

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023 10:00 AM

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In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

Welcome to Worship at Bethany!

Please fill out a blue communication card if you are: visiting; have prayer requests; have contact information changes or other information for the office. (Cards are available on the bookcase inside the sanctuary door or ask an usher.) Please place it in the offering plate at the time of the offering. If you have no congregational home in this area, we invite you to consider Bethany!

The "Kids' Korner" is our current alternative to a nursery. This section of the narthex is set up for kids to stay quietly occupied under their parent's (or another adult's) supervision. There is a speaker to hear the service. (Please ask an usher to check with sound booth if sound is not on.)

The Order of Service – The bulletin is all-inclusive. The readings and hymns are included in the order they occur in the service.

Music Permissions – Liturgical music is from *Now the Feast & Celebration*, Marty Haugen, ©1990, GIA Publications, and is reprinted with permission under One License #A-711823. Hymns are reprinted with permission under One License #A-711823 unless otherwise noted.

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Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Pat & Rick Ward in honor of Jess and Destiny's birthdays.

Readings for 17th Sunday after Pentecost, September 24, 2023

Jonah 3:10--4:11

Psalm 145:1-8

Philippians 1:21-30

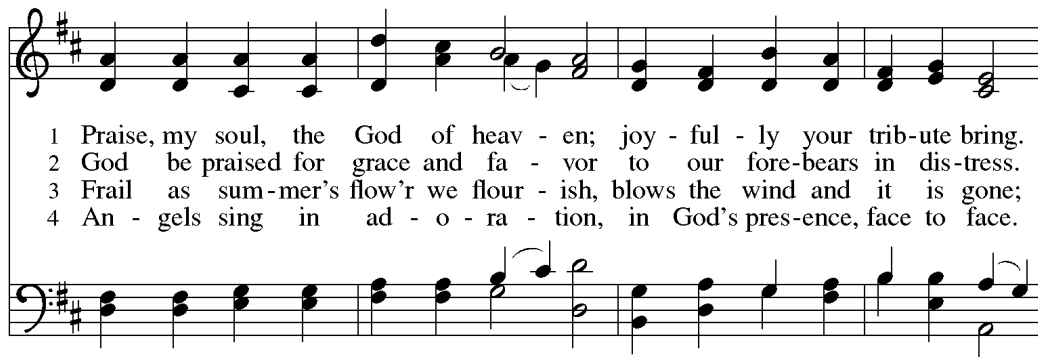
Matthew 20:1-16

WELCOME / QUIET TIME TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

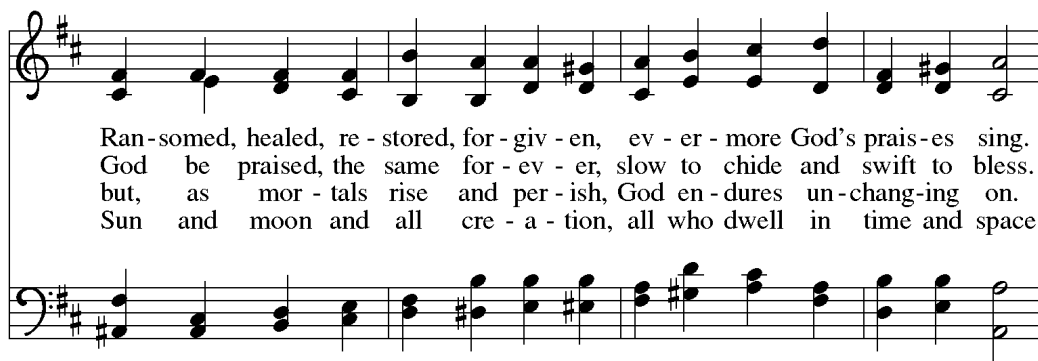
You are invited to stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*


ELW 864



1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; joy - ful - ly your trib-ute bring.
2 God be praised for grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis-tress.
3 Frail as sum-mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;
4 An - gels sing in ad - o - ra - tion, in God's pres-ence, face to face.



Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for-giv - en, ev - er - more God's prais-es sing.
God be praised, the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.
but, as mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en-dures un-chang-ing on.
Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion, all who dwell in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Prais - es ev - er - last - ing ring!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious is God's faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the great E - ter - nal One!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927–2005
Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE

Now the Feast Liturgy

Refrain

Assistant: *Congregation:*

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord, have mer-cy,
Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy. *to Verses*

Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all . . . (to Refrain)

Assistant: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word . . . (to Refrain)

Assistant:

Help, save and de - fend us, O

Congregation:

God. A - men.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

You may be seated.

FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 103:1-13

- ¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
- ²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**
- ³who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;
- ⁴**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**
- ⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- ⁶**O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**
- ⁷You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**
⁹you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.
¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**
¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
¹²**As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**
¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

SECOND READING

Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Alleluia*

Now the Feast Liturgy

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Optional Repeat*

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what

had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

You may be seated.

SERMON

You are invited to stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Where Charity and Love Prevail*

ELW 359



- 1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
- 2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
- 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
- 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
- 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
 as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

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You may be seated for the prayers.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

PRAYER SONG

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

ELW 752



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

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Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

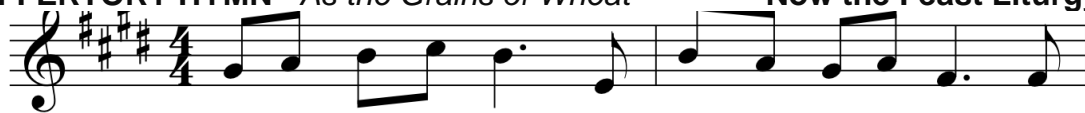
The peace of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you always.

And also with you.

We share a sign of peace with those around us.

OFFERING / ANNOUNCEMENTS

You are invited to stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY HYMN *As the Grains of Wheat***Now the Feast Liturgy**

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath - ered in - to one to be - come our bread;



so may all your peo - ple from all the ends of earth be



gath - ered in - to one in you.

Verses

1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with-in our midst

2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



to Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of power, God of plenty,

all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table,

that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved,

Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

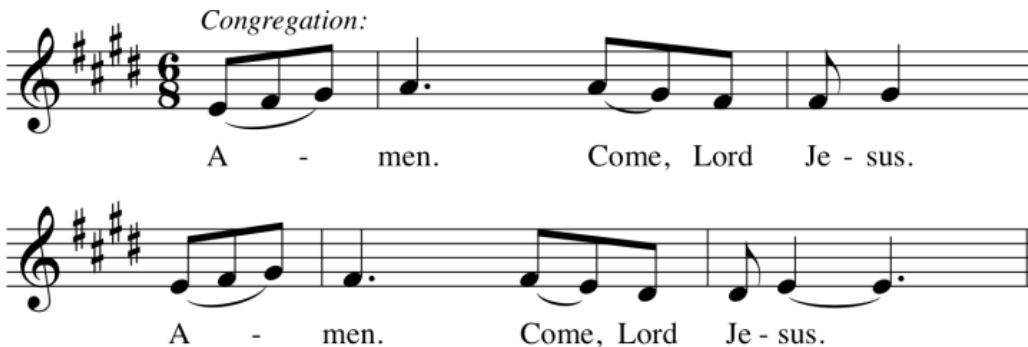
You are holy, gracious and merciful God;
Everything is filled with your glory.

We give you thanks for your promise and presence
which have sustained the faithful in this and every generation.
Above all, we give you thanks for Jesus, born of Mary,
who in word and deed announced your gentle rule of justice,
reconciliation, and peace.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his covenant to love one another, his life and death, his
resurrection and his ascension, we pray for his coming again, even as we cry,

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen. Come, Lord, Jesus.



Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that all your promises may come to us,
and your whole creation.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.



This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and our friend.

Make us bold, O Merciful God, to address you as our Abba as we pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus invites you to this table.

Come, eat and live.

COMMUNION

Be seated until ushers direct you to the altar. All are welcome at Holy Communion. The Lord invites us to come. If you would like a gluten-free option, hold up your index finger when the pastor serves the bread. Red wine is available from the outer part of the communion tray. White grape juice is available in the center of the communion tray. Come and be filled with God's grace!

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God

Now the Feast Liturgy



1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha - tred and fear;
3. Lamb of God, you are the way of jus - tice and peace:
4. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer - cy and love:



have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Text: ICET; additional text by Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

COMMUNION HYMN *One Bread, One Body*

ELW 496

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
 2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
 3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,



Refrain

wom - an or man, no more.
 one in the Lord of all.
 gath - ered to one for all.

Text: John Foley, sr, b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, sr

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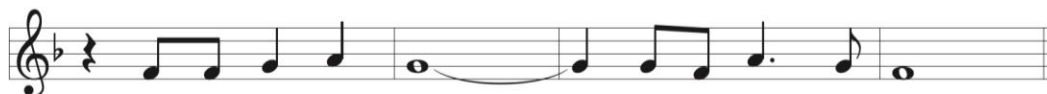
<i>Pues si vi - vi - mos,</i>	<i>pa - ra él vi - vi - mos,</i>
1 When we are liv - ing,	it is in Christ Je - sus,
2 'Mid times of sor - row	and in times of pain,
3 A - cross this wide world,	we shall al - ways find



<i>y si mo - ri - mos</i>	<i>pa - ra él mo - ri - mos.</i>
and when we're dy - ing,	it is in the Lord. . . .
when sens - ing beau - ty	or in love's em - brace,
those who are cry - ing	with no peace of mind;



<i>Sea que vi - va - mos</i>	<i>o que mu - ra - mos,</i>
Both in our liv - ing	and in our dy - ing,
wheth - er we suf - fer,	or sing re - joic - ing,
and when we help them,	or when we feed them,



<i>so - mos del Se - ñor,</i>	<i>so - mos del Se - ñor.</i>
we be - long to God,	we be - long to God.
we be - long to God,	we be - long to God.
we be - long to God,	we be - long to God.

2 En la tristeza y en el dolor,
 en la belleza y en el amor,
 sea que suframos o que gocemos,
 somos del Señor, somos del Señor.

3 En este mundo por doquier habrá
 gente que lloray sin consolar.
 Sea que ayudemos o alimentemos,
 somos del Señor, somos del Señor.

Text: st. 1, based on Romans 14:8; tr. Elise S. Eslinger, b. 1942
 st. 2-3, Roberto Escamilla, b. 1931; tr. George Lockwood, b. 1946
 Music: SOMOS DEL SEÑOR, Spanish traditional

You are invited to stand as you are able

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed be your name, O God,
for we have feasted on your Word,
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.
Strengthened by this food,
send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and all are satisfied.
In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

BLESSING

The God of glory,
✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names,
and the Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Please turn the page for the sending hymn

SENDING HYMN *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* W & P 95



1 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
 2 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
 4 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.



Where there is ha - tred, let me bring your love;
 Where there's de - spair in life, let me bring hope;
 It is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned,



where there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord;
 where there is dark - ness, on - ly light;
 in giv - ing of our - selves that we re -



and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
 and where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.



3 O Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek so



much to be con - soled as to con - sole, to be



un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, to be



loved as to love with all my soul.



ceive, and in dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal life.

Text: Sebastian Temple
 Music: PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS, Sebastian Temple
 Text and music © 1967 OCP Publications

Dismissal

Go in peace. God is at work in you. **Thanks be to God.**

September 17th, 2023

16th Sunday after Pentecost

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On Facebook:	Bethany Lutheran Church Group

Serving at Worship Today

Altar Guild:	Lisa Olson
Greeters & Ushers:	Jay & Nori Cash
Scripture Reader:	Steve Duncan
Intercessory Prayers:	Lynda Duncan
Sound Technician:	Cody Estby
Video Recorder:	Kristi Fandrich