



Gathered Connected Sent

Bethany Lutheran Church | Long Beach, CA

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: "Rise, Shine, You People"

LSB 825



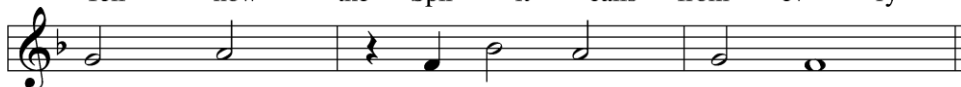
1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
2 See how He sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
3 Come, cel - e - brate, your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent His Son to save us.



Our hu - man sto - ry; God in Him is cen - tered.
He brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing.
Your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark-ness hurl - ing.
Tell of the Son, who life and free-dom gave us.



He comes to us, by death and sin sur -
All men and wom - en, who by guilt are
To all the world go out and tell the
Tell how the Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry



round - ed, With grace un - bound - ed.
driv - en, Now are for - giv - en.
sto - ry Of Je - sus' glo - ry.
na - tion His new cre - a - tion.

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:

All: 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.

PSALMODY: *Psalm 100* (we read responsively)

- L:** Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
- P:** **Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into His presence with singing!**
- L:** Know that the Lord, He is God!
- P:** **It is He who made us, and we are His;
we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.**
- L:** Enter His gates with thanksgiving,
- P:** **and His courts with praise!
Give thanks to Him; bless His name!**
- L:** For the Lord is good;
- P:** **His steadfast love endures forever,
and His faithfulness to all generations. -ESV®**

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Today I offer you life and prosperity or death and destruction. This is what I'm commanding you today: Love the Lord your God, follow his directions, and obey his commands, laws, and rules. Then you will live, your population will increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you're about to enter and take possession of.

But your hearts might turn away, and you might not listen. You might be tempted to bow down to other gods and worship them. If you do, I tell you today that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live for a long time in the land that you're going to take possession of when you cross the Jordan River.

I call on heaven and earth as witnesses today that I have offered you life or death, blessings or curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants will live. Love the Lord your God, obey him, and be loyal to him. This will be your way of life, and it will mean a long life for you in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

-GW®

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

“Jubilate Deo”
~Peter Angela

Bethany Choir

SECOND READING: *Philemon 1:1-21*

From Paul, who is a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and our brother Timothy.

To our dear coworker Philemon, our sister Apphia, our fellow soldier Archippus, and the church that meets in your house.

Good will and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are yours!

Philemon, I always thank my God when I mention you in my prayers because I hear about your faithfulness to the Lord Jesus and your love for all of God's people. As you share the faith you have in common with others, I pray that you may come to have a complete knowledge of every blessing we have in Christ. Your love for God's people gives me a lot of joy and encouragement. You, brother, have comforted God's people.

Christ makes me bold enough to order you to do the right thing. However, I would prefer to make an appeal on the basis of love. I, Paul, as an old man and now a prisoner for Christ Jesus, appeal to you for my child Onesimus [Useful]. I became his spiritual father here in prison. Once he was useless to you, but now he is very useful to both of us.

I am sending him back to you. This is like sending you a part of myself. I wanted to keep him here with me. Then he could have served me in your place while I am in prison for spreading the Good News. Yet, I didn't want to do anything without your consent. I want you to do this favor for me out of your own free will without feeling forced to do it.

Maybe Onesimus was gone for a while so that you could have him back forever— no longer as a slave but better than a slave—as a dear brother. He is especially dear to me, but even more so to you, both as a person and as a Christian.

If you think of me as your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, Paul, promise to pay it back. I'm writing this with my own hand. I won't even mention that you owe me your life. So, because we're brothers in the Lord, do something for me. Give me some comfort because of Christ. I am confident as I write to you that you will do this. And I know that you will do even more than I ask. -GW®

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

“Make a Joyful Noise”

Bethany Choir

~John Behnke

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: *Luke 14:25-35*

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus. He turned to them and said, “If people come to me and are not ready to abandon their fathers, mothers, wives, children, brothers, and sisters, as well as their own lives, they cannot be my disciples. So those who do not carry their crosses and follow me cannot be my disciples.

“Suppose you want to build a tower. You would first sit down and figure out what it costs. Then you would see if you have enough money to finish it. Otherwise, if you lay a foundation and can't finish the building, everyone who watches will make fun of you. They'll say, 'This person started to build but couldn't finish the job.'

“Or suppose a king is going to war against another king. He would first sit down and think things through. Can he and his 10,000 soldiers fight against a king with 20,000 soldiers? If he can't, he'll send ambassadors to ask for terms of peace while the other king is still far away. In the same way, none of you can be my disciples unless you give up everything.

“Salt is good. But if salt loses its taste, how will you restore its flavor? It's not any good for the ground or for the manure pile. People throw it away.

“Let the person who has ears listen!” -GW®

SERMON SONG: “Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me”

Verse 1

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love my deep and boundless peace
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 2

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour he will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need his power is displayed
To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 3

No fate I dread I know I am forgiven
The future sure the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And he was raised to overthrow the grave
To this I hold my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 4

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me home
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to him
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Ending

When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me
Yet not I but through Christ in me

MESSAGE: “The Upside-Down Household” Philemon

HYMN OF THE DAY: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” LSB 425



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a
Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,
count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

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 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.**

✠ 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:

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

LSB 685



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.

“We Will Feast in the House of Zion”

Chorus

We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things we will say together
We will feast and weep no more

Verse 1

We will not be burned by the fire
He is the Lord our God
We are not consumed by the flood
Upheld protected gathered up

Verse 2

In the dark of night before the dawn
My soul be not afraid
For the promised morning oh how long
Oh God of Jacob be my strength

Verse 3

Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together bring shalom

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 HYMN:**“Saints, See the Cloud of Witnesses”**

LSB 667



1 Saints, see the cloud of wit - ness - es sur - round us;
4 Come, let us fix our sight on Christ who suf - fered,
5 Lord, give us faith to walk where You are send - ing,
6 You, Je - sus, You a - lone de - serve all glo - ry!



Their lives of faith en - cour - age and as - tound us.
He faced the cross, His sin - less life He of - fered;
On paths un - marked, eyes blind as to their end - ing;
Our lives un - fold, em - braced with - in Your sto - ry;



Hear how the Mas - ter praised their faith so
He scorned the shame, He died, our death en -
Not know - ing where we go, but that You
Past, pres - ent, fu - ture— You, the same for -



fer - vent: “Well done, My ser - vant!”
dur - ing, Our hope se - cur - ing.
lead us— With grace pre - cede us.
ev - er— You fail us nev - er!

POSTLUDE**COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS:**

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“Rise, Shine, You People” LSB 825

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.

Tune: Dale Wood, 1934-2003.

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“Yet Not I but Through Christ In Me”

CCLI Song# 7121852

Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Rich Thompson

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“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” LSB 425

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
Music: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872
Text and Music: 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, 18th cent. Text: © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149. Music: Public domain.

“We Will Feast in the House of Zion”

CCLI Song # 7041364 Joshua Moore | Sandra McCracken

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“Saints, See the Cloud of Witnesses” LSB 667

Text: Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955.

Tune: Dale Wood, 1934-2003.

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SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:

Acolyte 9:30...Alice Kienitz

Lector 8:00...Elsie Rivera

Liturgist...Pastor Kevin Kritzer

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

Artist in Residence...Blake Flattley

Crucifer 9:30...Reenie Long

9:30...John Holmquist

Preacher...Pastor John Alwood

Children’s Message...Shannon Morgensen



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.



Introducing:

SERVANT LEADER TEAM: FACILITIES

WHAT IS SLT: FACILITIES?

This team cares for the properties of the congregation as a sacred, legal, and equitable trust; takes all necessary actions to ensure that the properties are properly maintained, function as intended, and kept in good appearance at all times.



**POSITIONS
AVAILABLE +
NO TERM
LIMITS**



**VOLUNTEER
BASED / NOT
ELECTED**

2-4

**YEARLY TEAM
MEETINGS**

**CHAIR &
CO-CHAIR:**

**APPOINTED BY
THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS**



Gathered



Connected



Sent

option 1: **ON-CALL VOLUNTEER**

RESPONSIBILITIES

Volunteers can opt to be "on-call" for all property care and maintenance issues such as:

- building repairs
- emergency maintenance
- safety inspections
- HVAC up-keep
- alarm testing
- landscaping
- leaks and other roofing issues
- classroom / office up-keep and repairs
- set-up / clean-up for events

option 2: **SPECIFIC ROLE & SPECIAL EVENTS VOLUNTEER**

RESPONSIBILITIES

Volunteers can also opt for specific roles such as:

- landscaping
- irrigation
- cleaning
- electrical
- plumbing
- painting
- carpentry

Or special/annual events such as:

- decorating / un-decorating during holidays
- set-up / clean-up for Okto-bear-fest

interested?

If you'd like to use your gifts and talents to join the SLT: Facilities team, please use the QR code or contact the church office for a form.



Please note: Most recent members of the Trustees or any group operating under their direction that are already serving do not need to fill out a form.

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: