



# Gathered Connected Sent

Bethany Lutheran Church | Long Beach, CA

EIGHTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 3, 2025

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## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

### OPENING HYMN:

### “O God, My Faithful God”

LSB 696



1 O God, my faith - ful God, True foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,  
2 Grant me the strength to do With read - y heart and will - ing  
4 Lord, let me win my foes With kind - ly words and ac - tions,  
5 Let me de - part this life Con - fid - ing in my Sav - ior;



With - out whom noth - ing is, All per - fect gifts be - stow - ing;  
What - ev - er You com - mand, My call - ing here ful - fill - ing;  
And let me find good friends For coun - sel and cor - rec - tion.  
By grace re - ceive my soul That it may live for - ev - er;



Give me a health - y frame, And may I have with - in  
That I do what I should While trust - ing You to bless  
Help me, as You have taught, To love both great and small  
And let my bod - y have A qui - et rest - ing place



A con - science free from blame, A soul un - stained by sin.  
The out - come for my good, For You must give suc - cess.  
And by Your Spir - it's might To live in peace with all.  
With - in a Chris - tian grave; And let it sleep in peace.

### CALL TO WORSHIP: *(based on Col. 1:3)*

- L:** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
**P:** **We always thank God; the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ through the Spirit He has given us.**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS: *(based on Col. 1:21 ff)*

- L:** Once we were separated from God. The sinful things we did, the holy things we left undone, showed us for the people which we are by nature. But Christ has brought us back to God by dying in His body on the cross. He did this so that we could come into God's presence without sin, fault or blame.

**P:**     **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

**L:**     God has made you alive with Christ. He forgives all your failures. He did this by erasing the charges that were brought against you. He took the charges away by nailing them to the cross of Jesus. In His name and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins. Amen.

**FIRST READING: *Colossians 3:1-11***

Since you were brought back to life with Christ, focus on the things that are above—where Christ holds the honored position—the one next to God the Father on the heavenly throne. Keep your mind on things above, not on worldly things. You have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Christ is your life. When He appears, then you, too, will appear with Him in glory.

Therefore, put to death whatever is worldly in you: your sexual sin, perversion, passion, lust, and greed (which is the same thing as worshiping wealth). It is because of these sins that God's anger comes on those who refuse to obey Him. You used to live that kind of sinful life. Also get rid of your anger, hot tempers, hatred, cursing, obscene language, and all similar sins. Don't lie to each other. You've gotten rid of the person you used to be and the life you used to live, and you've become a new person. This new person is continually renewed in knowledge to be like its Creator. Where this happens, there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, uncivilized person, slave, or free person. Instead, Christ is everything and in everything. -GW®

# RESPONSIVE HYMN:

## "Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

LSB 743



1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, Fount of pur - est plea - sure,  
3 Sa - tan, I de - fy thee; Death, I now de - cry thee;  
4 Hence, all earth - ly trea - sure! Je - sus is my plea - sure,



Tru - est friend to me, Ah, how long in an - guish  
Fear, I bid thee cease. World, thou shalt not harm me  
Je - sus is my choice. Hence, all emp - ty glo - ry!



Shall my spir - it lan - guish, Yearn - ing, Lord, for Thee?  
Nor thy threats a - larm me While I sing of peace.  
Naught to me thy sto - ry Told with tempt - ing voice.



Thou art mine, O Lamb di - vine! I will suf - fer  
God's great pow'r Guards ev - 'ry hour; Earth and all its  
Pain or loss, Or shame or cross, Shall not from my



naught to hide Thee; Naught I ask be - side Thee.  
depths a - dore Him, Si - lent bow be - fore Him.  
Sav - ior move me Since He deigns to love me.

# CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

8:00 & 9:30

## HOLY GOSPEL: *Luke 12:13-21*

Someone in the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, tell my brother to give me my share of the inheritance that our father left us.”

Jesus said to him, “Who appointed Me to be your judge or to divide your inheritance?”

He told the people, “Be careful to guard yourselves from every kind of greed. Life is not about having a lot of material possessions.”

Then He used this illustration. He said, “A rich man had land that produced good crops. He thought, ‘What should I do? I don’t have enough room to store my crops.’ He said, ‘I know what I’ll do. I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones so that I can store all my grain and goods in them. Then I’ll say to myself, “You’ve stored up a lot of good things for years to come. Take life easy, eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.”’

“But God said to him, ‘You fool! I will demand your life from you tonight! Now who will get what you’ve accumulated?’ That’s how it is when a person has material riches but is not rich in his relationship with God.” -GW®

## SERMON HYMN: “Chief of Sinners Though I Be”

LSB 611



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His  
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the  
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the  
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,  
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,  
wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,  
all to me; All my wants to Him are known,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is  
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—  
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to  
All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.  
won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.  
walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.  
hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.

**MESSAGE: “Sinking down Roots: “Get Your Mind Out of the Gutter vs. So Heavenly-Minded of No Earthly Good?”” Col. 3:1-11**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: “Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings” LSB 782**



1 Gra - cious God, You send great bless - ings  
 2 By Your Word You formed cre - a - tion  
 3 In His earth - ly life, our Sav - ior  
 4 Heav'n - ly Fa - ther, may our car - ing

New each morn - ing all our days. For Your mer - cies  
 Filled with crea - tures large and small; As we tend that  
 Knew the care of faith - ful friends; May our deeds of  
 Bear the im - print of Your grace; With the Son and

nev - er end - ing, For Your love we of - fer praise.  
 end - less trea - sure May our care en - cir - cle all.  
 ded - i - ca - tion Of - fer love that nev - er ends.  
 Ho - ly Spir - it, Praise be Yours in ev - 'ry place!

*Refrain*

Lord, we pray that we, Your peo - ple Who Your gifts un - num - bered claim,  
 Through the shar - ing of Your bless - ings May bring glo - ry to Your name.

**CONFESSION OF FAITH: (based on Col. 1:15)**

**[L]:** Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. He created all things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible. He is the head of the church which is his body and with the church on earth and in heaven we confess the faith once and for all delivered to the saints:

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

## **CONSECRATION OF GIFTS:** (*based on Col. 3:17*)

**L:** Receive these our gifts, O Lord, and fund ministry through them that enables us in Word and deed to do all things in the name of Jesus, giving thanks to the Father through Him.

## **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.

## ✠ 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 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 & 11:00 am services, 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: "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways" LSB 707



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat-utes still!  
2 Or - der my foot-steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin-cere;  
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict-er watch to keep;  
4 Make me to walk in Thy com-mands—'Tis a de-light-ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!  
Let sin have no do-min-ion, Lord, But keep my con-science clear.  
And should I e'er for-get Thy way, Re-store Thy wan-d'ring sheep.  
Nor let my head or heart or hands Of-fend a-against my God.



## **“In Christ Alone”**

### **Verse 1**

In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light my strength my song  
This Cornerstone this solid Ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled when strivings cease  
My Comforter my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand

### **Verse 2**

In Christ alone who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live

### **Verse 3**

There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

### **Verse 4**

No guilt in life no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSING: *(based on Col. 3:2)*

**[L]:** Keep your mind on things above, not on worldly things. You have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with Him in glory. Amen.

### CLOSING HYMN: “God of Grace and God of Glory”

LSB 850

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Your peo - ple  
2 Lo, the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn the Christ, as -  
3 Cure Your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; Bend our pride to  
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion To the e - vils

pour Your pow'r; Crown Your an - cient Church's sto - ry;  
sail His ways! From the fears that long have bound us  
Your con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,  
we de - plore; Let the gift of Your sal - va - tion

Bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom,  
Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom,  
Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom,  
Be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom,

grant us cour - age For the fac - ing of this  
grant us cour - age For the liv - ing of these  
grant us cour - age Lest we miss Your king - dom's  
grant us cour - age, Serv - ing You whom we a -

hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.  
days, For the liv - ing of these days.  
goal, Lest we miss Your king - dom's goal.  
dore, Serv - ing You whom we a - dore.

## POSTLUDE



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"O God, My Faithful God" LSB 696

Text: Johann Heermann; tr. Catherine Winkworth, alt. Tune: *Neu-vermehrtes...Gesangbuch*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., Meiningen, 1693; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text & Music: Public domain.

"Jesus, Priceless Treasure" LSB 743

Text: Johann Franck; tr. Catherine Winkworth, alt. Tune: Johann Crüger; setting: *The Lutheran Book of Worship*. Public domain

"Chief of Sinners Though I Be" LSB 611

Text: William McComb, alt. Tune: Richard Redhead; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text & music: Public domain.

"Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings" LSB 782

Text: Gregory J. Wismar, b. 1946.

Tune: *Columbian Harmony*, Cincinnati, 1825; setting: *Worship & Rejoice*, Carol Stream, 2001. Music: Public domain

Text: © 2004 Gregory J. Wismar; Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149.

"Oh That I Had a Thousand Voices" LSB 811

Text: Johann Mentzer. Tune: Johann Balthasar König. Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149. Music: Public domain

"In Christ Alone"

CCLI Song No. 3350395 Keith Getty | Stuart Townend © 2001 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing).

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"God of Grace and God of Glory" LSB 850

Text: Harry Emerson Fosdick. Tune: John Hughes; setting: Henry V. Gerike, b. 1948. Setting: ©2006 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149. Text & tune: Public domain



## **SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:**

Lector 8:00...Claude Potter	9:30...Shannon Morgensen	11:00...Ashlyn Bowman
Liturgist 8:00 & 9:30...Karl Fink		11:00...Soren Widmann
Precacher...Pastor Kevin Kritzer		Children's Message...Karl Fink
Director of Music Ministries & Worship Arts...Noah Freeman		



**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.



**Today's flowers are given to the glory of God:**

*~ In celebration of Nathan and Shannon Culley's  
13<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary ~*

*~by Nathan Culley*



Please visit our websites to find out more about our Church, School and Preschool. Get weekly updates by signing up for the **Bethany Broadcast**—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 Broadcast**: <https://bit.ly/BethanyBroadcastSignUp>



### **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: