

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
NOVEMBER 16, 2025

PRELUDE:

"Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier" BWV 730 & 731
~ J. S. Bach

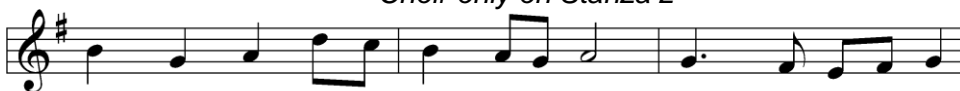
Organ

Prelude on "Ebenezer" or "Ton-y-Botel", HWC 173
~ Healey Willan

WELCOME**OPENING HYMN:****"Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"**

LSB 904

**Choir only on Stanza 2*



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at Your Word We are gath - ered
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est
3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light of Light, from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, Lord, Praise to You and



all to hear You. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed Till Your Spir - it breaks our night
God pro - ceed - ing, O - pen now our heart and mind;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we may trust Your Word,



Now to seek and love and fear You, By Your teach-ings,
With the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to
Help us by Your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry Your
Con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, While we here be -



sweet and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love You sole - ly.
God can win us; You must work all good with - in us.
Church now rais - es; Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.
low must wan - der, Till we sing Your prais - es yon - der.

INVOCATION:

[L]: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[P]: Amen.

[L]: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

[P]: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

L: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

P: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

L: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

P: **Amen.**

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

KYRIE:

L: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

P: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

P: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

P: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

P: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

P: **Amen.**

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: “I Will Sing and Give Thanks” from Psalm 11 8:00 & 9:30
~Noah Freeman Bethany Choir

EPISTLE READING: *II Thessalonians 3:1-13*

Finally, brothers and sisters, pray that we spread the Lord's word rapidly and that it will be honored the way it was among you. Also pray that we may be rescued from worthless and evil people, since not everyone shares our faith. But the Lord is faithful and will strengthen you and protect you against the evil one.

The Lord gives us confidence that you are doing and will continue to do what we ordered you to do. May the Lord direct your lives as you show God's love and Christ's endurance.

Brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ we order you not to associate with any believer who doesn't live a disciplined life and doesn't follow the tradition you received from us. You know what you must do to imitate us. We lived a disciplined life among you. We didn't eat anyone's food without paying for it. Instead, we worked hard and struggled night and day in order not to be a burden to any of you. It's not as though we didn't have a right to receive support. Rather, we wanted to set an example for you to follow. While we were with you, we gave you the order: "Whoever doesn't want to work shouldn't be allowed to eat."

We hear that some of you are not living disciplined lives. You're not working, so you go around interfering in other people's lives. We order and encourage such people by the Lord Jesus Christ to pay attention to their own work so they can support themselves. Brothers and sisters, we can't allow ourselves to get tired of doing what is right. -GW®

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: **"God Loves You Today"** 9:30 Bethany Lutheran Preschool
 ~Unknown
 "Creature Praise"
 ~David Weber

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

8:00 & 9:30

HOLY GOSPEL: *Luke 21:29-32*

Then Jesus used this story as an illustration. "Look at the fig tree or any other tree. As soon as leaves grow on them, you know without being told that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happen, you know that God's kingdom is near.

"I can guarantee this truth: This generation will not disappear until all this takes place."
-GW®

SERMON HYMN:

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

LSB 733



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
 2 Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,
 6 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
 Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
 From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
 Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 Be Thou our guard while trou - bles last And our e - ter - nal home!

SERMON: “At Work”

HYMN OF THE DAY:

“How Firm a Foundation”

LSB 728



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 “Fear not! I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,
 4 “When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way will lie,



Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!
 For I am your God and will still give you aid;
 My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, will be your sup - ply.



What more can He say than to you He has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames will not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign



Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 Up - held by My righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 Your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.

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 \dagger 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 THANKS

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

PREFACE:

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

- L:** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- P:** **Amen.**

SANCTUS:

“Alabaré”

LSB 799

Refrain

A - la - ba - ré a - la - ba - ré a - la - ba - ré a mi Se - ñor.

A - la - ba - ré a - la - ba - ré a - la - ba - ré a mi Se - ñor.

2 Wor - thy is Christ the Lamb who was slain,
3 Sing with the peo - ple, the peo - ple of God,

Whose blood has set us free from ev - 'ry sin.
And join cre - a - tion in a joy - ful hymn.

Pow - er and rich - es, And wis - dom and strength
Bless - ing and hon - or And glo - ry and might

Refrain

And hon - or and all the bless - ing shall be His.
To God and to the Lamb be with - out end.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

L: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment, You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who at the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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 OUR LORD:

L: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

*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 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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

"I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus"

LSB 729



1 I am trust-ing Thee, Lord Je - sus, Trust - ing on - ly Thee;
2 I am trust-ing Thee for par - don; At Thy feet I bow,
3 I am trust-ing Thee for cleans - ing In the crim - son flood;
4 I am trust-ing Thee to guide me; Thou a - lone shalt lead,



Trust - ing Thee for full sal - va - tion, Great and free.
For Thy grace and ten - der mer - cy Trust - ing now.
Trust - ing Thee to make me ho - ly By Thy blood.
Ev - 'ry day and hour sup - ply - ing All my need.

- 5 I am trusting Thee for power;
Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
Must prevail.
- 6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all.

"O Living Bread from Heaven"

LSB 642



1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, How well You
2 My Lord, You here have led me To this most
3 You gave me all I want - ed; This food can
4 Lord, grant me then, thus strength - ened With heav'n - ly



feed Your guest! The gifts that You have giv - en
ho - ly place And with Your - self have fed me
death de - stroy. And You have free - ly grant - ed
food, while here My course on earth is length - ened,



Have filled my heart with rest. Oh, won - drous food of
The trea - sures of Your grace; For You have free - ly
The cup of end - less joy. My Lord, I do not
To serve with ho - ly fear. And when You call my



bles - ing, Oh, cup that heals our woes! My heart, this
giv - en What earth could nev - er buy, The bread of
mer - it The fa - vor You have shown, And all my
spir - it To leave this world be - low, I en - ter,



gift pos - sess - ing, With prais - es o - ver - flows.
life from heav - en, That now I shall not die.
soul and spir - it Bow down be - fore Your throne.
through Your mer - it, Where joys un - min - gled flow.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:

[L]: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule in our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

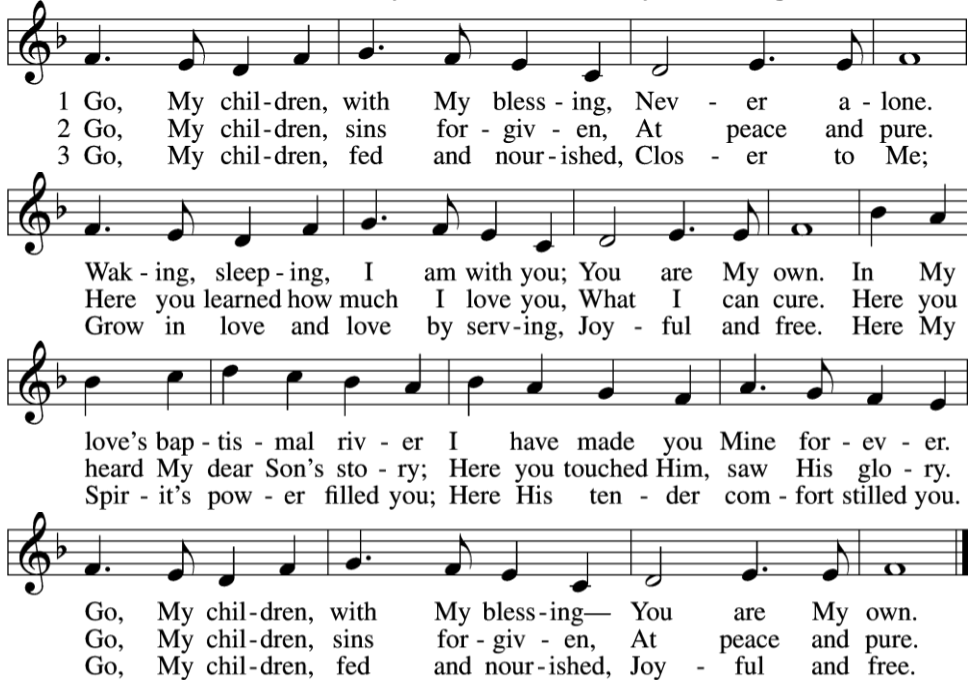
[P]: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION:

- [L]:** 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.

CLOSING HYMN: “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” LSB 922



1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing, Nev-er a-lone.
2 Go, My chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, At peace and pure.
3 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, Clos-er to Me;

Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, Joy-ful and free. Here My

love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you Mine for-ev-er.
heard My dear Son's sto-ry; Here you touched Him, saw His glo-ry.
Spir-it's pow-er filled you; Here His ten-der com-fort stilled you.

Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing— You are My own.
Go, My chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, At peace and pure.
Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, Joy-ful and free.

POSTLUDE



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“Blessed Jesus, at Your Word” LSB 904

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, sts. 1-3; *Geistreiches Gesang-Büchlein*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth; sts. 1-3, alt.; tr. unknown, st. 4, alt. Tune: Johann Rudolph Ahle, alt.; setting: Paul G. Bunjes, alt. Text and tune: Public domain
Setting: ©1982 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149.

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past" LSB 733

Text: Isaac Watts, alt. Tune: William Croft; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text & music: Public domain.

"How Firm a Foundation" LSB 728

Text: *A Selection of Hymns*, London, 1787, alt. Tune: *Genuine Church Music*, Winchester; setting: Joseph Herl, b. 1959.

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"Alabaré"

Text: Manuel José Alonso, refrain; José Pagán, b. 1916, refrain; *tr. Libro de Liturgia y Cántico*, 1998, st. 1; John Ylvisaker, 1937-2017, stzs. 2-3.

Tune: Manuel José Alonso; José Pagán.

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"I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus" LSB 729

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-79. Tune: Henry W. Baker, 1821-77. Text and music: Public domain.

"O Living Bread from Heaven" LSB 642

Text: Johann Rist; *tr. Catherine Winkworth*. Tune: *Musae Siomiae*, vol. 7, Wolfenbüttel, 1609, ed. Michael Praetorius.

Text and tune: Public domain

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing" LSB 922

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919.

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

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Music: Public domain



SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Acolyte 8:00...Oliver Koehlinger

Lector 8:00...Ruth Lopez

Liturgy...Karl Fink

Director of Music and Worship Arts...Noah Freeman

Organist 8 & 9:30...Robert Bottoms

Children's Message 8 & 9:30...Lillie Strahm

9:30...Steve Albers

Acolyte 9:30...Audrey Kienitz

11:00...Nick Davies

Preacher...Pastor John Alwood

Accompanist...Kevin Bowers

Pianist 11:00...Trinity Alwood



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.

