Reformation Sunday



Bethany Lutheran, Long Beach

October 25, 2026

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC: "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word"
"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" Jubilate Handbell Choir
~Arr. Lauran Delancy

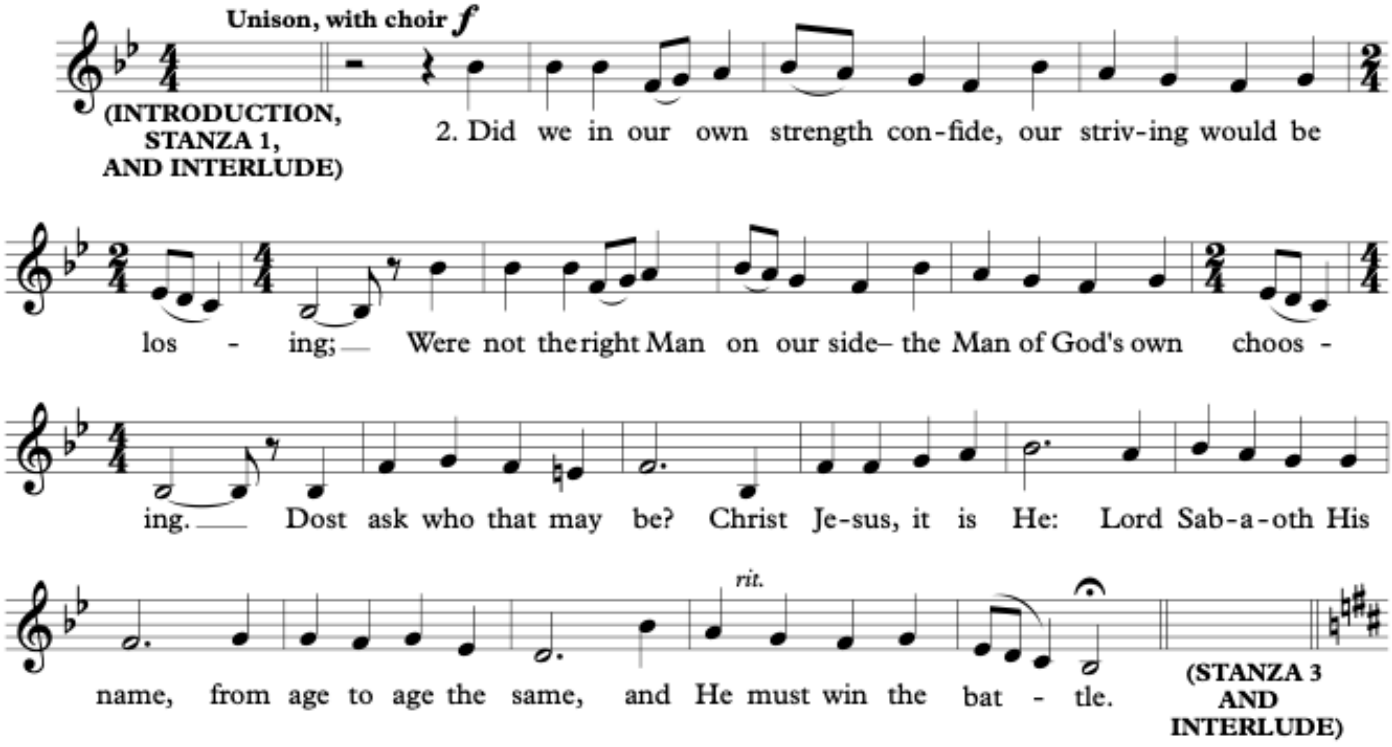
WELCOME

ENTRANCE HYMN: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" LSB 656

Stanza 1 (sung by the Bethany Choir)

A mighty Fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe now seeks to work us woe;
His wrath and power are great and armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

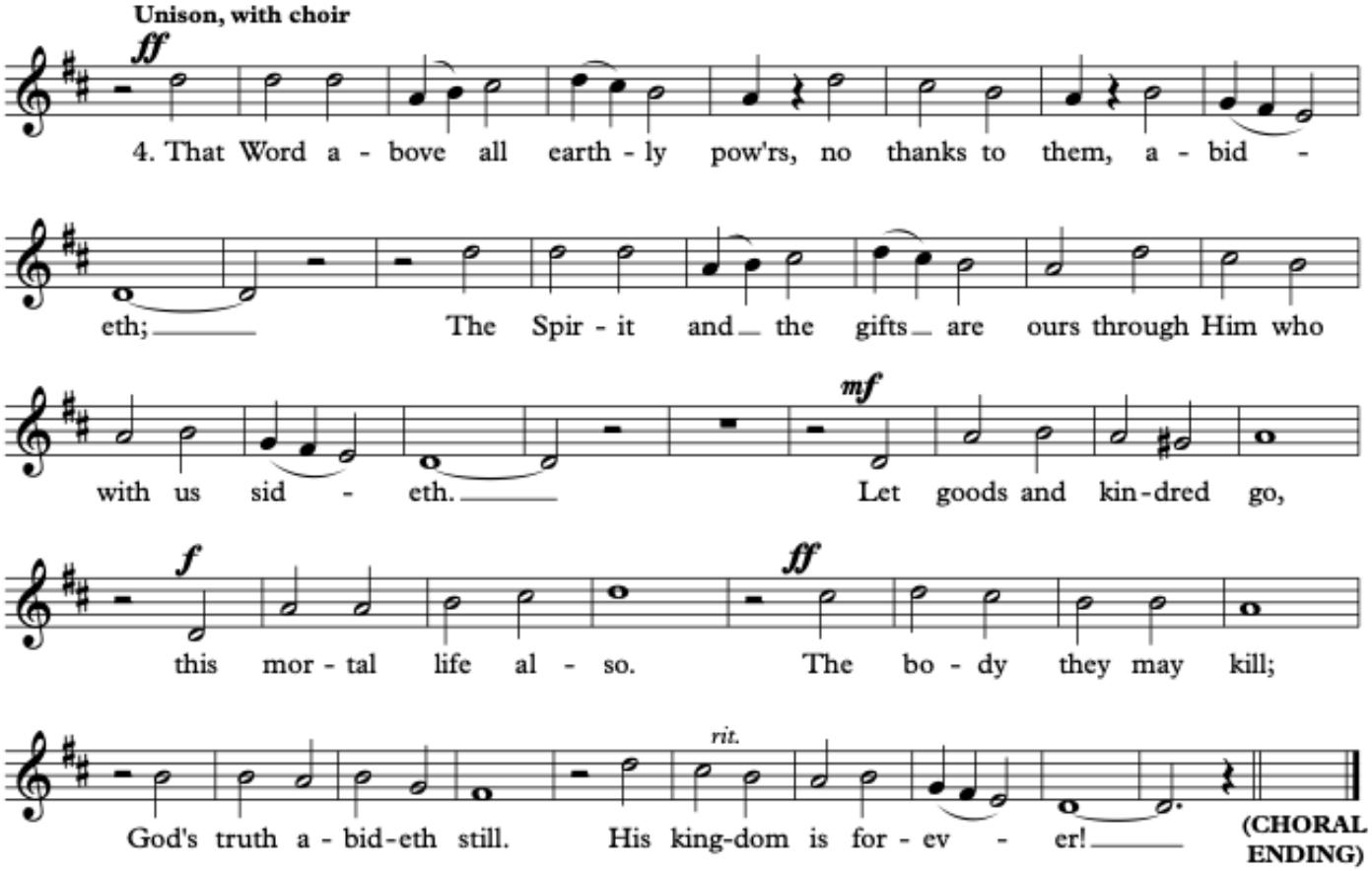
Stanza 2 *(please join us in singing)*



Stanza 3 (sung by the Bethany Choir)

And though this world, with devils filled should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim – we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure.
One little word shall fell him.

Stanza 4 ***(please join us in singing)***



INVOCATION: *(Article 1 of the Augsburg Confession)*

L: We unanimously hold and teach that there is one true God,

P: and that there are three persons in this one true God, equal in power and alike eternal:

L: God the Father, God the ✢ Son, God the Holy Spirit.

P: All three are one divine essence, eternal, without division, without end, of infinite power, wisdom and goodness, one creator and preserver of all things visible and invisible.

CALL TO REPENTANCE: *(Adapted from Article 2 of the Augsburg Confession)*

L: Since the fall of Adam all people are conceived and born in sin; and by nature, are full of evil lust and inclinations and are unable by nature to have true fear of God and true faith in God.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION OF SINS:

(Adapted from Luther's Small Catechism & Article 4 of the Augsburg Confession)

L: Do you believe that this is true of you, that you are a sinner?
P: **Yes, I believe it; I am a sinner.**

L: How do you know this?
P: **From the Ten Commandments, for these I have not kept.**

L: Are you sorry for your sins?
P: **Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God and against my brothers and sisters.**

L: What do you deserve from God because of your sins?
P: **I deserve God's displeasure, wrath and punishment, as well as temporal and eternal death.**

L: Do you hope to be saved?
P: **Yes, that is my hope.**

L: How can you hold such hope? In Whom then, do you trust?
P: **In my dear Lord, Jesus Christ.**

L: What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?
P: **He died for me, and on the cross—shed His blood for my forgiveness.**

L: What moved Christ to offer Himself in order to make payment for your sins?
P: **His great love for His Father, for me, and for all sinners.**

L: While we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God by our own merits, works or satisfactions; we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God by grace, for Christ's sake, through faith, when we believe that Christ suffered for us and that for His sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us. Therefore, as you believe, so let it be.

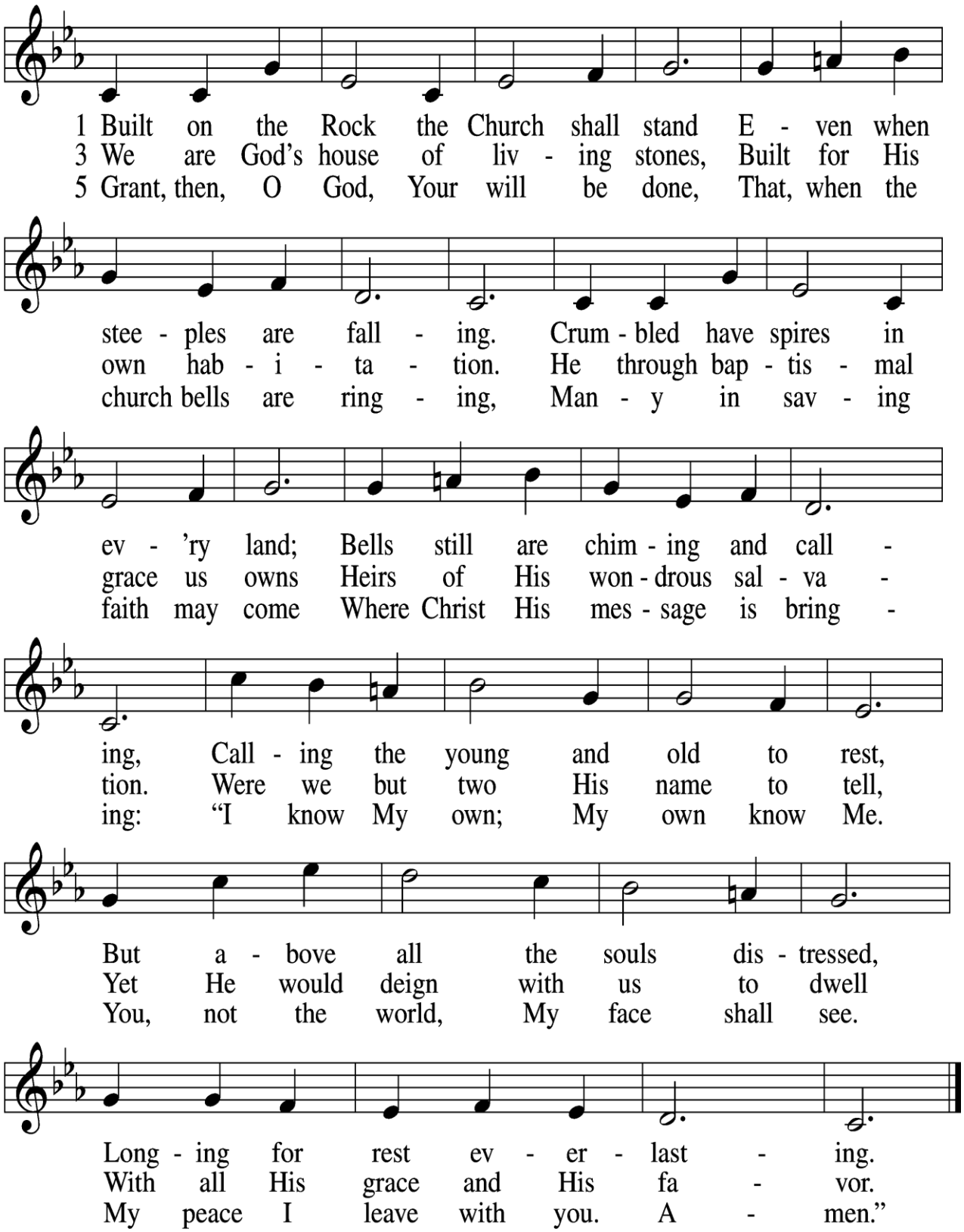
Now I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the ✢ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Soli Deo Gloria!

P: **To God Alone be the Glory! Alleluia, Amen.**



HYMN OF PRAISE: **"Built on the Rock"** LSB 645

(*Bethany Choir only on Stanza 3)



FIRST READING: *Revelation 14:6-7*

I saw another angel flying overhead with the everlasting Good News to spread to those who live on earth—to every nation, tribe, language, and people. The angel said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give Him glory, because the time has come for Him to judge. Worship the one who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs." —GW®

MINISTRY of MUSIC: "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word" Bethany Choir

~David von Kampen

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word; curb those who by deceit or sword
would wrest the kingdom from your Son and bring to naught all He has done

Lord Jesus Christ, Your power make known, for You are Lord of lords alone;
defend Your holy Church that we may sing your praise eternally.

O comforter of priceless worth, send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife and lead us out of death to life.

SECOND READING: *Romans 3:19-28*

We know that whatever the Scriptures say applies to everyone under their influence, and no one can say a thing. The whole world is brought under the judgment of God. Not one person can have God's approval by any effort to follow the laws in the Scriptures. These laws show what sin is.

Now, the way to receive God's approval has been made plain in a way other than the laws in the Scriptures. Moses' Teachings and the Prophets tell us this. Everyone who believes has God's approval through faith in Jesus Christ.

There is no difference between people. Because all people have sinned, they have fallen short of God's glory. They receive God's approval freely by an act of His kindness through the price Christ Jesus paid to set us free from sin. God showed that Christ is the throne of mercy where God's approval is given through faith in Christ's blood. In His patience, God waited to deal with sins committed in the past. He waited so that He could display His approval at the present time. This shows that He is a God of justice, a God who approves of people who believe in Jesus.

So, do we have anything to brag about? Bragging has been eliminated. On what basis was it eliminated? On the basis of our own efforts? No, indeed! Rather, it is eliminated on the basis of faith. We conclude that a person has God's approval by faith, not by his own efforts. —GW®

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL: *John 8:31-36*

So Jesus said to those Jews who believed in Him, "If you live by what I say, you are truly My disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

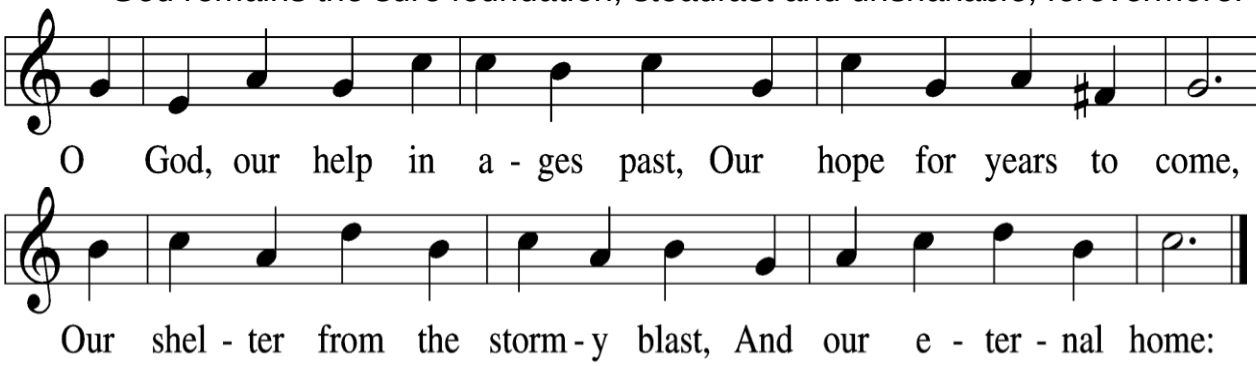
They replied to Jesus, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and we’ve never been anyone’s slaves. So how can You say that we will be set free?”

Jesus answered them, “I can guarantee this truth: Whoever lives a sinful life is a slave to sin. A slave doesn’t live in the home forever, but a son does. So if the Son sets you free, you will be absolutely free. —GW®

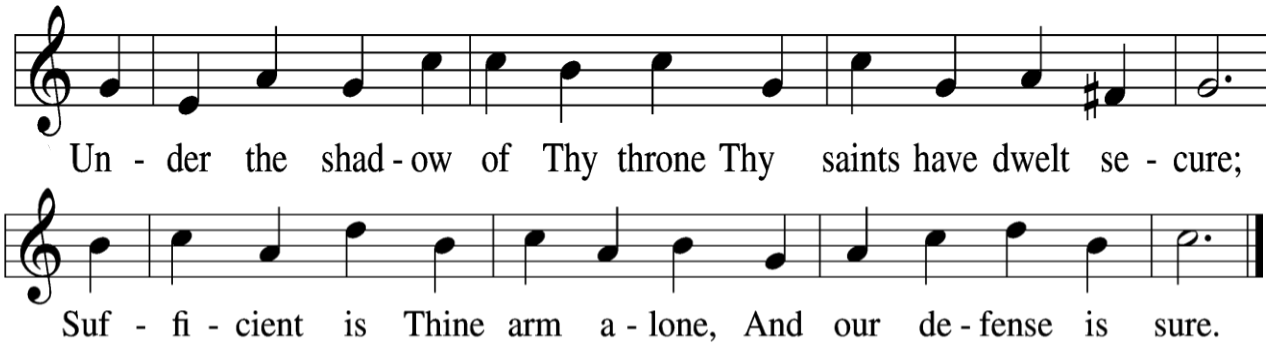
SERMON HYMN: “Forevermore”

(*Bethany Choir sings; director will cue congregation)

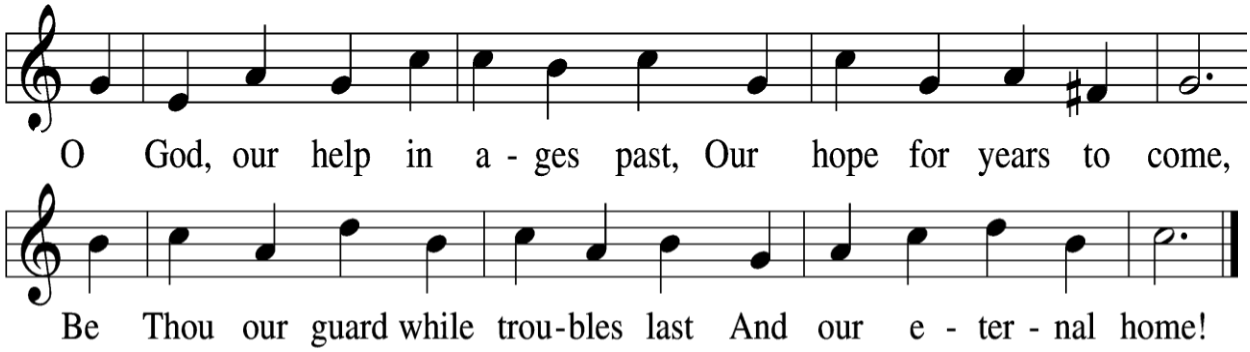
** Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Word of God, the Cornerstone,*
Yesterday, today, forever, seated on His heavenly throne.
In this world that God created, broken by the fall of man,
God remains the sure foundation, steadfast and unshakable, forevermore.



** God will not forget His promise ever faithful to remain,*
Never to forsake or leave us, by our side both night and day.
Our tomorrows hold no secrets that the Father does not know;
We can trust Him, ever working for His glory and our good, forevermore.

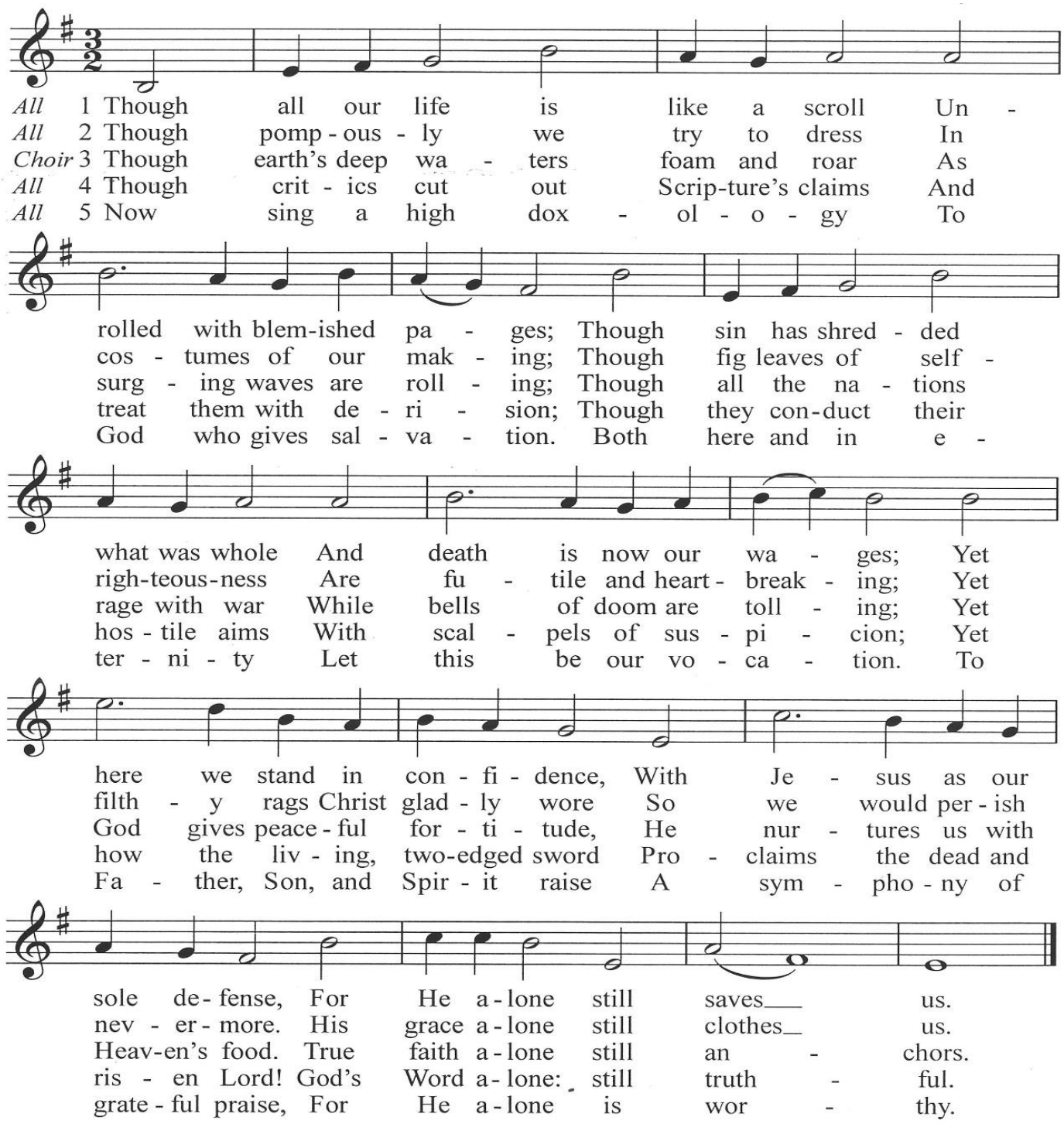


** Praise the Author of creation, of the world and all it holds;*
Word eternal, standing firm Our God is God forevermore.



MESSAGE: ***"You are the Favored of God"*** ***Romans 3:19-28***

HYMN OF THE DAY: **"Though All Our Life is Like a Scroll"**



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!*

CONSECRATION OF GIFTS:

L: Out of Fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us, God has richly and daily provided us with all we need to support this body and life.

P: For all this it is our duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. Lord use these our gifts to that end and Your glory! Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: *(Adapted from Luther's Small Catechism)*

L: Let us pray together as Jesus taught us:

Our Father who art in heaven,

P: Dear God, You tenderly invite us to believe that You are our true Father and that we are Your dear children.

L: Hallowed be Thy name,

P: Dear Lord, Your name is holy in itself, but we pray that it may be kept holy by us.

L: This is accomplished Lord when Your Word is taught clearly and purely;

P: and we, as your children, lead holy lives in accordance with it; help us to this end. Amen.

L: Thy Kingdom come,

P: Your Kingdom comes when You, our heavenly Father, give us Your Holy Spirit, so that by Your grace we may believe Your Word, live our lives for You, and share the Good News of Christ with others that Your Kingdom may abound in the hearts of many.

L: Thy will be done,

P: Your will is done when You curb and destroy the purpose of the devil, the world and our sinful flesh; and strengthen us to gladly know and do what pleases You. May this Your good and gracious will be done in us until the end. Amen.

L: Give us this day our daily bread,

P: Thank You good and gracious God for Your daily blessings by which You provide all things needed to support our bodies and lives.

L: Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;

P: We pray, dear Father, that You would not look at our sins, nor deny our prayers because of them.

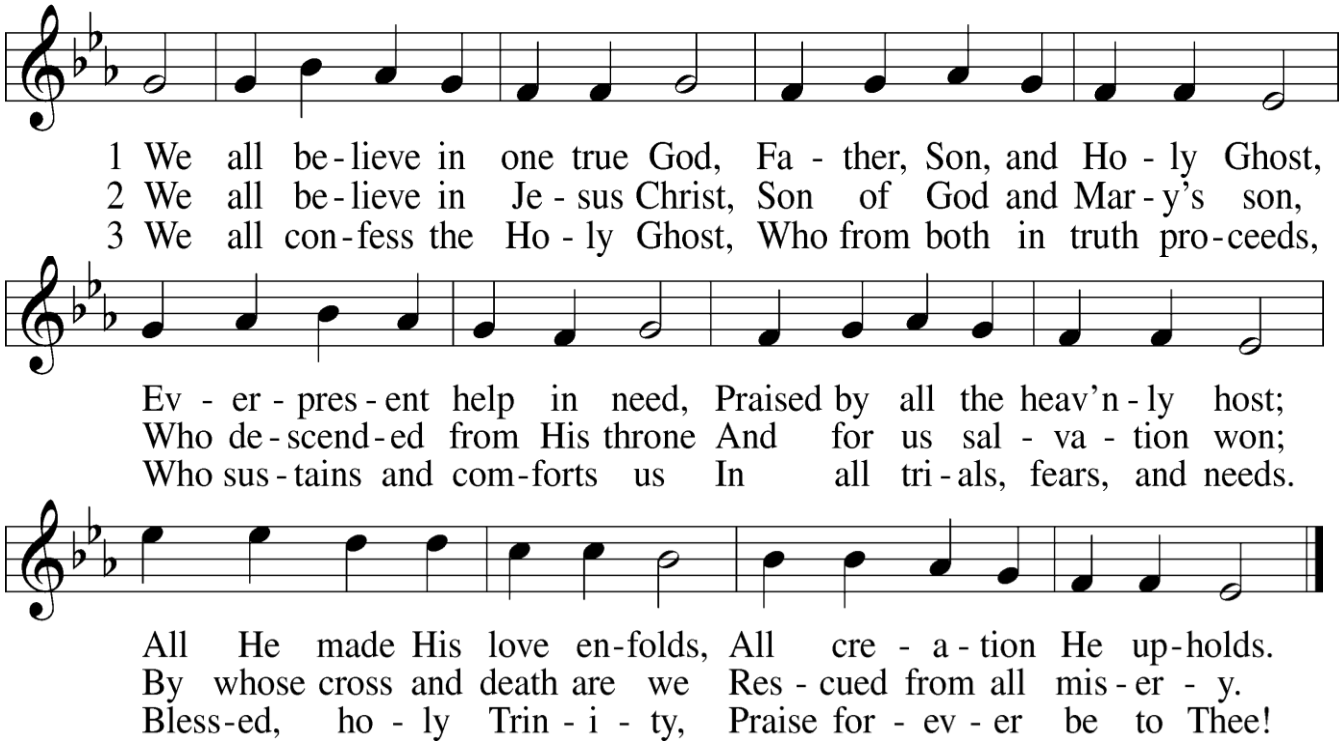
L: And lead us not into temptation,

P: **We pray, Lord, that You would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world and our sinful nature may not deceive or mislead us. Amen.**

L: Deliver us from evil.

P: **We pray, Almighty God, that You would rescue us from every evil, defend us from the power of the death and at last, when the hour of death comes, You would grant us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this world of sorrow to Yourself in heaven. Amen and Amen. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever!**

CONFESSION OF FAITH: "We All Believe In One True God" LSB 953



****** For our 8:00 a.m. worshippers, the service continues on page 13 with the Blessing.***

****** For our 9:30 a.m. worshippers, the service continues with the Celebration of Holy Communion:***

✢ 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 burgundy hymnal. 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:

(Adapted from Luther's Small Catechism and Article 10 of the Augsburg Confession)

L: It is taught among us that the true body and blood of Christ are really present in the supper of our Lord under the form of bread and wine.

P: In this Sacrament we receive forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

L: Those who believe His words: "for you" and "for the forgiveness of sins" are worthy and well prepared. For those words require faith and trust in Jesus' promise.

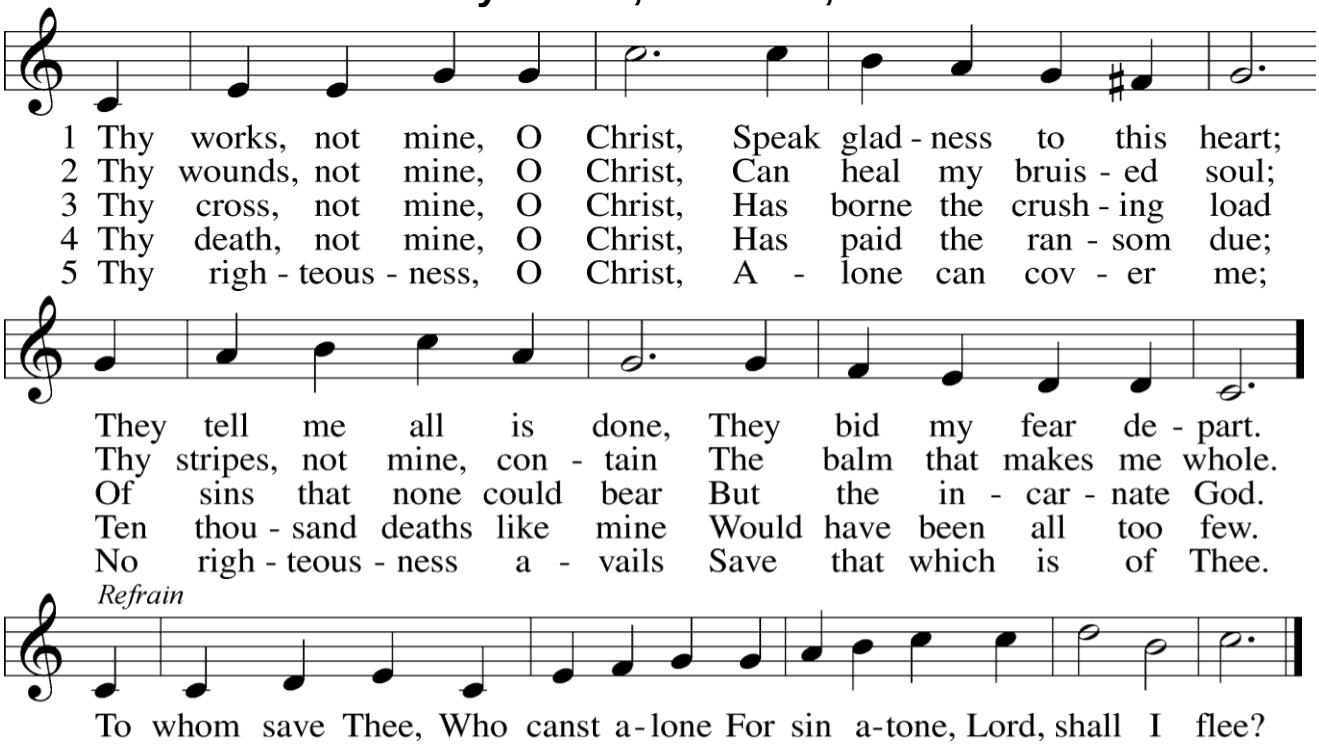
For on the night He was betrayed
He took bread, and when He had given thanks,
He broke it and gave it to the disciples
And said:

"Take, eat; this is My ✢ body,
Which is given for you.
This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup
After supper, and when He had given thanks,
He gave it to them, saying:

"Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the
New Testament in My ✢ blood, which
is shed for you for the forgiveness of
Sins. This do, as often as you drink it,
In remembrance of Me."

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: "Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ" LSB 565



"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

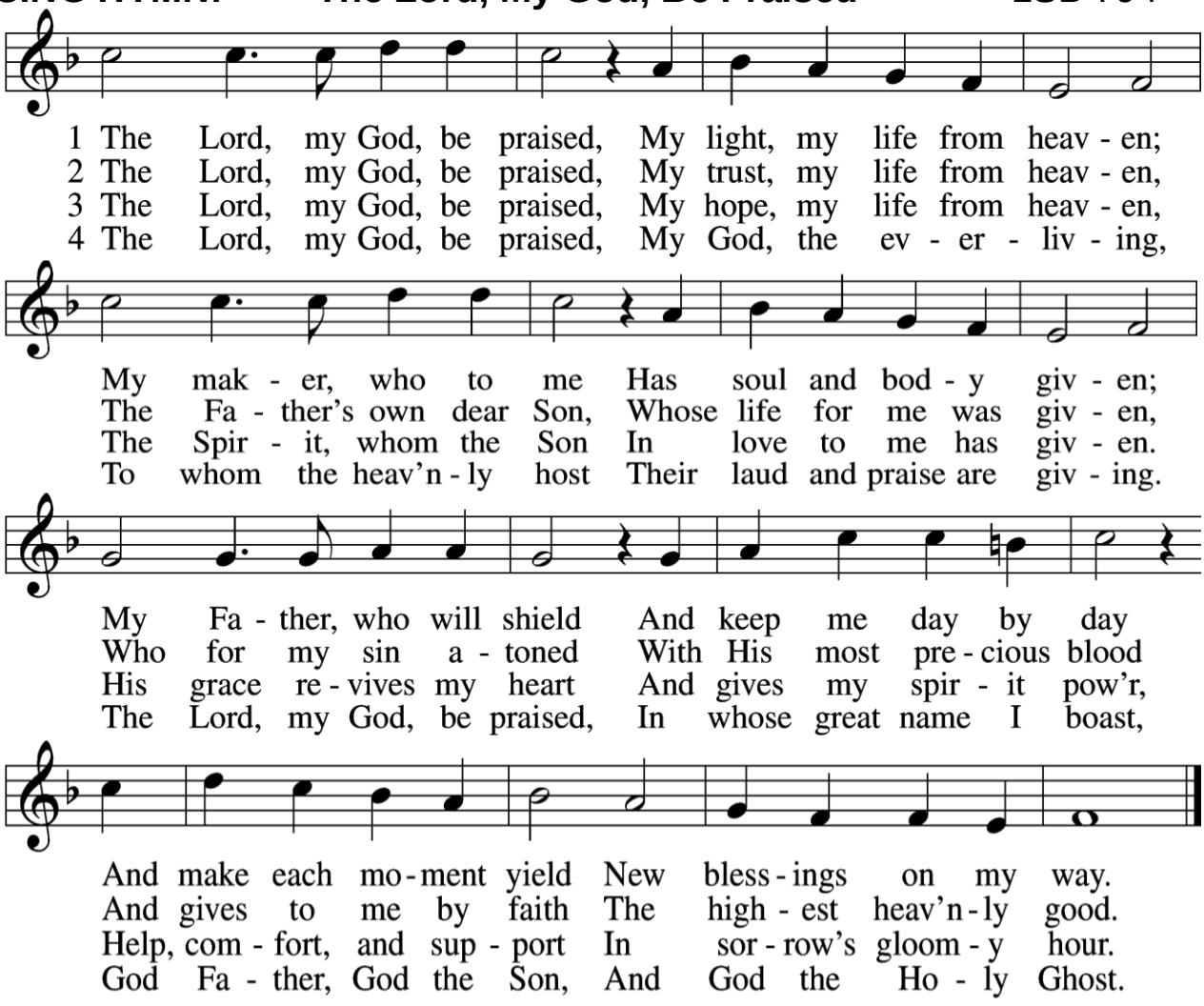
Verse 4
No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

THE BLESSING: *(Adapted from Article 6 of the Augsburg Confession)*

L: Now faith should abound with fruit and produce good works in us for God's sake, not placing our trust in them, as if to merit favor before God; for we have received His favor through faith in Christ,

P: To Whom Alone, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, belongs ALL Glory. Alleluia, Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "The Lord, My God, Be Praised" LSB 794



POSTLUDE: **"God is Our Refuge"** Bethany Choir, Trumpets

~ Arr. Allen Pote



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"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" LSB 656
Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Composite, Frederick Hedge.
Tune: *EIN FESTE BURG,* Martin Luther, written c. 1529.
Arrangement/Setting: Dan Forrest (ASCAP)
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"Built on the Rock" LSB 645
Text: Nikolai Fredrik Severin Grundvig, 1783-1872, abr.; tr. Carl Döving, 1867-1937, alt.
Tune: Ludvig M. Linderman, 1812-87; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941.
Setting: ©Paul Soulek 2013, rev. 2018. Used and Streamed with permission.
Text and Tune: Public domain.

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word"—Bethany Choir
Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
Tune: ERHALT UNS, HERR *Geistliche Lieder auffs new gebessert*, Wittnberg, 1543.
Setting by: David von Kampen ©2022 Concordia Publishing House. All Right Reserved. Streamed with permission

"Forevermore"
Susan Bentall Boersma, Isaac Watts
Arr. Dan Forrest (ASCAP)
Hymn Tune: ST. ANNE and Words: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" LSB 733
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"Though All Our Life Is like a Scroll"
Wilfred L. Karsten; Setting Arr. Jeffrey Blersch
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Tune: Jeffrey Blersch ©2016 Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO. All rights reserved. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONELICENSE #A-706149.

"We All Believe in One True God" LSB 953
Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619-84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
Tune: *Neu-vermehrtes…Gesangbuch*, 3rd ed., Meiningen, 1693; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941.
Text and music: Public domain.

"Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ" LSB 565
Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-89, alt.
Tune: *The Parish Choir*, London, 1850; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941.
Text and music: Public domain.

"In Christ Alone"
CCLI Song # 3350395
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"The Lord, My God, Be Praised" LSB 794
Text: Johann Olearius, 1611-84; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt. Tune: Johan Crüger, 1598-1662.
Text and music: Public domain.

"God is Our Refuge"
Allen Pote
Text and Tune: ©1986 Hope Publishing Company, All rights reserved. Streamed with permission under ONELICENSE #A706149.



SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Lector 8:00…Carolyn Barbian
Liturgist…Vicar Johnny Trinklein
Director of Music & Worship Arts …Noah Freeman
Accompanist…Kevin Bowers
French Horn…Brian Shetland
Trombone…Lori Stunek, Rich Bullock
Sound/Production…Felix Rivera, Jon Widmann

9:30…Chris Cale
Preacher…Pastor Kevin Kritzer
Organ…Robert Bottoms
Children's Message…Joey Beeson
Trumpet…Meghan Turner, Mara Widmann
Timpani…Gabriel "Slam" Nobles

✢ ✢ ✢

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.

✢ ✢ ✢



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

~ Celebrating 30 years of marriage for Debra and Richard Wasser. Thanks be to God!~

~by The Wasser 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.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
AND CONTACT INFO!



LONG BEACH OFFICE:
Monday – Thursday: 8 am – 12 pm
longbeachoffice@bethanylutheran.org
562.421.4711

CYPRESS OFFICE:
Monday – Friday: 9 am – 1 pm
cypressoffice@bethanylutheran.org
714.942.1793



WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE



LONG BEACH CAMPUS
SUNDAYS 8 & 9:30 AM*



CYPRESS CAMPUS
SUNDAYS 11:10 AM
WEDNESDAYS 6:30 PM

COMMUNION
1ST SUNDAY *ALL SERVICES*
2ND SUNDAY *9:30 AM ONLY*
3RD SUNDAY *ALL SERVICES*
4TH SUNDAY *9:30 AM ONLY*

***OUR 9:30 AM SERVICE IS LIVESTREAMED ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL.**