

But He turned and corrected them. So they went to another village.

As they were walking along the road, a man said to Jesus, "I'll follow You wherever You go."

Jesus told him, "Foxes have holes, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to sleep."

He told another man, "Follow Me!"

But the man said, "Sir, first let me go to bury my father."

But Jesus told him, "Let the dead bury their own dead. You must go everywhere and tell about God's kingdom."

Another said, "I'll follow You, sir, but first let me tell my family goodbye."

Jesus said to him, "Whoever starts to plow and looks back is not fit for God's kingdom." -GW®

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**P:** **Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORY:

**L:** Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

**P:** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

**L:** Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

**P:** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

**L:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**P:** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

## 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.**



1 Speak, O Lord, Your ser - vant lis - tens, Let Your Word to  
 2 Oh, what bless - ing to be near You And to lis - ten  
 3 Lord, Your words are wa - ters liv - ing When my thirst - ing  
 4 As I pray, dear Je - sus, hear me; Let Your words in

me come near; New - born life and spir - it give me,  
 to Your voice; Let me ev - er love and hear You,  
 spir - it pleads. Lord, Your words are bread life - giv - ing;  
 me take root. May Your Spir - it e'er be near me

Let each prom - ise still my fear. Death's dread pow'r, its in - ward  
 Let Your Word be now my choice! Man - y hard - ened sin - ners,  
 On Your words my spir - it feeds. Lord, Your words will be my  
 That I bear a - bun - dant fruit. May I dai - ly sing Your

strife, Wars a - gainst Your Word of life; Fill me, Lord, with  
 Lord, Flee in ter - ror at Your Word; But to all who  
 light Through death's cold and drea - ry night; Yes, they are my  
 praise, From my heart glad an - thems raise, Till my high - est

love's strong fer - vor That I cling to You for - ev - er!  
 feel sin's bur - den You give words of peace and par - don.  
 sword pre - vail - ing And my cup of joy un - fail - ing!  
 praise is giv - en In the end - less joy of heav - en.

## MESSAGE





1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -  
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus And with pa - tience  
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He  
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en



am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to  
 bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He  
 con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to  
 from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,



sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,  
 is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter,  
 us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion  
 You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;



Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and  
 We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts  
 That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that  
 Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful  
 that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,  
 shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,  
 con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,



Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.  
 here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.  
 here with You I die, There to live with You on high.  
 let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

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

## CONSECRATION OF GIFTS

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

**L:** In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**P:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L:** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

**P:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L:** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

**P:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L:** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

**P:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L:** For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

**P:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L:** For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

**P:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L:** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

**P:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L:** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

**P:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L:** For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**P:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L:** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

**P:** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

## COLLECT OF THE DAY:

**L:** Lord of all power and might, author and giver of all good things, graft into our hearts the love of Your name and nourish us with all goodness that we may love and serve our neighbor; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, and has taught us to pray:

## 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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BENEDICTION:

**L:** Let us bless the Lord.

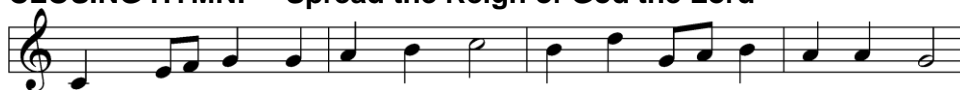
**P:** Thanks be to God.

**L:** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

**P:** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN: "Spread the Reign of God the Lord"

LSB 830



1 Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spo - ken, writ - ten, might-y Word;  
2 Tell how God the Fa - ther's will Made the world, up - holds it still,  
3 Tell of our Re-deem-er's grace, Who, to save our hu-man race  
4 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n Now to guide us on to heav'n,



Ev - 'ry - where His crea-tures call To His heav'n-ly ban - quet hall.  
How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.  
And to pay re - bel-lion's price, Gave Him-self as sac - ri - fice.  
Strong and ho - ly, just and true, Work-ing both to will and do.

- 5 Enter, mighty Word, the field;  
Ripe the promise of its yield.  
But the reapers, oh, how few  
For the work there is to do!
- 6 Lord of harvest, great and kind,  
Rouse to action heart and mind;  
Let the gath'ring nations all  
See Your light and heed Your call.

## POSTLUDE



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"God Himself Is Present" LSB 907

Text: Gerhard Tersteegen, 1697-1769, abr.; tr. Frederick W. Foster, 1760-1835 and John Miller, 1756-90, alt.; sts. 1 & 3

Tune: Joachim Neander, 1650-80, alt; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941.

Text and Music: Public Domain

"All You Works of God, Bless the Lord" LSB 930

Text: Stephen P. Starke. © 1995 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Music: Jamaican Folk Tune; adapt. Doreen Potter. © 1975 Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved.

Setting: Michael Burkhardt. ©1998 MorningStar Music Publishers. All rights reserved

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"Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens" LSB 589

Text: Anna Sophia von Hessen-Darmstadt, 1638-83; tr. George A.T. Rygh, 1860-1942,

sts. 1-3, alt; tr. *Christian Worship*, 1993, st. 4 | Tune: Johann Schop, c. 1590-1667.

Text and tune: Public domain.

"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" LSB 685

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-81; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978, alt. Tune: Georg G. Boltze, 18<sup>th</sup> cent.

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"Spread the Reign of God the Lord" LSB 830  
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 Tune: *Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch*, Halle, 1704, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt.;  
 Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941.  
 Tune: Public domain.

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## SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Acolyte 9:30...Alice Kienitz		Crucifer...Reenie Long
Lector 8:00...Claude Potter	9:30...Lily Craft	Lector 11:00...Les Friend
Preacher ...Pastor Kevin Kritzer		Liturgist...Soren Widmann
Organist/Pianist...Kevin Bowers		Children's Message...Alissa Brege

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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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The Music Ministry of Bethany Lutheran announces Trinity Alwood & Anika Morgensen as this year's Music Ministry Grant Award recipients. Trinity will be a starting her K-12 Vocal and Choral Music Education student teaching this fall. Bethany has been blessed by her musical gifts in worship services on piano and vocals. She is also one of Bethany Music Academy's much-loved piano instructors. Anika will be entering her sophomore year at Millikan High School. She is a member of the Millikan Chamber Orchestra (violin), sings soprano in our Bethany Choir, and plays violin in Bethany's VBS band. God has filled Trinity and Anika with His good gifts of music; we are blessed to watch Him at work in each of them.

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Beutel Scholarship Grants for academic year 2025-2026 have been awarded to the following Concordia University students: **CUI**: Grace DeJongh; **CUNE**: Lily Alwood, Caleb O'Conner, and Soren Widmann. These students continue their preparation for full-time careers as church workers in the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod. God has called each of these Bethany young adults to do His work in our church, and we look forward to watching His good plan unfold in each of them.

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*Introducing:*

# SERVANT LEADER TEAM: SPIRITUAL LIFE

## WHAT IS SLT: SL?

Bethany's restructured constitution revises elder responsibilities into a new model - the Servant Leader Team: Spiritual Life. This team supports ministry staff and congregational worship through spiritual service, training, and theological study.

**2**

YEARS OF  
COMMITMENT



VOLUNTEER  
BASED / NOT  
ELECTED

**CHAIR:**

APPOINTED  
AFTER SPRING  
VOTER'S  
MEETING

**CO-  
CHAIR:**

APPOINTED  
(1 PER TEAM)



Gathered



Connected



Sent

*Team one:*

**ACC:** ACOLYTE,  
CRUCIFER,  
COMMUNION

### RESPONSIBILITIES

- assist in distribution of Communion (set up altar/table)
- assist in Baptism liturgy (prepare for the baptism)
- support and train acolytes and crucifers
- support worship staff with planning and logistics
- other duties assigned by worship leaders

**4**

MEETINGS  
PER YEAR

**75-90**

MINUTES OF  
TRAINING

ARRIVE  
**30**

MINUTES BEFORE  
ASSIGNED SERVICES



UNLIMITED  
OPEN SLOTS

*Team two:*

**SOC:** STUDY OF  
CONFESSIONS

### RESPONSIBILITIES

- read and discuss the Lutheran Confessions with pastoral staff
- support doctrinal clarity and theological growth
- be familiar with all Bible study opportunities of the congregation

**6**

MEETINGS  
PER YEAR

**75-90**

MINUTES  
(EACH MEETING)

**20**

MEMBERS  
MAX



1-ON-1 WITH  
PASTOR REQUIRED

*Team three:*

**PSM:** PRAYER &  
SUPPORT OF  
MINISTRY  
STAFF

### RESPONSIBILITIES

- form 2-3 person groups to support a staff member
- commit to prayer, encouragement, and personal connection with assigned staff member
- team grows as staff grows

**2**

YEARLY TEAM  
MEETINGS

**2-4**

YEARLY MEETINGS  
WITH ASSIGNED  
STAFF MEMBER

**20-30**

MEMBERS  
NEEDED



APPOINTED BY  
SENIOR PASTOR



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](http://www.bethanylutheran.org)

**Bethany Lutheran School** information can be found by visiting their website at:  
[www.bethanylutheran.org/school/](http://www.bethanylutheran.org/school/)

**Bethany Preschool's** website: [www.bethanylutheran.org/preschool/](http://www.bethanylutheran.org/preschool/)

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



## **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. **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: