
JOY
IN THE
MAKING

Bethany Lutheran Church, Long Beach

October 18, 2026 Pentecost 21

PRELUDE: **“Festive Bell Flourish”** Crescendo Bells
~Lee G Barrow

WELCOME

OPENING SONG: **“Sing”**

Verse 1
We are a broken people
Not worthy of Your grace
Humbly we will enter
The temple of Your praise

Verse 2
Fall to our knees
Lay at Your scarred feet
The Lamb who took our place
Upon the mercy seat

Pre-Chorus
And You sing over us
You sing over us
Chorus
And we'll sing of Your great mercy
Sing of Your great grace
Because of Your great love
We'll sing aloud Your praise (REPEAT)

Verse 3
You are the one
Who's made us hold and set apart
Claimed as Your people
We worship You the One True God

Bridge
As You sing
As we sing

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. *(Philippians1:6)*

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 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 *(continued on next page)*

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

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.** *(based on Philippians 1:9&10)*

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 45:1-7*

This is what the Lord says about Cyrus, his anointed one:

I have held him by his right hand
so he could conquer the nations ahead of him,
strip kings of their power,
and open doors ahead of him

so that the gates would not be shut.
I will go ahead of you, Cyrus, and smooth out the rough places.
I will break down the bronze doors and cut through the iron bars.
I will give you treasures from dark places and hidden stockpiles.
Then you will know that I, the Lord God of Israel,
have called you by name.

For the sake of my servant Jacob,
Israel, my chosen one,
I have called you by name.
I have given you a title of honor, although you don't know me.
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
There is no other God besides me.
I will strengthen you, although you don't know me,
so that from the east to the west people will know
that there is no God except me.
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
I make light and create darkness.
I make blessings and create disasters.
I, the Lord, do all these things. —GW®

SECOND READING: *Philippians 4:3-13*

Yes, I also ask you, Syzugus, my true partner, to help these women. They fought beside me to spread the Good News along with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the Book of Life.

Always be joyful in the Lord! I'll say it again: Be joyful! Let everyone know how considerate you are. The Lord is near. Never worry about anything. But in every situation let God know what you need in prayers and requests while giving thanks. Then God's peace, which goes beyond anything we can imagine, will guard your thoughts and emotions through Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, keep your thoughts on whatever is right or deserves praise: things that are true, honorable, fair, pure, acceptable, or commendable. Practice what you've learned and received from me, what you heard and saw me do. Then the God who gives this peace will be with you.

The Lord has filled me with joy because you again showed interest in me. You were interested but did not have an opportunity to show it. I'm not saying this because I'm in any need. I've learned to be content in whatever situation I'm in. I know how to live in poverty or prosperity. No matter what the situation, I've learned the secret of how to live when I'm full or when I'm hungry, when I have too much or when I have too little. I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me. —GW®

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 22:15-22*

Then the Pharisees went away and planned to trap Jesus into saying the wrong thing. They sent their disciples to him along with Herod's followers. They said to him, "Teacher, we know that you tell the truth and that you teach the truth about the way of God. You don't favor individuals because of who they are. So tell us what you think. Is it right to pay taxes to the emperor or not?"

Jesus recognized their evil plan, so he asked, "Why do you test me, you hypocrites? Show me a coin used to pay taxes."

They brought him a coin. He said to them, "Whose face and name is this?"

They replied, "The emperor's."

Then he said to them, "Very well, give the emperor what belongs to the emperor, and give God what belongs to God."

They were surprised to hear this. Then they left him alone and went away. —GW®

SERMON SONG: "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

MESSAGE: *"Joy in the Making: God Works in You" Philippians 4:3-13*

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 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: "God Who Bleeds"

Verse 1
Oh my soul
Who could ever know
How deep my sins go
Oh my soul
All the gold
On the earth could never pay
For the debt that I have made
On my soul

Chorus
Now I see just how great my need
In His hands and in His feet
Lamb of God oh my soul shall sing
Hallelujah 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
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
Hallelujah to the God who bleeds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

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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SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Crucifer 9:30…Logan Noble
Lector 8:00…Lily Craft 9:30…Lily Craft
Liturgist…Pastor John Alwood Preacher...Pastor Kevin Kritzer
Artist in Residence…Blake Flattley Keyboard…Pat Gagan
Director, Crescendo Handbell Choir…Sara Cerulle
Children's Message…Kayleigh Lopez
Sound/Production …Felix Rivera, Jon WIdmann

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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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