



Gathered Connected Sent

Bethany Lutheran Church | Long Beach, CA

TWELFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 31, 2025

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING SONG:

“Better is One Day”

Verse 1

How lovely is Your dwelling place
O Lord almighty
For my soul longs and even faints for You
For here my heart is satisfied
Within Your presence
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings

Chorus

Better is one day in Your courts
Better is one day in Your house
Better is one day in Your courts
Than thousands elsewhere
(Than thousands elsewhere)

Verse 2

One thing I ask and I would seek
To see Your beauty
To find You in the place
Your glory dwells
(REPEAT)

Bridge

My heart and flesh cry out
For You the living God
Your Spirit's water to my soul
I've tasted and I've seen
Come once again to me
I will draw near to You
I will draw near to You to You

Bridge

Better is one day better is one day
Better is one day than thousands elsewhere
Better is one day better is one day
Better is one day than thousands elsewhere

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: *Hebrews 13:1-17*

Continue to love each other. Don't forget to show hospitality to believers you don't know. By doing this some believers have shown hospitality to angels without being aware of it. Remember those in prison as if you were in prison with them. Remember those who are mistreated as if you were being mistreated.

Marriage is honorable in every way, so husbands and wives should be faithful to each other. God will judge those who commit sexual sins, especially those who commit adultery.

Don't love money. Be happy with what you have because God has said, "I will never abandon you or leave you." So we can confidently say,

"The Lord is my helper.
I will not be afraid.
What can mortals do to me?"

Remember your leaders who have spoken God's word to you. Think about how their lives turned out, and imitate their faith.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Don't get carried away by all kinds of unfamiliar teachings. Gaining inner strength from God's kindness is good for us. This strength does not come from following rules about food, rules that don't help those who follow them. Those who serve at the tent have no right to eat what is sacrificed at our altar.

The chief priest brings the blood of animals into the holy place as an offering for sin. But the bodies of those animals were burned outside the Israelite camp. That is why Jesus suffered outside the gates of Jerusalem. He suffered to make the people holy with his own blood. So we must go to him outside the camp and endure the insults he endured. We don't have a permanent city here on earth, but we are looking for the city that we will have in the future. Through Jesus we should always bring God a sacrifice of praise, that is, words that acknowledge him. Don't forget to do good things for others and to share what you have with them. These are the kinds of sacrifices that please God.

Obey your leaders, and accept their authority. They take care of you because they are responsible for you. Obey them so that they may do this work joyfully and not complain about you. (Causing them to complain would not be to your advantage.)-GW®

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

SONG OF PRAISE:

“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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 14th chapter:

THE HOLY GOSPEL: *Luke 14:1-14*

On a day of rest—a holy day, Jesus went to eat at the home of a prominent Pharisee. The guests were watching Jesus very closely.

A man whose body was swollen with fluid was there. Jesus reacted by asking the Pharisees and the experts in Moses' Teachings, "Is it right to heal on the day of rest—a holy day, or not?" But they didn't say a thing.

So Jesus took hold of the man, healed him, and sent him away. Jesus asked them, "If your son or your ox falls into a well on a day of rest—a holy day, wouldn't you pull him out immediately?" They couldn't argue with Him about this.

Then Jesus noticed how the guests always chose the places of honor. So He used this illustration when He spoke to them: "When someone invites you to a wedding, don't take the place of honor. Maybe someone more important than you was invited. Then your host would say to you, 'Give this person your place.' Embarrassed, you would have to take the place of least honor. So when you're invited, take the place of least honor. Then, when your host comes, he will tell you, 'Friend, move to a more honorable place.' Then all the other guests will see how you are honored. Those who honor themselves will be humbled, but people who humble themselves will be honored."

Then He told the man who had invited Him, "When you invite people for lunch or dinner, don't invite only your friends, family, other relatives, or rich neighbors. Otherwise, they will return the favor. Instead, when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the handicapped, the lame, and the blind. Then you will be blessed because they don't have any way to pay you back. You will be paid back when those who have God's approval come back to life."-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.**

SERMON SONG:

“God Who Bleeds”

Verse 1

Oh my soul
Who could ever know
How deep my sins go
Oh my soul
All the gold
On the earth could never pay
For the debt that I have made
On my soul

Chorus

Now I see just how great my need
In His hands and in His feet
Lamb of God oh my soul shall sing
Hallelujah to the God who bleeds

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

Verse 2

Oh what love
Knew I'd never have enough
So He chose to pay in blood
Oh what love
I'm in awe
Every earthly gain is lost
At the wonder of the cross
Oh what love

Bridge

See from His head His hands His feet
Sorrow and love flow down for me
Forever all my praise will be
Glory to the God who bleeds
See from His head His hands His feet
Sorrow and love flow down for me
Forever all my praise will be
Glory to the God who bleeds

Tag

Hallelujah to the God who bleeds

MESSAGE: “*The Upside-Down Table*”

Luke 14:1-14

SONG OF THE DAY:**“He will Hold Me Fast”****Verse 1**

When I fear my faith will fail
Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail
He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold
He must hold me fast

Chorus

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

Verse 2

Those He saves are His delight
Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight
He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost
His Promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost
He will hold me fast

Verse 3

For my life He bled and died
Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied
He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life
He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight
When He comes at last

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 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 SONG:

“Nothing but the Blood of Jesus”

Verse 1

What can wash away my sin
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
What can make me whole again
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Chorus

O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Verse 2

For my pardon this I see
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
For my cleansing this my plea
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Verse 3

Nothing can for sin atone
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
Naught of good that I have done
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Verse 4

This is all my hope and peace
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
This is all my righteousness
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

POSTLUDE

COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS:

Permission to reprint, podcast, and / or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-706149. All rights reserved.

Permission to reprint, podcast, and / or stream the music in this service obtained from www.ccli.com with license #20537224. All rights reserved.

Permission to podcast, and / or stream the music in this service obtained from www.cph.org with license #000012696. All rights reserved.

Liturgy from *Lutheran Service Book*, © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission, LSBHymnLicense.net #000012696

"Better is One Day"

CCLI Song # 1097451

Matt Redman © 1995 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)

For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 396555.

"In Christ Alone"

CCLI Song No. 3350395 © 2001 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) Keith Getty | Stuart Townend. For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights Reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License No. 345836

"God who Bleeds"

CCLI Song # 7226510 Benji Cowart | Cara Berg | Jon Gruen | Matt Preston © 2023 The Center for Worship Leadership (CWL Publishing); GoBillsMusic; We Are TIM Music; Admin by Adarga Entertainment Group LLC, Capitol CMG Publishing For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 396555

"He will Hold Me Fast"

CCLI Song # 7016161 Ada Ruth Habershon | Matthew Merker © 2013 Getty Music Publishing (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) Matthew Merker Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) *For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved.* www.ccli.com CCLI License # 396555

"Nothing but the Blood"

CCLI Song #7064076 Robert Lowry | arr. Blake Flattley ©Words, used with permission. For use solely with the SongSelect. Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 396555



SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Lector 8:00...Matt Ruiz

Liturgist 8:00...Karl Fink

Preacher...Pastor John Alwood

Artist in Residence...Blake Flattley

9:30...Steve Albers

9:30...Pastor Seth Moorman

Children's Message...Pastor Alwood

Keyboard...Pat Gagan



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.

