# ASINTS SANS

"THEY HAVE WASHED THEIR ROBES AND MADE THEM WHITE IN THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB."

**REVELATION 7:14C** 









PRELUDE:

"For All the Saints ~Arr. Brian Childers

Jubilate Handbell Choir

**WELCOME** 

ENTRANCE HYMN: "Sing with All the Saints in Glory"

Alt. tune: Hymn to Joy

LSB 671



- 2. Oh, what glory, far exceeding; All that eye has yet perceived!
  Holiest hearts for ages pleading; Never that full joy conceived.
  God has promised, Christ prepares it; There on high our welcome waits.
  Every humble spirit shares it, Christ has passed the eternal gates.
- Life eternal! Heav'n rejoices: Jesus lives who once was dead. Shout with joy, O deathless voices! Child of God, lift up your head! Life eternal! Oh, what wonders, Crowd on faith; what joy unknown, When, amid earth's closing thunders, Saints shall stand before the throne!

## **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

- L: Saints, see the cloud of witnesses surround us;
- P: Their lives of faith encourage and astound us.
- L: Hear how the Master praised their faith so fervent:
- P: Well done, My servant!
- L: Jesus, You, You alone, deserve all glory! Our lives unfold, embraced within Your Story;
- P: Past, present, future—You, the same forever—
- All: You fail us never!

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

- L: Holy God, in baptism You make sinners to be saints and declare those guilty before the law to be holy before You.
- P: Yet Holy Lord we, Your redeemed people, sealed with Your Spirit, given a new identity as the holy children of God through Your only Son, confess that we have not constantly lived a holy life
- L: and that we are by nature a fallen and broken people who have sinned against You, O Holy Lord.
- Like saints gone before us who now rest from their labors and gather around Your throne, we too come for refuge to Your infinite mercy and grace, for we have sinned against You O Lord. We have not loved You with our whole heart nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. Yet, in love, You have given Your only Son to die for us. Now for His sake, forgive us all our sin. By Your Spirit, increase in us true knowledge of You and Your will and true obedience to Your word, that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
- E: Rejoice! For the sake of Jesus Christ you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people who belong to God! For He, who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light, has called me here to declare that your sins are forgiven in His name, the name of the Father, 

  → and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

- L: Almighty God, You have knit Your people together in the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
- P: Give to Your church on earth Your light and Your peace; and grant us Your Spirit that we might follow Your blessed saints who rest from their labors—as we too live lives of faithfulness and joyful service, until with them we receive the crown of life and also hear those words,
- L: "Well done, good and faithful servant." Amen.

### OLD TESTAMENT READING: Revelation 7:9-17

After these things I saw a large crowd from every nation, tribe, people, and language. No one was able to count how many people there were. They were standing in front of the throne and the lamb. They were wearing white robes, holding palm branches in their hands, and crying out in a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the lamb!"

All the angels stood around the throne with the leaders and the four living creatures. They bowed in front of the throne with their faces touching the ground, worshiped God, and said,

"Amen! Praise, glory, wisdom, thanks, honor, power, and strength be to our God forever and ever! Amen!"

One of the leaders asked me, "Who are these people wearing white robes, and where did they come from?"

I answered him, "Sir, you know." Then he told me,

"These are the people who are coming out of the terrible suffering.

They have washed their robes

and made them white in the blood of the lamb.

That is why they are in front of the throne of God.

They serve Him day and night in His temple.

The one who sits on the throne will spread His tent over them.

They will never be hungry or thirsty again.

Neither the sun nor any burning heat will ever overcome them.

The lamb in the center near the throne will be their shepherd.

He will lead them to springs filled with the water of life, and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."-GW®

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: "A New Jerusalem Arise" Bethany Choir

~Kyle Pederson

**EPISTLE READING: 1 John 3:1-3** 

Consider this: The Father has given us His love. He loves us so much that we are actually called God's dear children. And that's what we are. For this reason, the world

doesn't recognize us, and it didn't recognize Him either. Dear friends, now we are God's children. What we will be isn't completely clear yet. We do know that when Christ appears we will be like Him because we will see Him as He is. So all people who have this confidence in Christ keep themselves pure, as Christ is pure. -GW®

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

8:00 & 9:30

**HOLY GOSPEL:** *Matthew 5:1-12* 

When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up a mountain and sat down. His disciples came to Him, and He began to teach them:

"Blessed are those who recognize they are spiritually helpless.

The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

Blessed are those who mourn.

They will be comforted.

Blessed are those who are gentle.

They will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for God's approval.

They will be satisfied.

Blessed are those who show mercy.

They will be treated mercifully.

Blessed are those whose thoughts are pure.

They will see God.

Blessed are those who make peace.

They will be called God's children.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for doing what God approves of.

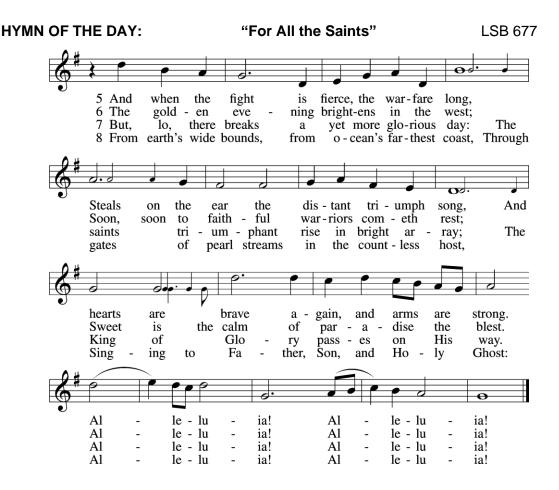
The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, lie, and say all kinds of evil things about you because of Me.

Rejoice and be glad because you have a great reward in heaven! The prophets who lived before you were persecuted in these ways. - GW®



MESSAGE: "Face Down" Revelation 7:2-17



**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!

### **CONSECRATION OF GIFTS:**

- L: Almighty Lord who has given us every good and perfect gift
- **P**: Use these our gifts to fund and support ministry so that all who hunger and thirst for righteousness may be filled. Amen.

### CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED

P: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life 

everlasting. Amen.

# PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: there will be a brief moment of silence between petitions

- L: Lord Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve, direct us to follow Your servant way so that all may know and experience Your Love.
- Lord of the nations, You raise up leaders to govern that good may be praised and evil punished. Give a spirit of wisdom and clear vision to those who cast ballots and those who are elected to positions of leadership among us.
- L: God of great compassion, bless those who struggle with poverty, lack of employment or housing; comfort those who mourn and are having difficulty in making hard decisions.
- L: Protect Your people, O Lord, who face persecution for Your name's sake. Let Your Spirit fill them and direct them to remember the saints before who sacrificed much and faced even death rather than dishonor You when called upon to deny the faith. Grant that their witness leads the enemies of Your church to true repentance and move them to trust in Your Son, our Savior Jesus, who taught us to pray...

### 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.

# **♣** Service of the Sacrament **♣**

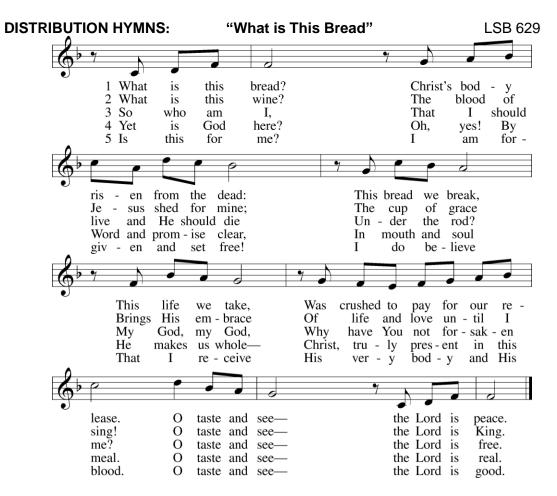
The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Bethany in the joyful confession that our Lord gives us His very Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins in this sacrament. God intends this gift for His children who recognize their sin, trust in Christ as their Savior, desire to live for Him alone, and join in this joyful confession.

To prepare for communion you can find prayer prompts on the front page of the burgundy hymnal. 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 sacred meal. 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. Amen."

### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

For those communing, who so desire, the center cups in each tray are <u>alcohol free</u>. 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 <u>gluten free</u>.

In our 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. 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.



MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

"All Things New" ~Elaine Hagenberg

**Bethany Choir** 

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

### **BELOVED CHILDREN OF GOD:**

① God of the pilgrim's way, we give thanks for those in generations past who have been examples for us of Your love at work in the world. As we pause and give You thanks for these, Your servants, who have been transferred to the Church Triumphant this year, we praise You because we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses. Yet, even as we name these who have gone before us, we also thank You Heavenly Father for others whose names we never knew but who too showed the world the meaning of life in Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen

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Those transferred to the Church Triumphant this past year.



Geraldine Talsma December 14, 2024



Shirley Sisson February 13, 2025



Patt Demetri April 12, 2025



Jerry Swanson April 6, 2025



Joyce Klenner May 2, 2025



Marjorie Lorenz May 13, 2025



**Tom Mooney** June 20, 2025



Sandra Bohen June 27, 2025



Roger Crabb June 27, 2025



Matthew Bunnett June 15, 2025



Barbara Pollock July 17, 2025



Jerry Glenn September 12, 2025



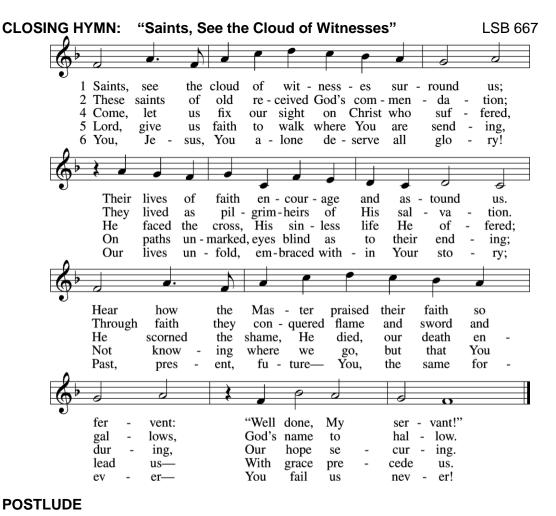
Chuck Meyer September 30, 2025

# **BENEDICTION:**

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and 

→ give you peace.

P: Amen.



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"Sing with All the Saints in Glory" LSB 671

Text: William J. Irons, 1812-83, alt. Public domain.

Tune: "Hymn to Joy"; Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827; adapt. Edward Hodges.

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Text and Tune: Public Domain

"For All the Saints" LSB 677 Text: William W. How, 1823-97, alt.

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

Text and music: Public domain

"Holy, Holy, Holy" LSB 507 Text: Reginald Heber. Tune: John B. Dykes.

Text and music: Public domain.

"What Is This Bread" LSB 629
Text: Frederic W. Baue, b. 1946.
Tune: Jean Neuhauser Baue, b. 1951.

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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 8:00...Ben Culley
Lector 8:00...Lily Craft 9:30...David Akins
Liturgist...Pastor John Alwood
Director of Music & Worship Arts...Noah Freeman
Accompanist...Kevin Bowers

Crucifer 8:00...Timothy O'Conner 11:00...Ashlyn Bowman Preacher...Pastor Kevin Kritzer

Children's Message...Karl Fink

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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.

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# Today's Flowers are given to the glory of God:

- ~ Celebrating 55 years of marriage ~
  - ~ Michael and Deborah Castlen



# Today's Flowers are given to the glory of God:

~ In celebration of Olivia's Baptismal Birthday ~

~ by The Flattley Family



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First Quarter Offering data:

(July 1 thru Sept. 30) offerings: \$329,491 Same period last year offerings: \$291,013

Average Sunday morning worship attendance Q1 2025 342 per Sunday Average Sunday morning worship attendance Q1 2024 330 per Sunday

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Please visit our websites to find out more about our Church, School and Preschool. Get weekly updates by signing up for the **Bethany Bullet**—our weekly capsule of worship highlights and campus-wide information.

Bethany Lutheran Church and its Ministries are found at: <a href="www.bethanylutheran.org">www.bethanylutheran.org</a>

**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**: <a href="https://bit.ly/BethanyBroadcastSignUp">https://bit.ly/BethanyBroadcastSignUp</a>

# **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 <u>printed in the Sunday bulletin</u> 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: