



Gathered



Connected



Sent

**SIXTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

JULY 5, 2026

Bethany Lutheran Church *Long Beach & Cypress, CA*

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

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: “Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good” LSB 819



1 Sing praise to God, the high - est good, The au - thor of cre -
3 We sought the Lord in our dis - tress; O God, in mer - cy
4 He nev - er shall for - sake His flock, His cho - sen gen - er -
5 All who con - fess Christ’s ho - ly name, Give God the praise and



a - tion, The God of love who un - der - stood
hear us. Our Sav - ior saw our help - less - ness
a - tion; He is their ref - uge and their rock,
glo - ry. Let all who know His pow’r pro - claim



Our need for His sal - va - tion. With heal - ing balm our
And came with peace to cheer us. For this we thank and
Their peace and their sal - va - tion. As with a moth - er’s
A - loud the won - drous sto - ry. Cast ev - ’ry i - dol



souls He fills And ev - ’ry faith - less mur - mur stills:
praise the Lord, Who is by one and all a - dored:
ten - der hand, He leads His own, His cho - sen band:
from its throne, For God is God, and He a - lone:



To God all praise and glo - ry!
To God all praise and glo - ry!
To God all praise and glo - ry!
To God all praise and glo - ry!

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.**

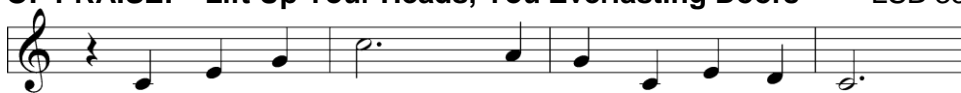
CALL TO WORSHIP:

- 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.** (*Romans 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. (*Romans 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.** (*Romans 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. (*Romans 12*)

HYMN OF PRAISE: “Lift Up Your Heads, You Everlasting Doors” LSB 339



1 Lift up your heads, you ev - er - last - ing doors,
 2 Who is this King of great and glo - rious fame?
 3 Who may as - cend Mount Zi - on's ho - ly hill
 4 “Wor - thy is Christ!” The Lamb who once was slain



And weep no more! O Zi - on's daugh - ter, sing,
 What is His name? Lord God of Sab - a - oth,
 To do God's will? The One whose un - stained hands
 Now lives to reign. He rules our earth - ly ways



To greet your com - ing King; Now wave the vic - tor's
 Of whom the proph - ets wrote, Whose cho - sen, hum - ble
 Can meet the Law's de - mands, Whose pu - ri - ty with -
 As Lord of An - cient Days— O join the end - less



palm And sing the an - cient psalm: “Lift up your
 steed De - clares Him king in - deed! Ho - san - na,
 in Re - veals One free from sin. Come, praise this
 song Sung by the ran - somed throng: “Wor - thy is



heads, you ev - er - last - ing gates!” Your King a - waits!
 Lord! Mes - si - ah, come and save From sin and grave.
 King who claims the cross as throne— Praise Him a - lone!
 Christ!” The Lamb be praised a - gain! A - men! A - men!

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. (Romans 12)**

PSALM 107:1-3; 7-8 *(We read responsively)*

L: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,

P: **for His steadfast love endures forever!**

L: Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,

P: **whom He has redeemed from trouble**

L: and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west,

P: **from the north and from the south.**

L: He led them by a straight way

P: **till they reached a city to dwell in.**

L: Let them thank the LORD for His steadfast love,

P: **for His wondrous works to the children of man! —ESV®**

SECOND READING: *Romans 7:14-25a*

I know that God's standards in Moses' Teachings are spiritual, but I have a corrupt nature, sold as a slave to sin. I don't realize what I'm doing. I don't do what I want to do. Instead, I do what I hate. I don't do what I want to do, but I agree that God's standards are good. So I am no longer the one who is doing the things I hate, but sin that lives in me is doing them.

I know that nothing good lives in me; that is, nothing good lives in my corrupt nature. Although I have the desire to do what is right, I don't do it. I don't do the good I want to do. Instead, I do the evil that I don't want to do. Now, when I do what I don't want to do, I am no longer the one who is doing it. Sin that lives in me is doing it.

So I've discovered this truth: Evil is present with me even when I want to do what God's standards say is good. I take pleasure in God's standards in my inner being. However, I see a different standard at work throughout my body. It is at war with the standards my mind sets and tries to take me captive to sin's standards which still exist throughout my body. What a miserable person I am! Who will rescue me from my dying body? I thank God that our Lord Jesus Christ rescues me! So I am obedient to God's standards with my mind, but I am obedient to sin's standards with my corrupt nature. —GW®

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: Piano Improvisation on "Be Still, My Soul"

~Noah Freeman

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 11:25-30*

At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for hiding these things from wise and intelligent people and revealing them to little children. Yes, Father, this is what pleased You.

"My Father has turned everything over to me. Only the Father knows the Son. And no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son is willing to reveal Him.

"Come to me, all who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Place my yoke over your shoulders, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble. Then you will find rest for yourselves because my yoke is easy and my burden is light."—GW®

SERMON HYMN:

"Be Still, My Soul"

LSB 752



1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side; Bear pa - tient-
2 Be still, my soul; your God will un - der - take To guide the
3 Be still, my soul; though dear - est friends de - part And all is
4 Be still, my soul; the hour is has - t'ning on When we shall



ly the cross of grief or pain; Leave to your God to or - der
fu - ture as He has the past. Your hope, your con - fi - dence let
dark - ened in this vale of tears; Then you will bet - ter know His
be for - ev - er with the Lord, When dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and



and pro - vide; In ev - 'ry change He faith - ful will re -
noth - ing shake; All now mys - te - rious shall be bright at
love, His heart, Who comes to soothe your sor - rows and your
fear are gone, Sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re -



main. Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'n - ly Friend
last. Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
fears. Be still, my soul; your Je - sus can re - pay
stored. Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,



Through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be - low.
From His own full - ness all He takes a - way.
All safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

MESSAGE: Romans 7:14-25a

SONG OF THE DAY: "O Come to the Altar"

As we prepare to receive Christ's gifts in His Word and Sacrament, the text of "O Come to the Altar" reminds us of the gracious invitation our Lord extends to sinners. We do not come because we are worthy, but because Jesus has borne our sin, offers His forgiveness, and welcomes us by His grace. The altar is not a place where we earn God's favor, but where Christ comes to serve His people with His saving gifts. May this song direct our hearts to His mercy, His cross, and His faithful promise to forgive and restore all who trust in Him.

Verse 1

Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

Chorus

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Verse 2

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling

Bridge

Oh what a Savior
Isn't he wonderful
Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Bow down before him
For he is Lord of all
Sing alleluia Christ is risen

Verse 3

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

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.** (LSB 785 stz. 1)

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**.*

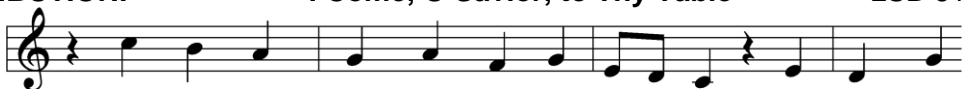
In our 9:30 am service, we will practice the Easter tradition of continuous communion. We will not kneel at the altar, rather we will join the procession of saints and come forward and remain standing as we receive the bread and wine. After receiving the elements, you are invited to return to your seat and continue in meditation, prayer and song.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION:

“I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table”

LSB 618



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and
 2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners
 3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I
 4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my
 5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
 may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in
 have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt
 soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -
 bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
 faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.
 ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:
 ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
 heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.



Refrain

Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

“Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”

LSB 707



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat - ues still!
 2 Or - der my foot - steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin - cere;
 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict - er watch to keep;
 4 Make me to walk in Thy com - mands—'Tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!
 Let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, But keep my con - science clear.
 And should I e'er for - get Thy way, Re - store Thy wan - d'ring sheep.
 Nor let my head or heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER



HOLY BAPTISM:

9:30

✠ **IRIS EMMA ROSAS** ✠

Elder: Through Baptism, God has made **Iris** a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that together we may present the forgiveness of God in Christ to our world.

People: **We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ and a worker with us in the kingdom of God.**

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 HYMN:

"God Bless Our Native Land"

LSB 965



1 God bless our na - tive land; Firm may she ev - er stand
2 So shall our prayers a - rise To God a - bove the skies;



Through storm and night. When the wild tem - pests rave, Rul - er of
On Him we wait. Thou who art ev - er nigh, Guard - ing with



wind and wave, Do Thou our coun - try save By Thy great might.
watch - ful eye, To Thee a - loud we cry: God save the state!

POSTLUDE

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“Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good” LSB 819

Text: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1640-90; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812-97, adapt., sts. 1-3, 5; tr. Catherine Winkworth. 1827-78; adapt. St. 4
Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570-1615; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and music: Public domain

“Lift Up Your Heads, You Everlasting Doors” LSB 339

Text: Stephen P. Starke ©2003 Stephen P. Starke; admin. Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Tune: Paul Liljestränd ©1970 The Hymn Society; Admin. Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149.

“Be Still, My Soul” LSB 752

Text: Catharina Amalia Dorthea von Schlegel; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, alt.
Tune: Jean Sibelius, adapt; setting: *The Hymnbook*, 1955. Text and Tune: Public domain. Setting: ©1933, ren. 1941 Presbyterian Board of Christian Education. Used by permission of Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149.

“O Come to the Altar”

CCLI Song #7051511

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“I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table” LSB 618

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677-1754; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, abr.

Tune: *Emskirchner Choral-Buch*, Leipzig, 1756. Public domain

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“Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways” LSB 707

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793-1870. Text and music: Public domain

“God Bless Our Native Land” LSB 965

Text: Charles T. Brooks, 1813-83, st. 1, alt.; John S. Dwight, 1813-93, st. 2, alt.

Tune: *Thesaurus Musicus*, London, c. 1740; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and music: Public domain



SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:

Lector 8:00 & 9:30...Matt Ruiz

Preacher...Pastor Kevin Kritzer

Director of Music...Noah Freeman

Children’s Message...Pastor Kevin Kritzer

Sound and Production...Felix Rivera, Jon Widmann



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

~ celebrating the Baptism of Iris Rosas~

~by The Rosas Family

