



Gathered Connected Sent

Bethany Lutheran Church | Long Beach, CA

ELEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 24, 2025

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN:

“Earth and All Stars”

LSB 817



1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets! Sing to the
3 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals! Sing to the
5 Class - rooms and labs! Loud boil - ing test tubes! Sing to the
6 Knowl - edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom! Sing to the
7 Chil - dren of God, Dy - ing and ris - ing, Sing to the



Lord a new song! Oh, vic - to - ry! Loud shout - ing
Lord a new song! Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming
Lord a new song! Ath - lete and band! Loud cheer - ing
Lord a new song! Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing
Lord a new song! Heav - en and earth, Hosts ev - er -



ar - my! Sing to the Lord a new song!
cel - los! Sing to the Lord a new song!
peo - ple! Sing to the Lord a new song!
mem - bers! Sing to the Lord a new song!
last - ing, Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain



He has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too will praise Him with a new song!

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: Enter into the Lord's house with thanksgiving.

P: Come into His courts with praise;

L: Give thanks to Him and praise His name:

AII: The name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

- L:** As God's people, the sheep of His pasture, let us come to Him and confess that we have too often gone astray, wandered our own way and failed to heed His voice.
- P:** **Almighty God, I a poor sinner, confess to You my sins known and unknown. I have on occasions lived as if You do not matter; and I have often lived as if I matter most. I have not honored Your name as I should and even my worship and prayers have at times faltered. I admit that I have not always let Your love have its way with me, and so my love for You and others has failed. For the sake of Jesus Christ, the very Lamb of God, have mercy on me, forgive me my sins and restore me to Yourself that I might ever hear Your voice, follow You and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- L:** The Lord is good and His love endures forever. Hear His voice anew, on account of Jesus Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- Be in our midst Lord, enliven our faith, grant us new life through Your Spirit and receive our joyful praise and exultations through Your Son our Savior, Jesus.

PSALM 100: *(we read responsively)*

- L:** Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.
- P:** **Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing.**
- L:** Know ye that the Lord, He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.
- P:** **Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name.**
- L:** For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations. -KJV®

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 66:18-23*

Because of their actions and their thoughts,
I am coming to gather the nations of every language.
They will come and see My glory.
I will set up a sign among them
and send some of their survivors to the nations:
to Tarshish, Put and Lud, Meshech, Rosh, Tubal, Javan,
and to the distant coastlands
who have not heard of My fame or seen My glory.
They will tell about My glory among the nations.

They will bring all your relatives
from every nation like a grain offering to the LORD.
“They will come on horses, in chariots, in wagons,
on mules and camels to My holy mountain, Jerusalem,”
declares the LORD.
They will come like the people of Israel who bring
their grain offerings in clean dishes to the LORD’S temple.
“I will make some of them priests and Levites,” declares the LORD.
“The new heaven and earth that I am about to make
will continue in My presence,” declares the LORD.
“So your descendants and your name
will also continue in My presence.
From one month to the next and from one week to the next
all people will come to worship Me,” declares the LORD. -GW®

HYMN OF PRAISE: “Free to Worship”

Verse 1

We have gathered to sing these songs
Wretched sinners and desperate frauds
Fully covered in Jesus’ blood
Free to worship the Three In One
Free to worship the Three In One

Chorus

Holy is the Lord—Holy is the Lord Almighty
Holy is the Lord our mighty God

Verse 2

We have gathered to sing these songs
Sons and daughters of every tongue
Bound together in Jesus blood
Free to worship the Three In One
Free to worship the Three In One

Bridge

The curtain was torn through
We stand before You
And mercy is all you speak

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

8:00 & 9:30 am

HOLY GOSPEL: *Luke 13:22-30*

Then Jesus traveled and taught in one city and village after another on His way to Jerusalem.

Someone asked Him, “Sir, are only a few people going to be saved?”

He answered, “Try hard to enter through the narrow door. I can guarantee that many will try to enter, but they won’t succeed. After the homeowner gets up and closes the door, it’s too late. You can stand outside, knock at the door, and say, ‘Sir, open the door for us!’ But he will answer you, ‘I don’t know who you are.’ Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ But he will tell you, ‘I don’t know who you are. Get away from me, all you evil people.’ Then you will cry and be in extreme pain. That’s what you’ll do when you see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets. They’ll be in God’s kingdom, but you’ll be thrown out. People will come from all over the world and will eat in God’s kingdom. Some who are last will be first, and some who are first will be last.” -GW®

SERMON SONG: “My Help My God”

Verse 1

Why are you so full of heaviness
Why are you disquieted within
Oh my soul oh my soul
As the deer longs for the water brooks
So my soul it longs and thirsts for You
Oh my God oh my God

Chorus

Put your trust in God I will yet give thanks to Him
Put your trust in God I will yet give thanks to Him
Put your trust in God I will yet give thanks to Him
My Help my God

Verse 2

Deep goes unto deep like ocean waves
All Your floods and rapids on me break
Oh my soul oh my soul
I will say unto my God my strength
How is it You have forgotten me
Oh how long oh how long

Verse 3

Yahweh grants His kindness in the day
Through the night His song it is that stays
Oh my soul oh my soul

Ending

My help my God; My help my God

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY:

“O Sing to the Lord”

LSB 808



1 O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song. O sing to the
2 For God is the Lord! And God has done won-ders. For God is the
3 So dance for our God And blow all the trum-pets. So dance for our
4 O shout to our God, Who gave us the Spir - it. O shout to our
5 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! For Je - sus is

Lord, O sing God a new song. O sing to the Lord, O
Lord! And God has done won-ders. For God is the Lord! And
God And blow all the trum-pets. So dance for our God And
God, Who gave us the Spir - it. O shout to our God, Who
Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! For Je - sus is Lord! A -

sing God a new song. O sing to our God, O sing to our God.
God has done won-ders. O sing to our God, O sing to our God.
blow all the trum-pets. And sing to our God, And sing to our God.
gave us the Spir - it. O sing to our God, O sing to our God.
men! Al - le - lu - ia! O sing to our God, O sing to our God.

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!*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (*Divine Service, Setting Five*)

L: Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

P: **hear our prayer.**

L: May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

P: **hear our prayer.**

L: Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend [name(s)] and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

P: **hear our prayer.**

L: Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

P: **hear our prayer.**

L: Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

P: **hear our prayer.**

L: Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

P: **hear our prayer.**

L: And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

P: **hear our prayer.**

L: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

P: **Amen.**

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

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

✠ 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 am 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: "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.

“Faithful”

Verse 1

We had chosen the kings of this world
All the glory and glitter and gold
Though our kingdoms fell down
We keep asking for crowns
We'd reject you to sell our own souls

Verse 2

When you showed us the wonders we wanted
We laid palms down and shouted your praise
But when you weren't the king
That we thought you should be
We mocked you and spat in your face

Chorus

You are faithful faithful
Though your people turn away
You are faithful faithful
You are faithful every day

Verse 3

When you gave us the choice we took Caesar
And set a murderer free
We put nails in your hands nails in your feet
Then we hung you to die on a tree

Verse 4

When like Thomas it's hard to imagine
And we still want to see to believe
You don't scoff at our doubts
You hold your hands out
All your kingdom is ours to receive

Tag

You are faithful every day
You are faithful every day

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:

- L:** Let us pray.
- L:** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift,
- P:** **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. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION:

[L]: Go under the blessing of our God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; His faithfulness continues through all generations. Amen.

CLOSING SONG: “Let Me Count the Ways”

Verse 1

How many times Lord have I been cared for
Every step You've been with me
So many moments I have been broken
Only to find You could fix me

Chorus

Let me count the ways
Let me count the days that You have been faithful
Let me count the ways
Let me count the days that You have been faithful

Verse 2

All of my shortfalls all of my bad calls
All of my wrongs met with mercy
I don't deserve it but You say I'm worth it
Again and again You forgive me

Bridge

Let me count the ways, Let me count the days
Let me count the ways that You have been faithful

Verse 3

There is no end to the times You will rescue
One of Your own from despair
And Lord I know this 'cause I am a witness
To all of the times You've been there

POSTLUDE



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SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Crucifer 9:30...Henry Cerulle		
Lector 8:00...Shannon Morgensen	9:30...Lily Craft	11:00...Les Friend
Liturgist...Pastor Kevin Kritzer		Preacher...Pastor Seth Moorman
Director of Music Ministries and Worship Arts...Noah Freeman		
Artist in Residence...Blake Flattley		Children's Message...Alissa Brege



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.



Bethany Lutheran Church and School Staff and Faculty 2025-2026

Bethany Lutheran School Faculty and Staff:

Kindergarten	Mrs. Madison Ruiz
First Grade	Mrs. Lori Lange
Second Grade	Miss Stefanie Hinrichs
Third Grade	Mrs. Shannon Morgensen
Fourth Grade	Ms. Samantha Root
Fifth Grade	Mrs. Heidi Leicht
Sixth Grade Homeroom, MS Language Arts	Mrs. Carrie Evans
Seventh Grade Homeroom, MS Math	Miss Abby Einspahr
Eighth Grade Homeroom, MS History	Mr. Brad Royuk
Middle School Science	Mr. Paul Brege
Middle School Spanish	Señora Ali Wickwire
PE Teacher	Mr. Brent Whitfield
Art Teacher	Mrs. Jessica Zakharia
Student Success	Mrs. Kelsey Cornett, Mrs. Connie Kritzer, Mrs. Sarah O'Conner
Music Teacher & Campus Accompanist	Mr. Kevin Bowers
School Choirs Director	Mr. Noah Freeman
Extended Day Care Director	Ms. Carlota Brown
EDC Caregivers	Mrs. Michelle Fischer, Mr. Jacob Lagana, Miss Laci Carlson
Teacher Aides	Ms. Julie Bunting, Mrs. Jen DiCecca, Mrs. Christi Koehlinger, Mrs. Cory Steele, Mrs. Jessica Zakharia
School Librarian	Mrs. Nola Seaman
Admissions Director	Mrs. Sara Cerulle
IT Director	Mr. Josh Hicks
Administrative Assistant	Mrs. Kim Yoshiyama
Scrip Coordinator	Mrs. Ruth Lopez
Principal	Dr. Mary Fink

Bethany Preschool Staff:

ETK Teacher
TK Teacher
2-year-old Teacher
Support Staff
2-year-old Teacher
TK Teacher
2-year-old Teacher
Support Staff
2 ½ -year-old Teacher
Support Staff
3-year-old Teacher
ETK Teacher
Music Teacher
Director

Miss Elizabeth Aguirre
Miss Vannessa Contreras
Mrs. Tabitha Craft
Mrs. Erica Datingaling
Mrs. Kristy Fields
Ms. Jennifer Garcia
Ms. Lauren Joanes
Mrs. Alicia Lagana
Mrs. Grace Millares
Ms. Leticia Perez
Mrs. Erika Ramirez
Miss Marvella Soltero
Mrs. Mara Widmann
Mrs. Tammy Simpson



Bethany Lutheran Church Staff:

Associate Pastor of Connect Ministries
DCE, Children and Family Ministries
Assistant to Youth and Church Ministries
DCE, Care Ministry
Artist in Residence
Director of Music Ministries and Worship Ministries
Senior Pastor
DCE, Youth Ministry
Executive Administrative Assistant
Financial Administrator
Assistant to Music and Worship Ministries

John Alwood
Mrs. Alissa Brege
Mrs. Aimee Coleman
Mr. Karl Fink
Mr. Blake Flattley
Mr. Noah Freeman
Pr. Kevin Kritzer
Mrs. Kayleigh Lopez
Ms. Kasey Loya
Mrs. Maraley Shaeffer
Mrs. Mara Widmann



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

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 Broadcast**: <https://bit.ly/BethanyBroadcastSignUp>



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: