
JOY
IN THE
MAKING

Bethany Lutheran Church, Long Beach

September 20, 2026

Pentecost 17

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
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: Good will and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are yours! *(Phil. 1:2)*

P: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: I'm convinced that God, who began this good work in you, will carry it through to completion on the day of Jesus Christ. *(Phil.1:6)*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS: *(Philippians 2)*

L: Dear Lord, you have called us to do nothing out of selfish ambition and to have the interests of others as forefront in our thoughts,

P: **and in humility to think of others as being better than ourselves.**

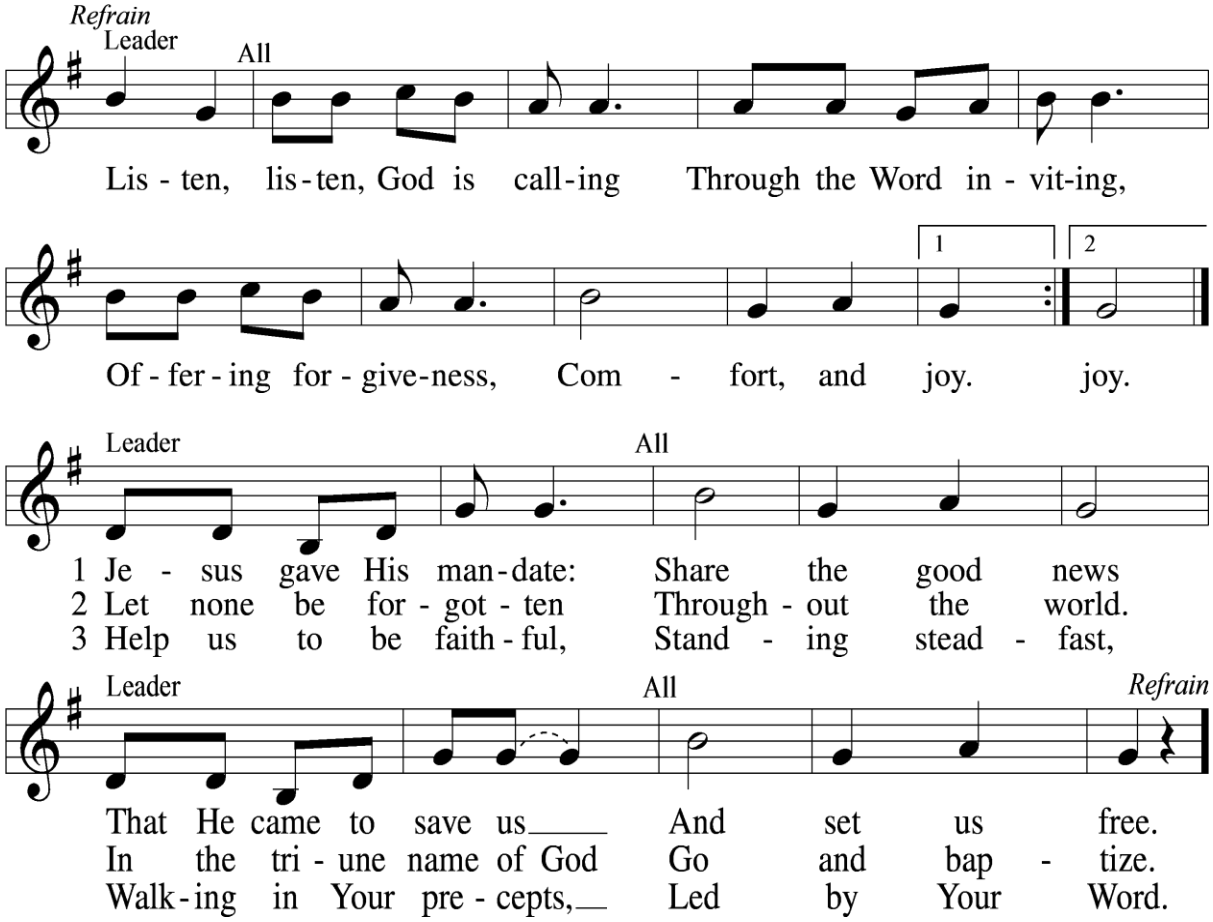
L: Yet, we confess Lord that we that we are by nature selfish;

P: **So, we regularly think more about ourselves than we ought, and less of others than we should. Dear Lord Jesus, you humbled yourself and put our needs ahead of Your own, for Your sake forgive us our sin, send us Your Spirit, and move us to have an attitude like unto Your own. Amen.**

L: In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ humbled Himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. For His sake God forgives us all our sins and bestows on us His Holy Spirit. May the Lord who has begun His good work in us bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

RESPONSIVE SONG: "Listen, God Is Calling" LSB 833

Troubadour/Trinity Choir will sing the Leader part; Congregation sings "All"



PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: Dear Lord, may our love keep on growing, that we may be able to determine what is best and be pure and blameless until the day of Christ.

P: **Jesus Christ fill our lives with everything that God's approval produces that we may bring glory and praise to God.** *(Phil.1:9&10)*

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 55:6-9*

Seek the Lord while he may be found.
Call on him while he is near.
Let wicked people abandon their ways.
Let evil people abandon their thoughts.
Let them return to the Lord,
and he will show compassion to them.

Let them return to our God,
because he will freely forgive them.
"My thoughts are not your thoughts,
and my ways are not your ways," declares the Lord.
"Just as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so my ways are higher than your ways,
and my thoughts are higher than your thoughts." —GW®

SECOND READING: *Philippians 1:4 & 4:4*

Every time I pray for all of you, I do it with joy.

Always be joyful in the Lord! I'll say it again: Be joyful! —GW®

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: **"O Sing to the Lord"** Troubadour Choir 8:00
~Brazilian Tune; Jack Schrader Trinity Choir 9:30

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 20:1-16*

"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. After agreeing to pay the workers the usual day's wages, he sent them to work in his vineyard. About 9 a.m. he saw others standing in the marketplace without work. He said to them, 'Work in my vineyard, and I'll give you whatever is right.' So they went.

“He went out again about noon and 3 p.m. and did the same thing. About 5 p.m. he went out and found some others standing around. He said to them, ‘Why are you standing here all day long without work?’

“ ‘No one has hired us,’ they answered him.

“He said to them, ‘Work in my vineyard.’

“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard told the supervisor, ‘Call the workers, and give them their wages. Start with the last, and end with the first.’

“Those who started working about 5 p.m. came, and each received a day’s wages. When those who had been hired first came, they expected to receive more. But each of them received a day’s wages. Although they took it, they began to protest to the owner. They said, ‘These last workers have worked only one hour. Yet, you’ve treated us all the same, even though we worked hard all day under a blazing sun.’

“The owner said to one of them, ‘Friend, I’m not treating you unfairly. Didn’t you agree with me on a day’s wages? Take your money and go! I want to give this last worker as much as I gave you. Can’t I do what I want with my own money? Or do you resent my generosity towards others?’

“In this way the last will be first, and the first will be last.” —GW®

SERMON SONG: “In Christ Alone”

Verse 1
In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

Verse 2
In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

Verse 3
There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

Verse 4
No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

MESSAGE: *"Joy in the Making" Philippians 1:4 & 4:4*

SONG OF THE DAY: "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

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: Your gifts are a soothing aroma, a sacrifice that God accepts and with which he is pleased. *(Based on Phil. 4:18b)*

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 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: "We Will Feast"

Chorus
We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things we will say together
We will feast and weep no more

Verse 1
We will not be burned by the fire
He is the Lord our God
We are not consumed by the flood
Upheld protected gathered up

Verse 2
In the dark of night before the dawn
My soul be not afraid
For the promised morning oh how long
Oh God of Jacob be my strength

Verse 3
Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together bring shalom

"Is He Worthy"

Verse 1
Do you feel the world is broken, We do
Do you feel the shadows deepen, We do
But do you know that all the dark
Won't stop the light from getting through, We do
Do you wish that you could see it all made new, We do

Verse 2
Is all creation groaning, It is
Is a new creation coming, It is
Is the glory of the Lord
To be the light within our midst, It is
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this, It is

Chorus 1
Is anyone worthy, Is anyone whole
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave
He is David's Root
And the Lamb who died to ransom the slave
Is He worthy, Is He worthy
Of all blessing and honor and glory
Is He worthy of this, He is

Verse 3
Does the Father truly love us, He does
Does the Spirit move among us, He does
And does Jesus our Messiah
Hold forever those He loves, He does
Does our God intend to dwell again with us, He does

Chorus 2
Is anyone worthy, Is anyone whole

Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave, He is David's Root
And the Lamb who died to ransom the slave
From ev'ry people and tribe every nation and tongue
He has made us a kingdom and priests
To God to reign with the Son
Is He worthy, Is He worthy
Of all blessing and honor and glory
Is He worthy, Is He worthy
Is He worthy of this, He is

Ending
Is He worthy, Is He worthy
He is, He is

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG: “Psalm 72” (“Long Love the King”)

Verse 1
There is a King who rides on the heavens
His coming lifts the eyes of the poor
For all the power of their oppressor
Can hurt them no more

Verse 2
He is a King like no one before Him
His justice falls like rain on the hills
And all who live their lives with that hunger
Will have their fill

Chorus 1
Long live the King
Forever He shall reign
Let the heavens ring with His praise
Long live the King
The sun and moon will fade
His kingdom never passing away
Long live the King

Interlude
Long live the King

Verse 3
There is a righteous fire in his footsteps
An everlasting peace in His wake
He is the King from ocean to ocean
And age to age
Age to age

Bridge
Humbled low in a manger
Lifted high on a tree
Rose victorious Savior
Jesus Christ our King (REPEAT)

Chorus 2
Long live the King
Forever He shall reign
Let the heavens ring with His praise
Long live the King
The sun and moon will fade
His kingdom never passing away
Long live the King
Forever He shall reign
Let the heavens ring with His praise
Long live the King
The sun and moon will fade
His kingdom never passing away
Long live the King

Ending
Long live the King, Long live the King

POSTLUDE

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"Listen, God Is Calling" LSB 833
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SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Lector 8:00…Anni Hoppe 9:30…Steve Albers
Liturgist…Pastor John Alwood Preacher...Pastor Kevin Kritzer
Director of Music Ministry and Worship Arts…Noah Freeman Accompanist…Kevin Bowers
Artist in Residence…Blake Flattley Keyboard…Pat Gagan
Children's Message…Alissa Brege
Sound/Production…Felix Rivera, Jon Widmann

✢ ✢ ✢

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

~ Celebrating 55 years of marriage for Craig and Louana Dean ~

~ by the Dean Family



✢ ✢ ✢

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.