



Gathered Connected Sent

Bethany Lutheran Church *Long Beach & Cypress, CA*

**EIGHTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

JULY 19, 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

WELCOME

OPENING SONG: "United in Christ"

Verse 1

People of the Lord come now and sing
Every nation and tongue to Christ our King
With empty hands His gifts receive

Verse 2

Whether young or old you're a child of God
Whether rich or poor no matter what you got
He gathers all at the foot of the cross

Chorus

His body broken makes this body whole
His resurrection it assures us all
No darkness nor doubting nor pain in this life
Could keep us from being united in Christ

Verse 3

Sinners and saints you have a place
With the Spirit's gifts proclaim His grace
There's nothing too small
To be used by the Living God

Bridge

We are the body Christ is the head
Sealed with the promise through blood He shed
We are the body Christ is the head
His grace the heartbeat our confidence
We are the body Christ is the head
Sealed with the promise through blood He shed
We are the body Christ is the head
His grace the heartbeat our confidence
Our confidence

Tag

No darkness nor doubting nor pain in this life
Could keep us from being united in Christ

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*)

SONG OF PRAISE: “God Who Bleeds”

Verse 1

O my soul
Who could ever know
How deep my sins go
O my soul
All the gold
On the earth could never pay
For the debt that I have made
On my soul

Chorus 1

Now I see
Just how great my need
In His hands and in His feet
Lamb of God
Oh my soul shall sing
All glory to the God who bleeds

Verse 2

Oh what love
Knew I'd never have enough
So He chose to pay in blood
Oh what love
I'm in awe
Every earthly gain is lost
At the wonder of the cross
Oh what love

Bridge 1

See from His head His hands His feet
Sorrow and love flow down for me
Forever all my praise will be
Glory to the God who bleeds
See from His head His hands His feet
Sorrow and love flow down for me
Forever all my praise will be
Glory to the God who bleeds

Tag 1

All glory to the God who bleeds

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 119:57-60; 64

The LORD is my portion;
I promise to keep Your words.
I entreat Your favor with all my heart;
be gracious to me according to Your promise.
When I think on my ways,
I turn my feet to Your testimonies;
I hasten and do not delay
to keep Your commandments.
The earth, O LORD, is full of Your steadfast love;
teach me Your statutes! —ESV®

SECOND READING: *Romans 8:18-27*

I consider our present sufferings insignificant compared to the glory that will soon be revealed to us. All creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal who his children are. Creation was subjected to frustration but not by its own choice. The one who subjected it to frustration did so in the hope that it would also be set free from slavery to decay in order to share the glorious freedom that the children of God will have. We know that all creation has been groaning with the pains of childbirth up to the present time.

However, not only creation groans. We, who have the Spirit as the first of God's gifts, also groan inwardly. We groan as we eagerly wait for our adoption, the freeing of our bodies from sin. We were saved with this hope in mind. If we hope for something we already see, it's not really hope. Who hopes for what can be seen? But if we hope for what we don't see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

At the same time the Spirit also helps us in our weakness, because we don't know how to pray for what we need. But the Spirit intercedes along with our groans that cannot be expressed in words. The one who searches our hearts knows what the Spirit has in mind. The Spirit intercedes for God's people the way God wants him to. —GW®

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43*

Jesus used another illustration. He said, “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who planted good seed in his field. But while people were asleep, his enemy planted weeds in the wheat field and went away. When the wheat came up and formed kernels, weeds appeared.

“The owner’s workers came to him and asked, ‘Sir, didn’t you plant good seed in your field? Where did the weeds come from?’

“He told them, ‘An enemy did this.’

“His workers asked him, ‘Do you want us to pull out the weeds?’

“He replied, ‘No. If you pull out the weeds, you may pull out the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. When the grain is cut, I will tell the workers to gather the weeds first and tie them in bundles to be burned. But I’ll have them bring the wheat into my barn.’ ”

When Jesus had sent the people away, he went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain what the illustration of the weeds in the field means.”

He answered, “The one who plants the good seeds is the Son of Man. The field is the world. The good seeds are those who belong to the kingdom. The weeds are those who belong to the evil one. The enemy who planted them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world. The workers are angels. Just as weeds are gathered and burned, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels. They will gather everything in his kingdom that causes people to sin and everyone who does evil. The angels will throw them into a blazing furnace. People will cry and be in extreme pain there. Then the people who have God’s approval will shine like the sun in their Father’s kingdom. Let the person who has ears listen!

—GW®

SERMON SONG: “Hear Us, Father, When We Pray”

LSB 773

1 Hear us, Father, when we pray,
Through Your Son and in Your Spirit.
By Your Spirit’s Word convey
All that we through Christ inherit,
That as baptized heirs we may
Truly pray.

2 When we know not what to say
And our wounded souls are pleading,
May Your Spirit, night and day,
Groan within us interceding;
By His sighs, too deep for words,
We are heard.

3 Jesus, advocate on high,
Sacrificed on Calv'ry's altar,
Through Your priestly blood we cry:
Hear our prayers, though they may falter;
Place them on Your Father's throne
As Your own.

4 By Your Spirit now attend
To our prayers and supplications,
As like incense they ascend
To Your heav'nly habitations.
May their fragrance waft above,
God of love.

MESSAGE: *Romans 8:18-27*

SONG OF THE DAY: "Ignite"

Verse 1

Lord you call us
To be people of peace
To reconcile
And to redeem
Lord we're willing
But we are weak
Give us strength to serve—All we meet

Pre-Chorus 1

To the weak and the poor made known
May your love through us be shown

Chorus 1

Spirit of God ignite our hearts
To burn bright for yours
Let us be the light to all
All the dark

Verse 2

Lord you call us
To be people of love
Living sacrifice

To your glory of Lord
Transform us
By the blood of your Son
Bringing justice and mercy
Walking with you God

Pre-Chorus 2

To the weak and the poor made known
May your love through us be shown

Chorus 2

Spirit of God ignite our hearts
To burn bright for yours
Let us be the light to all
All the dark

Bridge

Ignite in us pure holiness
Cleanse us from all selfishness
Lead us in paths of righteousness
To the work You prepared in advance for us

Chorus 3

Spirit of God ignite our hearts
To burn bright for yours
Let us be the light to all
All the dark

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: "Be Still (Psalm 46)"

God is our refugee, our strength and our shield,
An ever-present help.

We will not fear though the earth gives way,
and the mountains crash into the sea.

There is a river whose streams will make glad
the city of our most High King.

God is within her, and she will not fail,
He helps her at break of the day,

Nation in uproar, men's kingdoms, they fall,
He speaks and the earth melts away.
The words we imagine, the strongest of storms,
Our fortress, it will still remain.

There is a river whose streams will make glad
the city of our most High King.

God is within her, and she will not fail,
Listen and hear the Lord say:

"Be still, and know that I am God."

Come, let us see what the Lord has done,
the ruins He brings to the earth.
He makes wars to cease to the ends of the earth,
He shatters the bow and the spear.

There is a river who's streams will make glad
the city of our most High King.
God is within her, and she will not fail,
Listen and hear the Lord say:

"Be still, and know that I am God."

"They'll Know We are Christians By Our Love"

Verse 1

We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity
May one day be restored

Chorus

And they'll know we are Christians
By our love by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians
By our love

Verse 2

We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news
That God is in our land

Verse 3

We will work with each other
We will work side by side
We will work with each other
We will work side by side

And we'll guard each man's dignity
And save each man's pride

Verse 4

All praise to the Father
From whom all things come
And all praise to Christ Jesus
His only Son
And all praise to the Spirit
Who makes us one

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: "I Will Sing"

Verse 1

With my mouth I will tell of Your faithfulness
I'll declare Lord Your covenant with my life

Chorus

I will sing of the Lord's great love forever
I will sing of the Lord's great love
I will sing of the Lord's great love forever
I will sing oh I will sing

Verse 2

Lord You are the glory of all our strength
Your presence along the way for all our days

Bridge

Oh Lord God Almighty who is like You
Oh Lord God Almighty none beside You
Oh Lord God Almighty
All the earth and sky belong to You

Tag

Of His great love I will sing

POSTLUDE



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“United in Christ”

CCLI Song #7226512; Blake Flattley, Kyle Borcharding, Michael Verburg

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“God who Bleeds”

CCLI Song # 7256772

Benji Cowart | Cara Berg | Jon Gruen | Matt Preston

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“Hear Us, Father, When We Pray” LSB 773

Text: Chad L. Bird, b. 1970

Tune: *Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch*, Halle, 1704, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen;

Setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941.

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“Ignite”

CCLI Song # 7087805

Blake Flattley

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“Be Still” (Psalm 46)

CCLI Song#5984453

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“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love” AGPS 237

CCLI Song # 26997

Peter Scholtes

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Music: 1966 F.E.L. Publications. Assigned 1991 The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

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SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:

Lector 8:00...Lily Craft
Liturgist...
Artist in Residence...Blake Flattley
Children’s Message...Kayleigh Lopez
Sound and Production...Felix Rivera, Jon Widmann

9:30...Mike Riordan
Preacher...Pastor Kevin Kritzer
Keyboard...Pat Gagan



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: