



Bethany Lutheran Church, Long Beach

October 4, 2026 Pentecost 19

PRELUDE:

“Carillon”
~Charles Callahan

Organ

WELCOME

OPENING SONG:

“Christ is Our Cornerstone”

LSB 912



1 Christ is our cor - ner - stone, On Him a - lone we build;
2 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we im - plore,
3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hal - lowed courts shall ring;



With His true saints a - lone The courts of heav'n are filled. On His
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us ev - er - more Un - til
Our voic - es we will raise The Three in One to sing And thus



great love Our hopes we place Of pres - ent grace And joys a - bove.
that day When all the blest To end - less rest Are called a - way.
pro - claim In joy - ful song, Both loud and long, That glo - rious name.

INVOCATION:

[L]: Good will and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are yours! (*Philippians 1:2*)

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. (*Philippians 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 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 HYMN: “Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love” LSB 900



1 Je - sus! Name of won-drous love, Name all oth - er names a - bove,
2 Je - sus! Name de - creed of old, To the maid-en moth - er told,
3 Je - sus! Name of price - less worth To the fall - en of the earth
4 Je - sus! Name of mer - cy mild, Giv - en to the ho - ly Child



Un - to which must ev - 'ry knee Bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
Kneel-ing in her low - ly cell, By the an - gel Ga - bri - el.
For the prom - ise that it gave, "Je - sus shall His peo - ple save."
When the cup of hu-man woe First He tast - ed here be - low.

5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n
Under all the mighty heav'n
Whereby those to sin enslaved
Burst their fetters and are saved.

6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Human name of God above;
Pleading only this, we flee
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

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. (*Philippians 1:9&10*)

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 5:1-7*

Let me sing a love song to my beloved about his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hill.
He dug it up, removed its stones,
planted it with the choicest vines,
built a watchtower in it,
and made a winepress in it.
Then he waited for it to produce good grapes,
but it produced only sour, wild grapes.

Now then, you inhabitants of Jerusalem and Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard!
What more could have been done for my vineyard
than what I have already done for it?
When I waited for it to produce good grapes,
why did it produce only sour, wild grapes?

Now then, let me tell you what I will do to my vineyard.
I will tear away its hedge so that it can be devoured
and tear down its wall so that it can be trampled.
I will make it a wasteland.
It will never be pruned or hoed.
Thorns and weeds will grow in it,
and I will command the clouds not to rain on it.

The vineyard of the Lord of Armies is the nation of Israel,
and the people of Judah are the garden of his delight.
He hoped for justice but saw only slaughter,
for righteousness but heard only cries of distress. —GW®

SECOND READING: *Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18*

So then, as Christians, do you have any encouragement? Do you have any comfort from love? Do you have any spiritual relationships? Do you have any sympathy and compassion? Then fill me with joy by having the same attitude and the same love, living in harmony, and keeping one purpose in mind. Don't act out of selfish ambition or be conceited. Instead, humbly think of others as being better than yourselves. Don't be concerned only about your own interests, but also be concerned about the interests of others.

Do everything without complaining or arguing. Then you will be blameless and innocent. You will be God's children without any faults among people who are crooked and corrupt. You will shine like stars among them in the world as you hold firmly to the word of life. Then I can brag on the day of Christ that my effort was not wasted and that my work

produced results. My life is being poured out as a part of the sacrifice and service I offer to God for your faith. Yet, I am filled with joy, and I share that joy with all of you. For this same reason you also should be filled with joy and share that joy with me. —GW®

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 21:33-46*

“Listen to another illustration. A landowner planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, made a winepress, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to vineyard workers and went on a trip.

“When the grapes were getting ripe, he sent his servants to the workers to collect his share of the produce. The workers took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned a third to death. So the landowner sent more servants. But the workers treated them the same way.

“Finally, he sent his son to them. He thought, ‘They will respect my son.’

“When the workers saw his son, they said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Let’s kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they grabbed him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.

“Now, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those workers?” They answered, “He will destroy those evil people. Then he will lease the vineyard to other workers who will give him his share of the produce when it is ready.”

Jesus asked them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
The Lord is responsible for this,
and it is amazing for us to see’?

That is why I can guarantee that God’s kingdom will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce what God wants. Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken. If the stone falls on anyone, it will crush that person.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his illustrations, they knew that he was talking about them. They wanted to arrest him but were afraid of the crowds, who thought he was a prophet. —GW®

SERMON HYMN:

“O Jesus, King Most Wonderful”

LSB 554



1 O Je - sus, King most won - der - ful!
 2 When once You vis - it dark - ened hearts,
 3 O Je - sus, light of all be - low,
 4 May ev - 'ry heart con - fess Your name,
 5 Oh, may our tongues for - ev - er bless,



O Con - quer - or re - nowned! O Source of peace in -
 Then truth be - gins to shine, Then earth - ly van - i -
 The fount of life and fire, Sur - pass - ing all the
 For - ev - er You a - dore, And, seek - ing You, it -
 May we love You a - lone And ev - er in our



ef - fa - ble, In whom all joys are found:
 ty de - parts, Then kin - dles love di - vine.
 joys we know, All that we can de - sire:
 self in - flame To seek You more and more!
 lives ex - press The im - age of Your own!

MESSAGE: “Joy in the Making: God’s Work for You” Philippians 2:1-4,14-16

HYMN OF THE DAY:

"God at Work"



1. God at work a - mong His peo - ple Serv - ing us in — prayer and praise
 2. God at work in Word and wa - ter, Font and pul - pit, Ho - ly Meal
 3. God at work in Vine and bran ches Yield - ing fruit a - bun - dant - ly
 4. God at work while we - are wait - ing Form ing - life with in the womb



God at work in our vo - ca - tions Gift - ing, lead - ing, all our days.
 God at work for - giv - ing sin - ners Just - ti - fied: His grace will heal.
 God at work in dor - mant sea - sons Nur - tur - ing the — fruit to be.
 God at work - in Je - sus' dy - ing Ris ing up from death's dark tomb. -



God cre - a - ting, God re - lat - ing: So - li De - o — Glo - ri - a!
 God de - clar - ing, God re - pair - ing: So - li De - o — Glo - ri - a!
 God a - bid - ing, God pro - vi - ding: So - li De - o — Glo - ri - a!
 God con ceiv ing, - God - re ceiv - ing: So - lus Chris - tus Glo - ri - a!

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 Philippians 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: “Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord” LSB 637

1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,
 2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
 3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,

And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;
 To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;
 And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.

Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,
 With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,
 O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow

Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.
 Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.
 As in this feast of love You bless us now.

“God Loved the World So That He Gave” LSB 571

1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
 3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all

Son the lost to save, That all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
 sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
 sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by

Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
 Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

5 If you are sick, if death is near,
 This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
 Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
 That is the firmest ground of faith.

6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
 And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
 To You, O blessèd Trinity,
 Be praise now and eternally!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing” LSB 924

1 Lord, dis - miss us with Your bless - ing, Fill our hearts with
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Your Gos - pel's
3 Sav - ior, when Your love shall call us From our strug - gling
joy and peace; Let us each, Your love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound. May the fruits of Your sal - va - tion
pil - grim way, Let not fear of death ap - pall us,
Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us;
In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
Glad Your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,
O re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful To Your truth may we be found.
may we ev - er Reign with You in end - less day.

POSTLUDE: “Carillon Opus 24, No. 4” Organ ~Marcel Dupre



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“Christ is our Cornerstone” LSB 912

Text: Latin, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806-76, alt.

Tune: John Darwall, 1731-89. Text and music: Public domain.

“Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love” LSB 900

Text: William W. How, 1823-97, alt.

Tune: *Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch*, Halle, 1704, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt; Setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and tune: Public domain.

“O Jesus, King Most Wonderful” LSB 554

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-78, alt.

Music: John B. Dykes, 1823-76 Text and Music: Public domain.

“God At Work”

Gotteswerk

Text and Tune: ©2014 Carol R.S. McDaniel. Streamed and used by permission 18 September 2026.

"Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord" LSB 637

Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.

Tune: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and music: Public domain.

"God Loved the World So That He Gave" LSB 571

Text: *Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer*, Stettin, c. 1778; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and music: Public domain.

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" LSB 924

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740-1817, sts. 1-2; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 3, alt.

Tune: Sicilian, 18th cent. Text and Tune: Public domain



SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Lector 8:00...John & Josette Utke

Liturgist...Pastor John Alwood

Organist...Robert Bottoms

Children's Message...Aaron Duport

Sound...Felix Rivera

9:30...Mike Riordan

Preacher...Pastor Kevin Kritzer



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.





THE CALL COMMITTEE TO EXTEND A CALL FOR THE SENIOR PASTOR OF BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH IS STARTING THE PROCESS ONCE AGAIN.

We are altering the approach and rather than calling an associate pastor who would transition to become senior pastor, we are extending a call for the office of Senior Pastor. On Jan 1st, 2027 Pastor Kritzer's title will change to Senior Pastor Emeritus, acting Sr. Pastor. Upon installation of the new senior pastor, Pastor Kritzer's title will shift to Director of Development, Sr. Pastor Emeritus through 2028. Following that Pastor Kritzer's position will be based on the needs of the congregation, with direction of the new senior pastor and input from PK. We have already been in contact with the District for an updated call list with any potential new candidates now that the job description has changed. At this time members of the congregation can submit nominees for the Senior Pastor position. We will close the nomination period on October 13th and submit those names to the District. We again ask for your prayers as we continue in this process.

Pastoral Nomination forms are available at the Long Beach Campus or online. All forms must be filled out, signed, and turned in to the Long Beach Campus church office by October 13. Thank you! Bethany's Pastoral Call Committee