



Gathered



Connected



Sent

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

PRELUDE:

Jubilate Handbell Choir

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(based on 1 Timothy 1:2)*

[L]: Good will, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord are yours!

CONFESSION OF GUILT AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

(based on 1 Timothy 1:15 & 2 Timothy 1:9)

- L:** This is a trustworthy saying,
P: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am worst.

“Chief of Sinners Thou 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
blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—
to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.

- L:** Beloved, God saved you not because of what you had done, but because of His own plan and kindness revealed in and accomplished through Jesus, His Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen

PSALMODY: **PSALM 25:1-10** (we read responsively)

- L:** To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in You I trust;
P: **let me not be put to shame;**
let not my enemies exult over me.
- L:** Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame;
P: **they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**
- L:** Make me to know Your ways, O Lord;
P: **teach me Your paths.**

L: Lead me in Your truth and teach me,
for You are the God of my salvation;

P: **for You I wait all the day long.**

L: Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love,

P: **for they have been from of old.**

L: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

P: **according to Your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of Your goodness, O Lord!**

L: Good and upright is the Lord;

P: **therefore, He instructs sinners in the way.**

L: He leads the humble in what is right,

P: **and teaches the humble His way.**

L: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,

P: **for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies. -ESV®**

L: The Holy Scriptures have the power to give you wisdom, for every passage is inspired by God and useful for teaching, correcting, and training God's people.
(based on 1 Timothy 3)

EPISTLE READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, I encourage you to make petitions, prayers, intercessions, and prayers of thanks for all people, for rulers, and for everyone who has authority over us. Pray for these people so that we can have a quiet and peaceful life always lived in a godly and reverent way. This is good and pleases God our Savior. He wants all people to be saved and to learn the truth. There is one God. There is also one mediator between God and humans—a human, Christ Jesus. He sacrificed Himself for all people to free them from their sins.

This message is valid for every era. I was appointed to spread this Good News and to be an apostle to teach people who are not Jewish about faith and truth. I'm telling you the truth. I'm not lying. -GW®

L: Having heard the Word, you are equipped as a servant of God and prepared to do good in, for and through Him. Amen

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: **"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"**
~Dan Forrest

Bethany Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

8:00 & 9:30

HOLY GOSPEL: *Luke 16:1-15*

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “A rich man had a business manager. The manager was accused of wasting the rich man’s property. So the rich man called for his manager and said to him, ‘What’s this I hear about you? Let me examine your books. It’s obvious that you can’t manage my property any longer.’

“The manager thought, ‘What should I do? My master is taking my job away from me. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg. I know what I’ll do so that people will welcome me into their homes when I’ve lost my job.’

“So the manager called for each one of his master’s debtors. He said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

“The debtor replied, ‘Eight hundred gallons of olive oil.’

“The manager told him, ‘Take my master’s ledger. Quick! Sit down, and write “four hundred!”’

“Then he asked another debtor, ‘How much do you owe?’

“The debtor replied, ‘A thousand bushels of wheat.’

“The manager told him, ‘Take the ledger, and write “eight hundred!” ’

“The master praised the dishonest manager for being so clever. Worldly people are more clever than spiritually-minded people when it comes to dealing with others.”

Jesus continued, “I’m telling you that although wealth is often used in dishonest ways, you should use it to make friends for yourselves. When life is over, you will be welcomed into an eternal home. Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with a lot. Whoever is dishonest with very little is dishonest with a lot. Therefore, if you can’t be trusted with wealth that is often used dishonestly, who will trust you with wealth that is real? If you can’t be trusted with someone else’s wealth, who will give you your own?

“A servant cannot serve two masters. He will hate the first master and love the second, or he will be devoted to the first and despise the second. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

The Pharisees, who love money, heard all this and were making sarcastic remarks about Him. So Jesus said to them, “You try to justify your actions in front of people. But God knows what’s in your hearts. What is important to humans is disgusting to God. -GW®

SERMON HYMN:

“In Holy Conversation”

LSB 772



1 In ho - ly con - ver - sa - tion We speak to God in prayer,
 2 These ho - ly con - ver - sa - tions Be - gin in child-like ways;
 3 As ho - ly con - ver - sa - tion, In si - lence or by word,

And at His in - vi - ta - tion Our deep-est thoughts we share.
 We bring our sup - pli - ca - tions And words of thanks and praise.
 In ev - 'ry sit - u - a - tion Through Je - sus, we are heard.

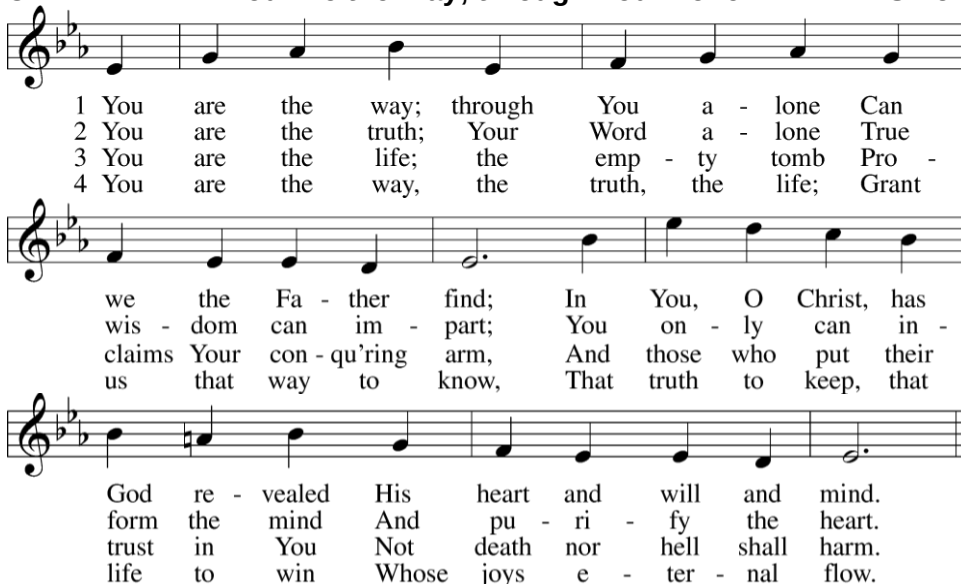
We come, His will o - bey - ing, As chil - dren bring - ing needs;
 With care our Fa - ther lis - tens To ev - 'ry thought ex - pressed,
 So let us pray se - cure - ly, Ex - press - ing hopes and fears

And to sup - port our pray - ing, His Spir - it in - ter - ced - es.
 Then an - swers our pe - ti - tions In ways He knows are best.
 With con - fi - dence that sure - ly Our Fa - ther ev - er hears.

MESSAGE: “Gathered, Connected, Sent” 1 Timothy 2:1-7

HYMN OF THE DAY: “You Are the Way; through You Alone”

LSB 526



1 You are the way; through You a - lone Can
 2 You are the truth; Your Word a - lone True
 3 You are the life; the emp - ty tomb Pro -
 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant

we the Fa - ther find; In You, O Christ, has
 wis - dom can im - part; You on - ly can in -
 claims Your con - qu'ring arm, And those who put their
 us that way to know, That truth to keep, that

God re - vealed His heart and will and mind.
 form the mind And pu - ri - fy the heart.
 trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.
 life to win Whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

CONFESSION OF FAITH: (*Intro. 2 Timothy 6:12*)

L: The apostle has called us to make a good testimony regarding the Christian 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

COLLECT OF THE DAY: (1 Timothy 2:5)

L: “There is one mediator between God and humans; the human Christ Jesus. Let us come therefore to His throne of Grace”:

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:

“Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

LSB 563



1 Je - sus, Thy blood and righ - teous - ness My beau - ty
2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and re -
3 Lord, I be - lieve Thy pre - cious blood, Which at the
4 Lord, I be - lieve, were sin - ners more Than sands up -



are, my glo - rious dress; Midst flam - ing worlds, in
deemed, no debt to pay; Ful - ly ab - solved through
mer - cy seat of God Pleads for the cap - tives'
on the o - cean shore, Thou hast for all a



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
lib - er - ty, Was al - so shed in love for me.
ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.

- 5 When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea:
Jesus hath lived and died for me.
- 6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

“For the Fruits of His Creation”

LSB 894



1 For the fruits of His cre - a - tion, Thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har-vests of the Spir - it, Thanks be to God.



For His gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, Thanks be to God. For the
In the help we give our neigh-bor, God's will is done. In our
For the good we all in - her - it, Thanks be to God. For the



plow - ing, sow-ing, reap-ing, Si - lent growth while we are sleep-ing,
world-wide task of car - ing For the hun - gry and de - spair-ing,
won - ders that as-tound us, For the truths that still con-found us,



Fu - ture needs in earth's safe-keep-ing, Thanks be to God.
In the har-vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

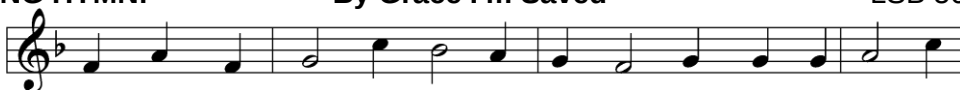
BENEDICTION: *(based on 1 Timothy 1:17)*

[L]: Worship and glory belong forever to the eternal king, the immortal, invisible, and only God. He will bless you and keep you, make His face to shine upon you, and give you His peace. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:

“By Grace I’m Saved”

LSB 566



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; My soul, be-lieve and
 2 By grace! None dare lay claim to mer - it; Our works and con - duct
 3 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, Came down to earth to
 4 By grace! This ground of faith is cer - tain; As long as God is



doubt it not. Why stag - ger at this word of prom - ise?
 have no worth. God in His love sent our Re - deem - er,
 bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own mer - it
 true, it stands. What saints have penned by in - spi - ra - tion,



Has Scrip - ture ev - er false - hood taught? No! Then this word must
 Christ Je - sus, to this sin - ful earth; His death did for our
 That Je - sus died your soul to win? No, it was grace, and
 What in His Word our God com - mands, Our faith in what our



true re - main: By grace you too will life ob - tain.
 sins a - tone, And we are saved by grace a - lone.
 grace a - lone, That brought Him from His heav'n - ly throne.
 God has done De - pends on grace— grace through His Son.

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

“Chief of Sinners Though I Be” LSB 611

Text: William McComb, 1793-1873, alt.

Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820-1901; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and music: Public domain

“In Holy Conversation” LSB 772

Text: Gregory J. Wismar, b. 1946

Tune: Swedish; Bred Dina Vida Vingar Tune: Public domain

Text: © 2004 Gregory J. Wismar. Used by permission

Setting: © 1995 Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149

"You Are the Way; through You Alone" LSB 526

Text: George W. Doane, 1799-1859, alt. Tune: *The CL Psalmes of David*, Edinburgh, 1615; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and music: Public domain.

"Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness" LSB 563

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700-60; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703-91, alt

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93.

Text and music: Public domain.

"For the Fruits of His Creation" LSB 894

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000.

Tune: Welsh, 18th cent.; setting: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958.

Text: © 1970 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: CCLI, number 396555.

Music: Public domain.

"By Grace I'm Saved" LSB 566

Text: Christian Ludwig Scheidt, 1709-61; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, alt.

Tune: Cornelius Heinrich Dretzek, 1697-1775; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941.

Text and music: Public domain



SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Acolyte 8:00...Oliver Koehlinger

Acolyte 9:30...Audrey Kienitz

Lector 8:00...Diana Orr

9:30...Katie Musick

Liturgist...Pastor John Alwood

Organist 8& 9:30...Robert Bottoms

Director of Music and Worship Ministries...Noah Freeman

Children's Message 8 & 9:30...Kayleigh Lopez

Crucifer 9:30...Henry Cerulle

11:00...Les Friend

Preacher...Pastor Kevin Kritzer

Pianist 11:00...Trinity Alwood

Accompanist...Kevin Bowers



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.

