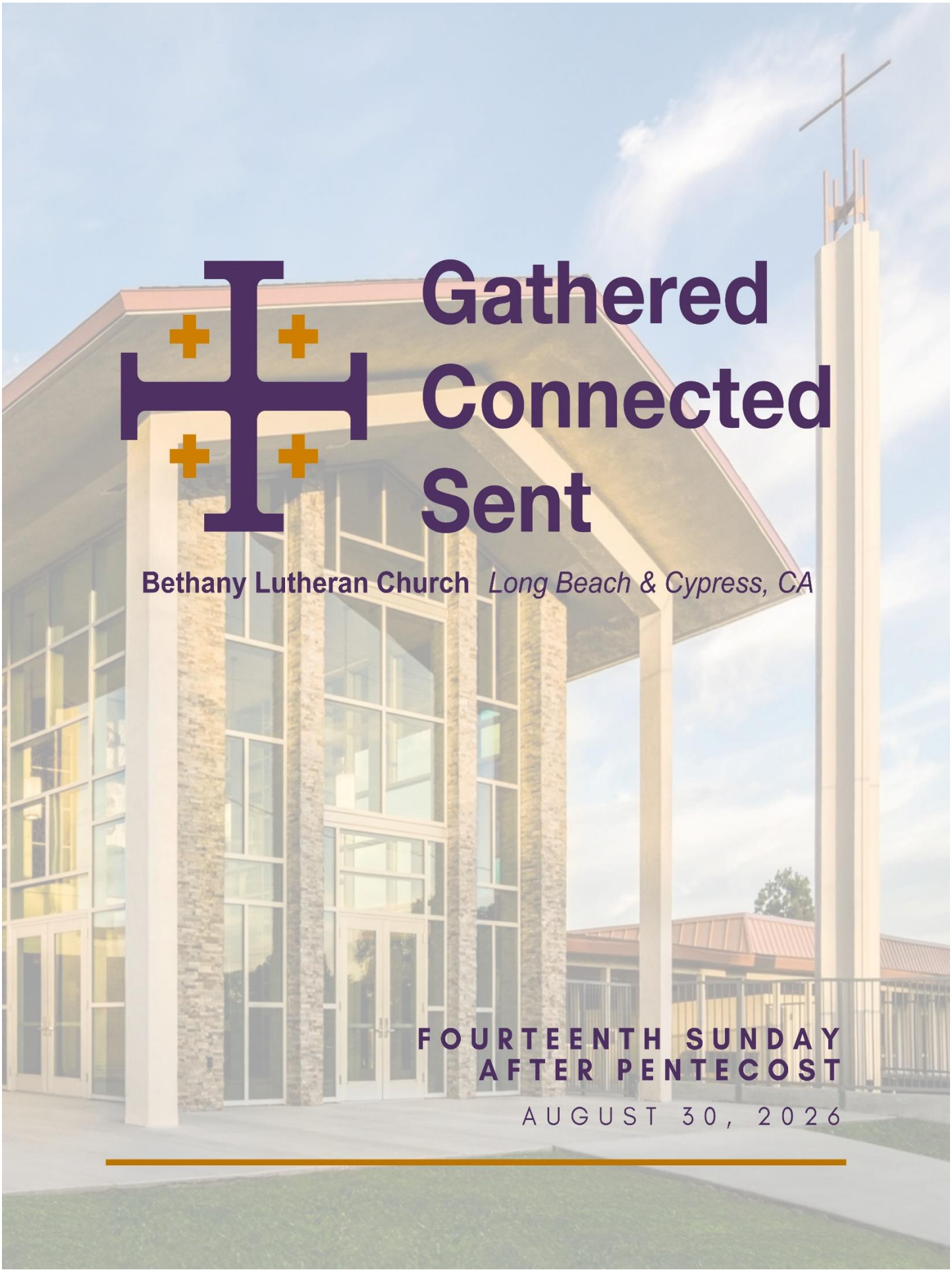


# Gathered
# Connected
# Sent

**Bethany Lutheran Church** *Long Beach & Cypress, CA*

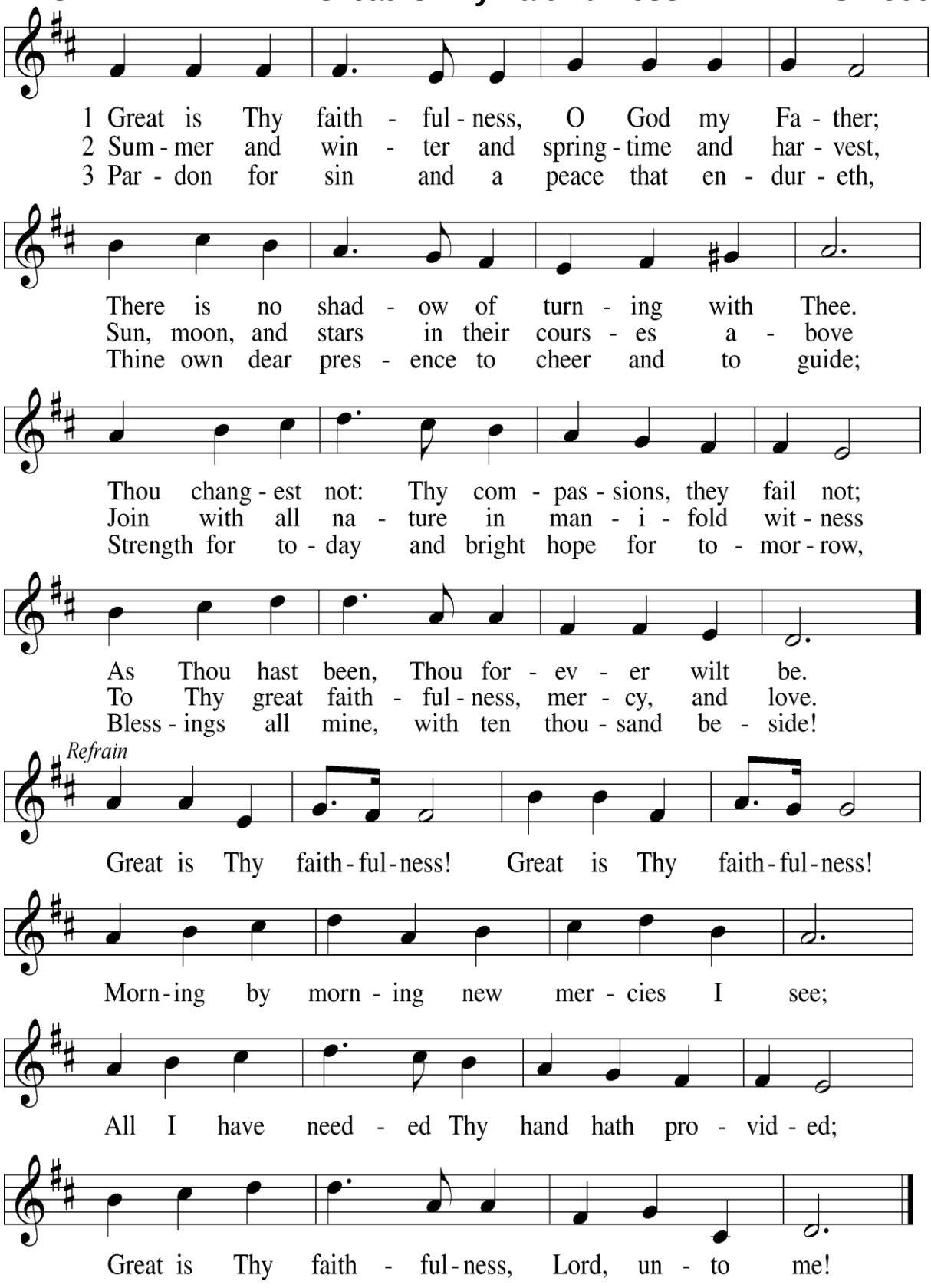
**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

AUGUST 30, 2026

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**OPENING HYMN: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"** LSB 809



## 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: "Goodness of God"

**Verse 1**
I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

**Chorus**
All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

**Verse 2**
I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night
You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

**Bridge**
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me

## 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 51:1-6*

Listen to me, you people who pursue what is right and seek the Lord.
Look to the rock from which you were cut
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
Look to Abraham, your ancestor,
and to Sarah, from whom you are descended.
When I called Abraham, he was childless.
I blessed him and gave him many descendants.
So the Lord will comfort Zion.
He will comfort all those who live among its ruins.
He will make its desert like Eden.
He will make its wilderness like the garden of the Lord.
Joy and gladness will be found in it,
thanksgiving and the sound of singing.

Pay attention to me, my people.
Open your ears to hear me, my nation.
My teachings will go out from me.
My justice will become a light for the people.
My righteousness is near.
My salvation is on the way.
I will bring justice to people.
The coastlands put their hope in me,
and they wait eagerly for me.
Look at the sky.
Look at the earth below.
The sky will vanish like smoke.
The earth will wear out like clothing,
and those who live there will die like flies.
But my salvation will last forever,
and my righteousness will never fail. —GW®

## SECOND READING: *Romans 12:9-21*

Love sincerely. Hate evil. Hold on to what is good. Be devoted to each other like a loving family. Excel in showing respect for each other. Don’t be lazy in showing your devotion. Use your energy to serve the Lord. Be happy in your confidence, be patient in trouble, and pray continually. Share what you have with God’s people who are in need. Be hospitable.

Bless those who persecute you. Bless them, and don’t curse them. Be happy with those who are happy. Be sad with those who are sad. Live in harmony with each other. Don’t be arrogant, but be friendly to humble people. Don’t think that you are smarter than you really are.

Don’t pay people back with evil for the evil they do to you. Focus your thoughts on those things that are considered noble. As much as it is possible, live in peace with

everyone. Don't take revenge, dear friends. Instead, let God's anger take care of it. After all, Scripture says, "I alone have the right to take revenge. I will pay back, says the Lord." But,

> "If your enemy is hungry, feed him.
> If he is thirsty, give him a drink.
> If you do this, you will make him feel guilty and ashamed."

Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil with good. —GW®

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 16:21-28*

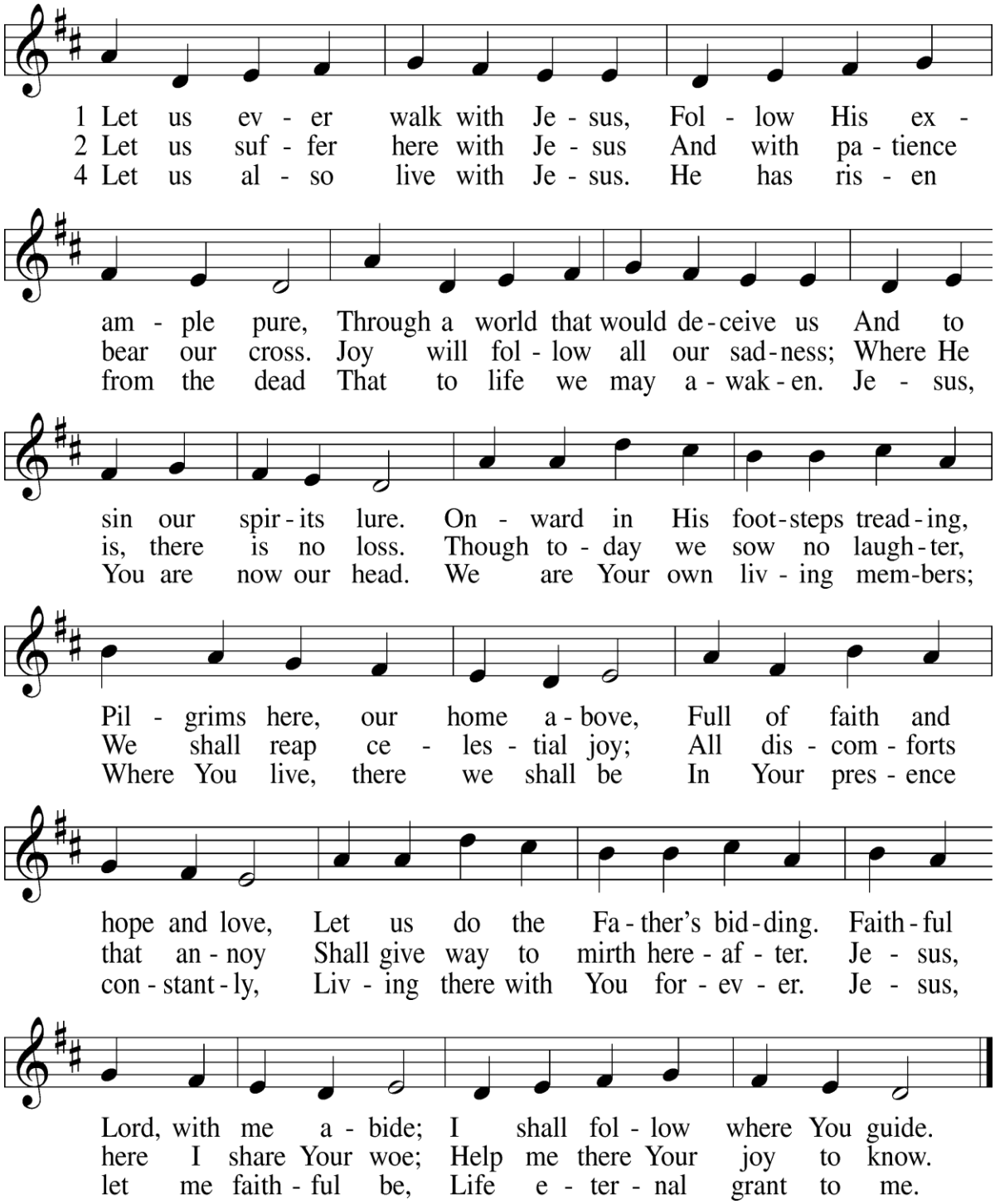
From that time on Jesus began to inform His disciples that He had to go to Jerusalem. There He would have to suffer a lot because of the leaders, the chief priests, and the experts in Moses' Teachings. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be brought back to life.

Peter took Him aside and objected to this. He said, "Heaven forbid, Lord! This must never happen to You!"

But Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get out of my way, Satan! You are tempting me to sin. You aren't thinking the way God thinks but the way humans think."

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Those who want to come with me must say no to the things they want, pick up their crosses, and follow me. Those who want to save their lives will lose them. But those who lose their lives for me will find them. What good will it do for people to win the whole world and lose their lives? Or what will a person give in exchange for life? The Son of Man will come with His angels in His Father's glory. Then He will pay back each person based on what that person has done. I can guarantee this truth: Some people who are standing here will not die until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom." –GW®

**SERMON HYMN:** **"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"** LSB 685




**MESSAGE:** ***Romans 12:9-21***

## SONG OF THE DAY: “Great Are You, Lord”

**Verse**
You give life You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope You restore ev'ry heart that is broken
And great are You Lord

**Chorus**
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only

**Bridge**
And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing
Great are You Lord

## 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)*

## 9:30: ✢ COMMISSIONING AND RE-DEDICATION OF TEACHING STAFF ✢

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

## LORD'S PRAYER:

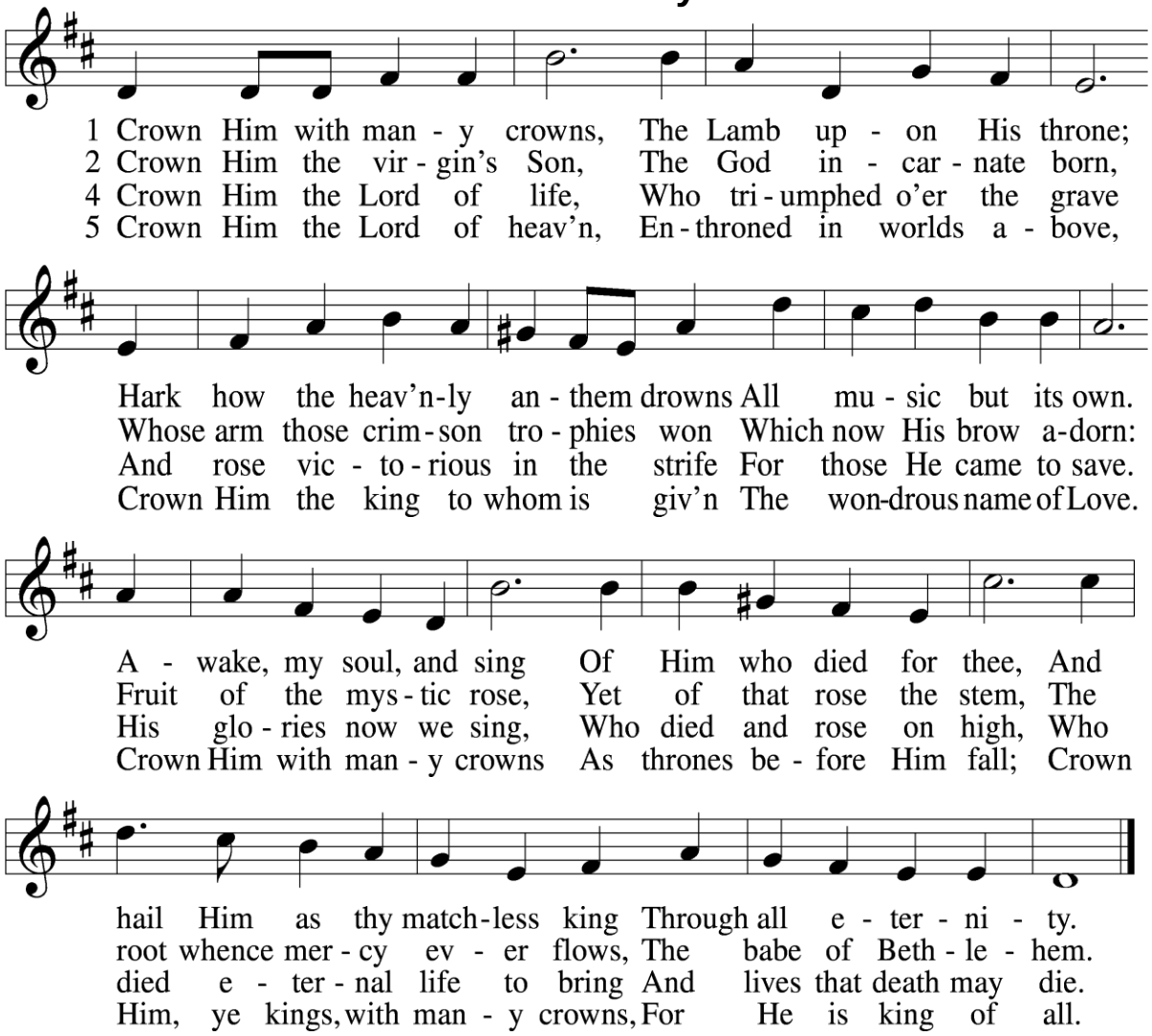
**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,**
**Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;**
**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,**
**as we forgive those who trespass against us;**
**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**
**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## 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: "Crown Him with Many Crowns" LSB 525




## POSTLUDE

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"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" LSB 685
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"Crown Him with Many Crowns" LSB 525 Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-94, sts. 1, 3, 5, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4. Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93; setting: *Service Book and Hymnal*, 1958. Text and music: Public domain.

**SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:**

Acolyte 9:30…Ben Culley
Lector 8:00…Neal & Barbara Hasty 9:30…Shannon Morgensen
Liturgist…Karl Fink Preacher...Pastor John Alwood
Director of Music Ministry and Worship Arts…Noah Freeman
Children's Message…Alissa Brege
Sound…Felix Rivera

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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.

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## Bethany Lutheran Board of Directors

Joey Cerulle—Chair
Bob Petrillo—Vice Chair
Kellie Playter—Corporate Secretary
Bob Lange—Treasurer
Josette Utke
Nathan Culley
Joshua Kienitz

Non-voting members:
Louana Dean—Recording Secretary
Kevin Kritzer—Sr. Pastor
Mary Fink--Principal

SLT Spiritual Life Worship Chair—Steve Albers
SLT Spiritual Life Staff Care—Pat Gagan & Craig Breit
SLT Schools—Joshua Kienitz
SLT Facilities Co-chairs —Philip Lopez & Wayne Choate
SLT Investment & Endowment—John Holmquist
SLT Budget Compensation—Josette Utke

# Bethany Lutheran Church and Schools
## Staff and Faculty

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Kindergarten | Madison Ruiz | Preschool Director | Tammy Simpson |
| First Grade | Lori Lange | Preschool Teachers | Erika Datingaling |
| Second Grade | Stefanie Hinrichs | | Kara Bowman |
| Third Grade | Shannon Morgensen | | Elizabeth Aguirre |
| Fourth Grade | Alison Bestelmeyer | | Leticia Perez |
| Fifth Grade | Heidi Leicht | | Jennifer Garcia |
| Middle School History | Brad Royuk | | Lauren Joanes |
| Middle School Math | Abby Einspahr | | Vanessa Contreras |
| Middle School English | Carrie Evans | | Alicia Lagana |
| Middle School Science | Paul Brege | | Tabitha Craft |
| Student Success | Kelsey Cornett | | Kristy Fields |
| | Connie Kritzer | | Grace Millares |
| Math Intervention | Amanda Mercado | | Marvella Soltero |
| Speech | Jeanne Ruiz | | |
| Aides | Christi Koehlinger | Principal | Mary Fink |
| | Jessica Zakharia | Pastors | Kevin Kritzer |
| | Julie Bunting | | John Alwood |
| | Cory Steele | | Seth Moorman |
| | Jen Dicecca | Vicar | Johnny Trinkelin |
| Music Teacher | Kevin Bowers | DCE, Youth Ministry | Kayleigh Lopez |
| Art Teacher | Jessica Zakharia | DCE, Family Ministry | Alissa Brege |
| Spanish Teacher | Ali Wickwire | DCE, Care Minister | Karl Fink |
| PE Teacher | Brent Whitfield | Director Music & Worship Arts | Noah Freeman |
| Library | Nola Seaman | Music & Worship Assistant | Mara Widmann |
| Scrip Coordinator | Ruth Lopez | Artist in Residence | Blake Flattley |
| School Secretary | Kim Yoshiyama | Financial Administrator | Andria Rosas |
| Admissions Director | Sara Cerulle | Church Office Administrator | Kasey Loya |
| HR Director | Holly Janioor | Youth Office Administrator | Aimee Coleman |
| Custodian | Ezekiel Cruz | Church Office Receptionist | Stephanie Persico |
| EDC Director | Carlota Brown | IT Director | Josh Hicks |
| EDC Staff | Michelle Fischer | Facilities Administrator | Adam Widmann |
| | Jacob Lagana | | |
| | Laci Carlson | | |