



Gathered Connected Sent

Bethany Lutheran Church *Long Beach & Cypress, CA*

**SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

JUNE 7, 2026

As We Gather

"This epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament, and is truly the purest gospel. It is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but also that he should occupy himself with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul. We can never read it or ponder over it too much; for the more we deal with it, the more precious it becomes and the better it tastes." Martin Luther Luther's Works vol. 35:365

PRELUDE:

"Cascades"
~Philip M. Young

Jubilate Handbell Choir

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN:

"Today Your Mercy Calls Us"

LSB 915



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.
2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,
Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.
His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.
What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,
The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,
No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;
When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.
A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.
Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.
We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

INVOCATION:

L: Grace and peace to you from God our Father, from the Lord Jesus Christ and from the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from both. (Romans 1:7)

P: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

- L:** All of you who were baptized into Christ Jesus have been united with Him in His death and resurrection (*Romans 6:3*)
- P:** **That we might live a new life.** (*Rmns 6:4*)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

- L:** Let us confess our sins to God, for all of us have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (*Rms 3:23*)
- P:** **I confess Lord, that I am no better than anyone else. No one really understands You as they should. No one truly seeks You in a way that is pure. At some point, all of us have turned away from You, Lord. No one constantly does the right thing. In fact, oftentimes when I have done the right thing, It has been with a hidden agenda, rather than from a pure heart.**
- L:** I confess Lord, that my talk has been foul, my speech has contained cursing and bitterness; I've opened my mouth and polluted the air.
- P:** **I have sought revenge, tried to get even, and have been quick to defend myself or my cause to get my way - regardless of who is hurt in the process.**
- L:** Heartbreak and ruin have littered the lives of many as a result of my actions.
- P:** **For the sake of Jesus Christ, who was delivered over to death for my sins and raised to life for my justification, forgive me and restore me. Amen.** (*Rmns 3:10-17 & 4:25*)
- L:** God has demonstrated His love for you in this: while yet a sinner, Christ died for you! Now that you have been set right with God by the sacrificial death of Christ, there is no longer a question of being at odds with God in any way. If you were restored to friendship with God by the death of His Son while you were His enemy, you will certainly be delivered from eternal punishment by His life. (*Rmns 12*)

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

- L:** In mercy, God, send us Your Spirit that we might offer You ourselves as living sacrifices, Holy and pleasing to You.
- P:** **Transform us by the Spirit's presence, that we no longer conform to the pattern of this world, but are renewed into Your image, O Lord, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.** (*Rmns 12*)

SONG OF PRAISE: “Here I am to Worship”

Verse 1

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

Chorus

So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

Verse 2

King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

Bridge

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross

PSALM 119: 65-68 & 72 *(We ready responsively)*

L: You have treated me well, O Lord,

P: **as you promised.**

L: Teach me to use good judgment and knowledge,

P: **because I believe in your commandments.**

L: Before you made me suffer, I used to wander off,

P: **but now I hold on to your word.**

L: You are good, and you do good things.

P: **Teach me your laws.**

L: The teachings that come from your mouth are worth more to me
P: **than thousands in gold or silver.** —ESV®

Chorus reprise:

So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

SECOND READING: *Romans 4:13-25*

So it was not by obeying the laws in Moses' Teachings that Abraham or his descendants received the promise that he would inherit the world. Rather, he received this promise through God's approval that comes by faith. If those who obey Moses' Teachings are the heirs, then faith is useless and the promise is worthless. The laws in Moses' Teachings bring about anger. But where those laws don't exist, they can't be broken. Therefore, the promise is based on faith so that it can be a gift.^[a] Consequently, the promise is guaranteed for every descendant, not only for those who are descendants by obeying Moses' Teachings but also for those who are descendants by believing as Abraham did. He is the father of all of us, as Scripture says: "I have made you a father of many nations."

Abraham believed when he stood in the presence of the God who gives life to dead people and calls into existence things that don't even exist. When there was nothing left to hope for, Abraham still hoped and believed. As a result, he became a father of many nations, as he had been told: "That is how many descendants you will have." Abraham didn't weaken. Through faith he regarded the facts: His body was already as good as dead now that he was about a hundred years old, and Sarah was unable to have children. He didn't doubt God's promise out of a lack of faith. Instead, giving honor to God for the promise, he became strong because of faith and was absolutely confident that God would do what he promised. That is why Abraham's faith was regarded as the basis of his approval by God.

But the words "his faith was regarded as the basis of his approval by God" were written not only for him but also for us. Our faith will be regarded as the basis of our approval by God—each of us who believe in the one who brought Jesus, our Lord, back to life. Jesus, our Lord, was handed over to death because of our failures and was brought back to life so that we could receive God's approval. —GW®

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

"God Be in My Head"

Bethany Choir

~Robert A. Hobby

*"God be in my head and in my understanding; God be in my eyes, and in my looking.
God be in my mouth and in my speaking; God be in my heart and in my thinking.
God be at my end and at my departing. Amen."*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

“O Jesus, My Savior”
~ David W. Music

Bethany Choir

*“O Jesus, my Savior, I know you are mine, for you are the pleasures of earth I resign.
Of objects most pleasing, I love you the best; without you I'm wretched, but with you I'm blest.
O Jesus, my Savior, with you I am blest, my life and salvation, my joy and my rest,
Your name be my theme and your love be my song;
your grace shall inspire both my heart and my tongue.
In mansions of glory and endless delight, I'll ever adore you in heaven so bright;
And singing your praises, before you I'll bow: If ever I loved you, my Jesus, 'tis now.”*

HOLY GOSPEL: **Matthew 9:9-13**

When Jesus was leaving that place, he saw a man sitting in a tax office. The man's name was Matthew. Jesus said to him, “Follow me!” So Matthew got up and followed him.

Later Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house. Many tax collectors and sinners came to eat with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw this and asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

When Jesus heard that, he said, “Healthy people don't need a doctor; those who are sick do. Learn what this means: ‘I want mercy, not sacrifices.’ I've come to call sinners, not people who think they have God's approval.”—GW®

SERMON HYMN:

“How Firm a Foundation”

LSB 728



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
4 “When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way will lie,
5 “Through - out all their life - time My peo - ple will prove
Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!
My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, will be your sup - ply.
My sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;
What more can He say than to you He has said
The flames will not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
And then, when gray hairs will their tem - ples a - dorn,
Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
Your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.
Like lambs they will still in My bos - om be borne.”

MESSAGE: Romans 4:13-25

SONG OF THE DAY: "Overflow"

Verse 1

When the wine ran dry in Cana
You filled to overflow
When 5000 needed feeding
You multiplied the loaves

Verse 2

When the night had come to nothing
And all they had were empty nets
You filled the boat to bursting
You fill my emptiness

Pre-Chorus

When I can't see past; All I lack

Chorus 1

You're more than I hoped for
You're Overflow
Abundance incarnate
In flesh and bone
I wanted healing You did me one better
I prayed for a moment You gave me forever

Verse 3

When You were sold for silver
And hung between two thieves
You took the cup of suffering
Poured out your life for me

Pre-Chorus

When I can't see past; All I lack

Chorus 2

You're more than I hoped for
You're Overflow
Abundance incarnate
In flesh and bone
I wanted healing You did me one better
I prayed for a moment
You gave me forever and ever and ever

Bridge

Surely goodness and mercy will chase me
And I'll live in the house of my Savior
Forever and ever and ever and ever amen...*(continued on next page)*

Chorus 3

You're more than I hoped for
You're Overflow
Abundance incarnate
In flesh and bone
I wanted healing you did me one better
I prayed for a moment you gave me forever
And ever and ever
You gave me forever and ever and ever...

CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED: (catholic means the universal Christian Church*)**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy *catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life ✠ of the world to come. 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 Andria at arosas@bethanylutheran.org or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!

CONSECRATING THE GIFTS

- L:** We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator; in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
- P:** We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You; we bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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 Lutheran Service Book. 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."

*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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION: "Chief of Sinners Though 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
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in
 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
 heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
 wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
 all to me; All my wants to Him are known,
 and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
 Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—
 Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
 All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the
 Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
 won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
 walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.
 hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.
 need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

"Jesus Paid it All"

Verse 1

And I hear the Savior say
 Thy strength indeed is small
 Child of weakness watch and pray
 Find in Me thine all in all

Chorus 1

'Cause Jesus paid it all
All to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow

Interlude 1

It's washed away
All my sin and all my shame

Verse 2

Lord now indeed I find
Thy pow'r and Thine alone
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone

Verse 3

And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete
Jesus died my soul to save
My lips shall still repeat

Interlude 2

Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow...

Chorus 2

Oh praise the One Who paid my debt
And raised this life up from the dead

POST COMMUNION PRAYER**ANNOUNCEMENTS****BENEDICTION:**

L: May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity. So that with one heart and one mouth you may give God glory as you follow the Lord Jesus Christ. (*Romans 15:5-6*)

CLOSING SONG: “Christ Be My Leader”

Verse 1

Christ be my leader by night as by day
Safe through the darkness for He is the way
Gladly I follow my future His care
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there

Verse 2

Christ be my teacher in age as in youth
Drifting or doubting for He is the truth
Grant me to trust Him though shifting as sand
Doubt cannot daunt me in Jesus I stand

Verse 3

Christ be my Saviour in calm as in strife
Death cannot hold me for He is the life
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation with Jesus I reign

POSTLUDE



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“Today Your Mercy Calls Us” LSB 915

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816-78, alt.

Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812-after 1857; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and music: Public domain.

“Here I am to Worship”

CCLI Song # 3266032

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“God Be In My Head”

Robert A. Hobby

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“O Jesus, My Savior”

David W. Music

Music: David W. Music © 2018 Birnamwood Publications, a division of MorningStar Music Publishers. Streamed under ONELICENSE #A-706149.

Text: Based on stanzas from “O Jesus, My Savior, I Know Thou Art Mine”, Caleb Jarvis Taylor, 1763-after 1810, and written in 1804 (PD); “I Love Thee”, Anonymous, from Jeremiah Ingalls’ Christian Harmony, 1805 (PD); “My Jesus, I Love Thee”, William R Featherstone, 1846-1873, and written in 1864 (PD). All rights reserved. Streamed under ONELICENSE #A-706149.

“How Firm a Foundation” LSB 728

Text: *A Selection of Hymns*, London, 1787, alt. Tune: *Genuine Church Music*, Winchester; setting: Joseph Herl, b. 1959. Text and tune: Public domain. Setting: ©2006 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-706149.

“Overflow”

CCLI Song #7263279

Ben Lange, Hope Dunbar, Laura Carlisle

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“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.

“Jesus Paid it All”

CCLI Song #4689508 Alex Nifong| Elvina M. Hall | John Thomas Grape ©2006 sixsteps Music, worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Captiol CMG Publishing) For use solely with the SongSelect [Terms of Use](#). All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 396555

“Christ Be My Leader”

CCLI Song #2865850

Timothy Dudley-Smith

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SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:

Lector 8:00...Ruth Lopez
Liturgist...Karl Fink
Director of Music & Worship Arts...Noah Freeman
Accompanist...Kevin Bowers
Sound and Production...Felix Rivera, Jon Widmann

Lector 9:30...Shannon Morgensen
Preacher...Pastor Kevin Kritzer
Artist in Residence...Blake Flattley
Children’s Message...Alissa Brege



Today’s Flowers are given to the glory of God:

*~ Join us in thanking God as we celebrate 50 years of marriage,
family, faith, and cherished memories ~*

Mike and Marilyn Riordan



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.



Parents of Young Children:

We are so glad you and your children are here! Children are a joyful part of worship—after all, God created them with curiosity, energy, and yes, a few wiggles. Please don't feel pressure to keep them perfectly still in God's house. Their presence is truly a gift to our church family.

Worship is where we learn, together, how to listen and speak to God alongside our brothers and sisters in faith. You are welcome to quietly explain parts of the service and what our worship leaders are doing—children learn how to worship by watching and imitating you.

If it would be helpful, “worship bags” are available in the Narthex with items designed to support children and families during worship. Childcare is also available in our Nursery for children from birth through age five. Our caring and qualified staff look forward to welcoming your little one into a safe and loving environment.

Bethany's Nursery is located across the courtyard. Please feel free to ask an usher if you need directions—we're happy to help.



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>

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 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: