



Gathered Connected Sent

Bethany Lutheran Church *Long Beach & Cypress, CA*

**FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

JUNE 28, 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

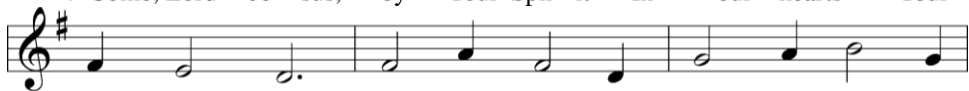
PRELUDE: "Andante Sostenuto from *Symphonie Gothique, Opus 70*" Organ
~Charles-Marie Widor

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: "Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten" LSB 914



1 Light of Light, O Sole - Be - got - ten Ra - diance of the
2 Word e - ter - nal, through Your be - ing God cre - at - ed
3 Still Your brood - ing Spir - it hov - ers O - ver cha - os,
4 Come, Lord Je - sus, by Your Spir - it In our hearts Your



Fa - ther's face, Word made flesh, who lived a - mong us
all we see, When the emp - ty spac - es ech - oed
dark and deep, Call - ing out with in - vi - ta - tion:
work be - gin, Bring the heal - ing res - to - ra - tion



Full of truth and full of grace, Shine up - on our
With the Fa - ther's "Let there be..." Light and life burst
"Rise, a - wak - en from your sleep; Christ the Lord will
Of Your im - age lost by sin; From Your full - ness



hu - man dark - ness; Pierce the night that shrouds our race.
from the glo - rious Pow - er of Your maj - es - ty!
shine up - on you And from death your soul shall keep."
all re - ceiv - ing Grace on grace, new life with - in!

INVOCATION:

- I**: 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:** Jesus Christ, through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead. (*Romans 1:4*)
- P:** **We are among those who have been called to belong to Him.** (*Romans 1:6*)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

- L:** When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race.
- P:** **Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned, including me.** (*Romans 5:12*)
- L:** The Law of God is good. The trouble is with me!
- P:** **I am bound in sin. I don't even fully understand myself. There are times in which I really want to do what is good and right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do the very thing I despise. I am a hypocrite. I know perfectly well that what I do is at times wrong, and my guilty conscience shows that I agree that the law is good. But I can't help myself. So far as my sinful nature is concerned, I am rotten to the core. No matter which way I turn, I can't make myself do right. So many have been the times that I have wanted to do right, but I couldn't. I wanted to do good, but didn't. So often when I have tried not to do wrong, I have done so anyway. What a miserable person I am! Lord, free me from the life that is dominated by sin, and rescue me from death. For the sake of Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.** (*Romans 7:18-19&25*)
- L:** I am here to announce that there is no condemnation for you who are Christ's own people. God didn't deal with the problem of sin as something remote or unimportant. In His Son, Jesus, He personally took on the human condition and set it right once and for all. Now God has taken up residence in your life, go in peace and serve the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

- L:** Oh, the depth of the riches of Your wisdom and knowledge, O God.
- P:** **From You and through You and to You are all things. To You be glory forever!** (*Romans 11:33 & 36*)

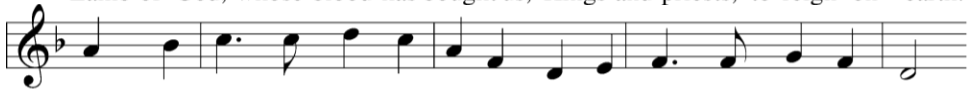
HYMN OF PRAISE: "Heavenly Hosts in Ceaseless Worship" LSB 949



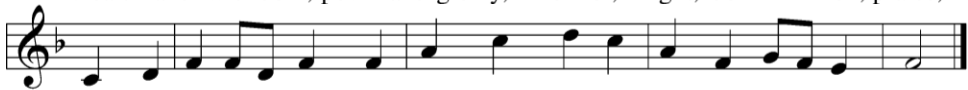
1 Heav'n-ly hosts in cease-less wor-ship "Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly" cry;
2 All cre-a-tion, all re-demp-tion, Join to sing the Sav-ior's worth;



"He who is, who was and will be, God Al-might-y, Lord Most High."
Lamb of God, whose blood has bought us, Kings and priests, to reign on earth.



Praise and hon-or, pow'r and glo-ry, Be to Him who reigns a-lone!
Wealth and wis-dom, pow'r and glo-ry, Hon-or, might, do-min-ion, praise,



We, with all His hands have fash-ioned, Fall be-fore the Fa-ther's throne.
Now be His from all His crea-tures And to ev-er-last-ing days!

EPISTLE READING: *Romans 7:1-13*

Don't you realize, brothers and sisters, that laws have power over people only as long as they are alive? (I'm speaking to people who are familiar with Moses' Teachings.) For example, a married woman is bound by law to her husband as long as he is alive. But if her husband dies, that marriage law is no longer in effect for her. So if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she will be called an adulterer. But if her husband dies, she is free from this law, so she is not committing adultery if she marries another man.

In the same way, brothers and sisters, you have died to the laws in Moses' Teachings through Christ's body. You belong to someone else, the one who was brought back to life.

As a result, we can do what God wants. While we were living under the influence of our corrupt nature, sinful passions were at work throughout our bodies. Stirred up by the laws in Moses' Teachings, our sinful passions did things that result in death. But now we have died to those laws that bound us. God has broken their effect on us so that we are serving in a new spiritual way, not in an old way dictated by written words.

What should we say, then? Are the laws in Moses' Teachings sinful? That's unthinkable! In fact, I wouldn't have recognized sin if those laws hadn't shown it to me. For example, I wouldn't have known that some desires are sinful if Moses' Teachings hadn't said, "Never have wrong desires." But sin took the opportunity provided by this commandment and made me have all kinds of wrong desires. Clearly, without laws sin is dead. At one time I was alive without any laws. But when this commandment came, sin became alive and I died. I found that the commandment which was intended to bring me life actually brought me death. Sin, taking the opportunity provided by this commandment, deceived me and then killed me.

So the laws in Moses' Teachings are holy, and the commandment is holy, right, and good. Now, did something good cause my death? That's unthinkable! Rather, my death was caused by sin so that sin would be recognized for what it is. Through a commandment sin became more sinful than ever.—GW®

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 10:34-42*

“Don't think that I came to bring peace to earth. I didn't come to bring peace but conflict. I came to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. A person's enemies will be the members of his own family.

“The person who loves his father or mother more than me does not deserve to be my disciple. The person who loves a son or daughter more than me does not deserve to be my disciple. Whoever doesn't take up his cross and follow me doesn't deserve to be my disciple. The person who tries to preserve his life will lose it, but the person who loses his life for me will preserve it.

“The person who welcomes you welcomes me, and the person who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. The person who welcomes a prophet as such will receive a prophet's reward. The person who welcomes a godly person as such will receive a godly person's reward. I can guarantee this truth: Whoever gives any of my humble followers a cup of cold water because that person is my disciple will certainly never lose his reward.” —GW®

SERMON HYMN:

“The Law of God Is Good and Wise”

LSB 579

1 The Law of God is good and wise And sets His
 2 Its light of ho - li - ness im - parts The knowl - edge
 5 The Law is good; but since the fall Its ho - li -
 6 To Je - sus we for ref - uge flee, Who from the

will be - fore our eyes, Shows us the way of righ - teous -
 of our sin - ful hearts That we may see our lost es -
 ness con - demns us all; It dooms us for our sin to
 curse has set us free, And hum - bly wor - ship at His

ness, And dooms to death when we trans - gress.
 tate And turn from sin be - fore too late.
 die And has no pow'r to jus - ti - fy.
 throne, Saved by His grace through faith a - lone.

MESSAGE: *Romans 7:1-13*

HYMN OF THE DAY:

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

LSB 685



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus And with pa - tience
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en



am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to
bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He
con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to
from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,



sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,
is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter,
us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion
You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;



Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and
We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts
That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that
Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful
that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,
shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,
con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,



Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.
here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.
here with You I die, There to live with You on high.
let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

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.

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: Lord of all good, our gifts we bring You now;

P: Use them Your holy purpose to fulfill.

L: Tokens of love and pledges they shall be

P: that our whole life is offered to Your will.

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.

*** At our 8:00 a.m. service, we will continue on page 9 with Announcements.

*** At our 9:30 a.m. service, we continue with the Celebration of Holy Communion:

✠ Service 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 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."

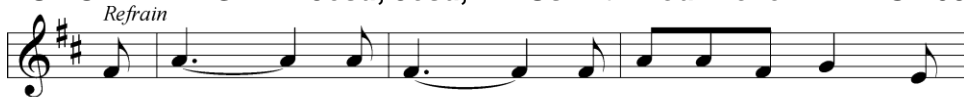
For those communing, who so desire, center cups in each tray are alcohol free.

For those with dietary restrictions, the wafers next to the Christ candle are gluten free:

We will practice the Easter tradition of continuous communion. We will not kneel at the altar, rather we 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

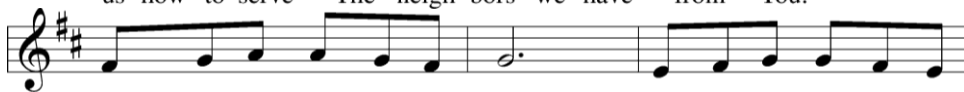
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love" LSB 980



Je - su, Je - su, Fill us with Your love, Show



us how to serve The neigh-bors we have from You.



1 Kneels at the feet of His friends, Si - lent-ly wash-es their
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, Var - ied in col - or and
3 These are the ones we will serve; These are the ones we will
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, Si - lent-ly wash-ing their



feet, Mas - ter who pours out Him - self for them.
race; Neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
love; All these are neigh-bors to us and You.
feet: This is the way we will live with You.

“Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared”

LSB 622



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, You have pre - pared This feast for
 2 Al - though You did to heav'n as - cend, Where an - gel
 3 Yet, Sav - ior, You are not con - fined To an - y
 4 We eat this bread and drink this cup, Your pre - cious



our sal - va - tion; It is Your bod - y
 hosts are dwell - ing, And in Your pres - ence
 hab - i - ta - tion; But You are pres - ent
 Word be - liev - ing That Your true bod - y



and Your blood, And at Your in - vi - ta - tion
 they be - hold Your glo - ry, all ex - cel - ling,
 e - ven now Here with Your con - gre - ga - tion.
 and Your blood Our lips are here re - ceiv - ing.



As wea - ry souls, with sin op - pressed, We come to
 And though Your peo - ple shall not see Your glo - ry
 Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, Un - moved by
 This Word re - mains for - ev - er true, All things are



You for need - ed rest, For com - fort, and for par - don.
 and Your maj - es - ty Till dawns the judg - ment morn - ing,
 an - y dar - ing hand Or sub - tle craft and cun - ning.
 pos - si - ble with You, For You are Lord Al - might - y.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION:

[L]: Our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. So let us be clothed with Christ, and forget about satisfying our sinful self. (*Romans 13:11&14*)

CLOSING HYMN: “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” LSB 655

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and

by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
 Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
 u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal

Son And bring to naught all He has done.
 we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 strife And lead us out of death to life.

**POSTLUDE: “Final-Toccata from Suite Romantique” Organ
 ~Denis Bédard**



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“Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten” LSB 914

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“Heavenly Hosts in Ceaseless Worship” LSB 949

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926.

Music: Amanda Husberg, b. 1940. Text: ©1975 Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Music: © 2000 Selah Publishing Co., Inc. All rights reserved. Text and Music: Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149.

“The Law of God Is Good and Wise” LSB 579

Text: Matthias Loy, 1828-1915, alt.

Tune: *Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1543, ed. Joseph King Text and tune: Public domain

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus” LSB 685

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-81; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978, alt. Tune: Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent. Text: © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149. Music: Public domain.

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love” LSB 980

Text: Written for the Church in Ghana | Tom Colvin, b. 1925, alt. Tune: Ghanaian folk tune; adapt. Tom Colvin; arr. Jane Marshall, b. 1924. ©1969 and this arr. ©1982 Hope Publishing. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE#A-706149

“Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared” LSB 622

Text: Samuel Kinner; tr. Emmanuel Cronenwett, alt. Tune: Peter Sohren, alt; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941.

Text and Music : Public domain

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word.” LSB 655

Text: Martin Luther 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt. Tune: *Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1543, ed. Joseph Klug. Text and music: Public domain.

SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:

Lector 8:00...Steve Albers
Liturgist...Noah Freeman
Organist...Robert Bottoms
Sound ...Felix Rivera

9:30...John and Josette Utke
Preacher...Pastor John Alwood
Children’s Message...Jaret Donham



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.

Bethany Lutheran Church and its Ministries are found at: www.bethanylutheran.org

Bethany Lutheran School information can be found by visiting:
www.bethanylutheran.org/school/

Bethany Preschool’s website: www.bethanylutheran.org/preschool/

** Get weekly updates by signing up for the **Bethany Broadcast**—our weekly capsule of worship highlights and campus-wide information.

To sign up for the weekly **Bethany Broadcast**: <https://bit.ly/BethanyBroadcastSignUp>

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 \$85.**
- **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: