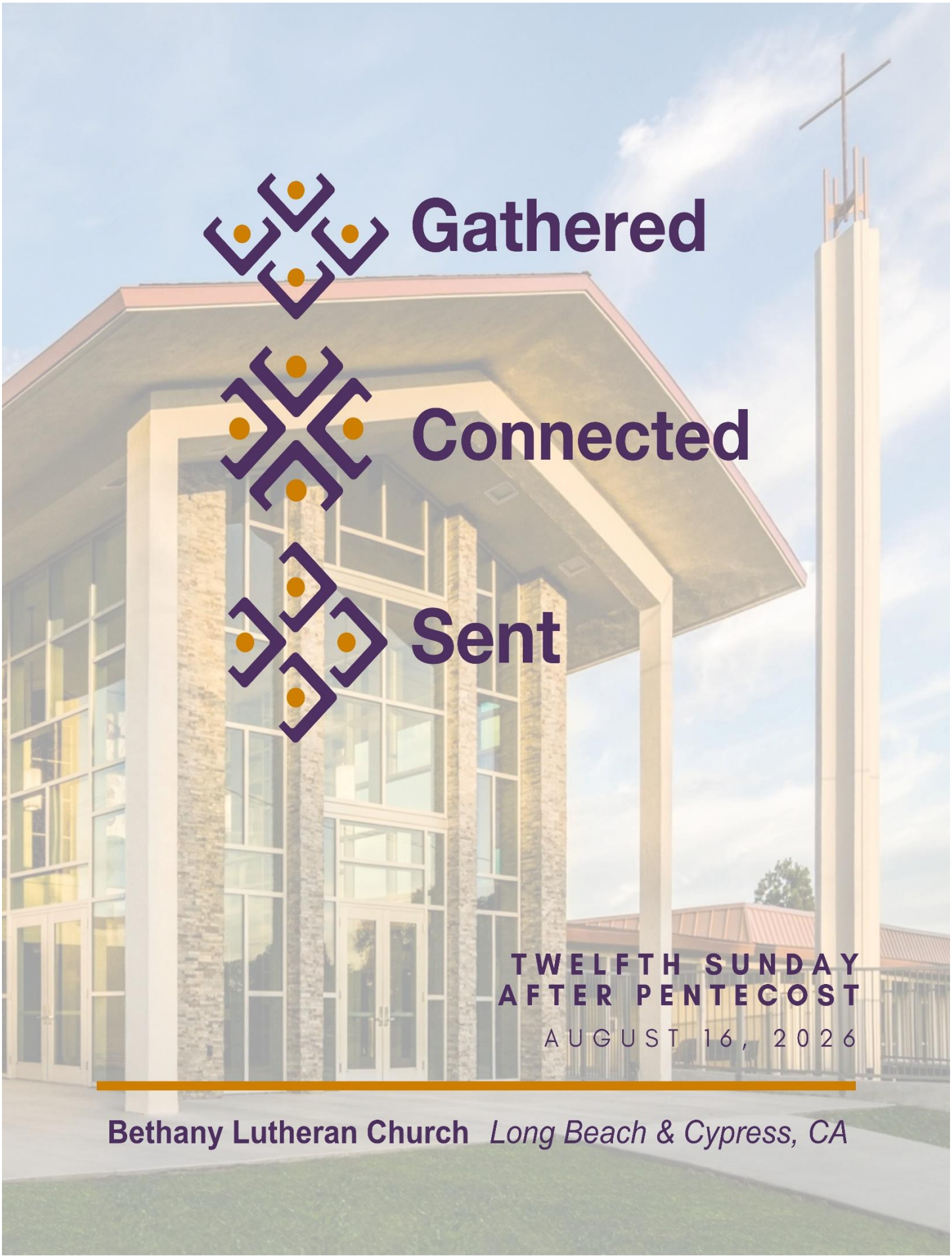

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TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 16, 2026

Bethany Lutheran Church *Long Beach & Cypress, CA*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING SONG: "Holy, Holy, Holy"

Verse 1
Holy holy holy Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee
Holy holy holy merciful and mighty
God in three persons blessed Trinity

Verse 2
Holy holy holy Though the darkness hide Thee
Though the eye made blind by sin
Thy glory may not see
Only Thou art holy there is none beside Thee
Perfect in power in love and purity

Bridge
And we all bow down…

Verse 3
Holy holy holy Lord God Almighty
All Thy works shall praise Thy name
In earth and sky and sea
Holy holy holy Merciful and mighty
God in three persons blessed Trinity

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)*

RESPONSIVE SONG: "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
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
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

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)*

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 55:1-5*

"Listen! Whoever is thirsty, come to the water!
Whoever has no money can come, buy, and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk. You don't have to pay; it's free!
Why do you spend money on what cannot nourish you
and your wages on what does not satisfy you?
Listen carefully to me:
Eat what is good, and enjoy the best foods.
Open your ears, and come to me!
Listen so that you may live!
I will make an everlasting promise to you—
the blessings I promised to David.
I made him a witness to people,
a leader and a commander for people.
You will summon a nation that you don't know,
and a nation that doesn't know you will run to you
because of the Lord your God,
because of the Holy One of Israel.
He has honored you." —GW®

SECOND READING: *Romans 11:28-32*

The Good News made the Jewish people enemies because of you. But by God's choice they are loved because of their ancestors. God never changes His mind when He gives gifts or when He calls someone. In the past, you disobeyed God. But now God has been merciful to you because of the disobedience of the Jewish people. In the same way, the Jewish people have also disobeyed so that God may be merciful to them as He was to you. God has placed all people into the prison of their own disobedience so that He could be merciful to all people. —GW®

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 15:21-28*

Jesus left that place and went to the region of Tyre and Sidon.

A Canaanite woman from that territory came to Him and began to shout, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon."

But He did not answer her at all. Then His disciples came to Him and urged Him, "Send her away. She keeps shouting behind us."

Jesus responded, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the nation of Israel."

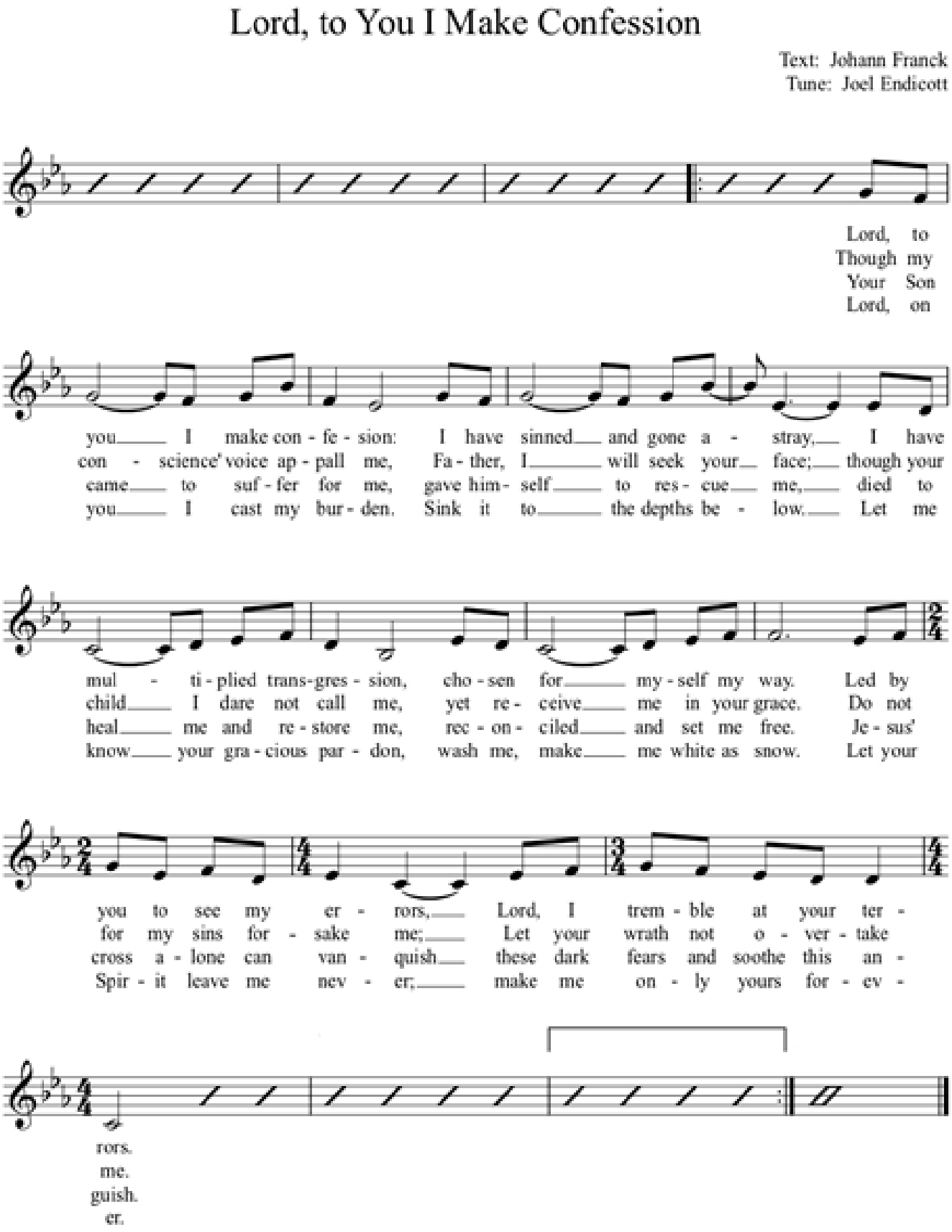
She came to Him, bowed down, and said, "Lord, help me!"

Jesus replied, "It's not right to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

She said, "You're right, Lord. But even the dogs eat scraps that fall from their masters' tables."

Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, you have strong faith! What you wanted will be done for you." At that moment her daughter was cured. –GW®

SERMON SONG:



MESSAGE: ***Romans 11:28-32***

SONG OF THE DAY: "His Mercy Is More"

Verse 1
What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient all knowing He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Verse 2
What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Verse 3
What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Chorus
Praise the Lord His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness new every morn
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

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:

"Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me"

Verse 1
What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love my deep and boundless peace
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 2
The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour he will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need his power is displayed
To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 3
No fate I dread I know I am forgiven
The future sure the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And he was raised to overthrow the grave
To this I hold my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 4
With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me home
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to him
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Ending
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me

“He Will Hold Me Fast”

Verse 1
When I fear my faith will fail
Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail
He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold
He must hold me fast

Chorus
He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

Verse 2
Those He saves are His delight
Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight
He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost
His Promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost
He will hold me fast

Verse 3
For my life He bled and died
Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied
He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life
He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight
When He comes at last

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: "Nothing But the Blood"

Verse 1
What can wash away my sin
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
What can make me whole again
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Chorus
O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Verse 2
For my pardon this I see
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
For my cleansing this my plea
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Verse 3
Nothing can for sin atone
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
Naught of good that I have done
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Verse 4
This is all my hope and peace
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
This is all my righteousness
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

POSTLUDE

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"Lord, to You I Make Confession"
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SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Acolyte 8:00…Ben Culley
Lector 8:00…Lily Craft
Liturgist…Karl Fink
Artist in Residence…Blake Flattley
Children's Message…Karl Fink
Sound and Production…Felix Rivera, Jon Widmann

Crucifer 9:30…Henry Cerulle
9:30…John Holmquist
Preacher...Pastor Seth Moorman
Keyboard…Pat Gagan

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

~ In thanksgiving for Gerald and Jeanette Dahlin
celebrating 50 years of marriage ~

~by Steve and Linda Clagett



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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.

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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.