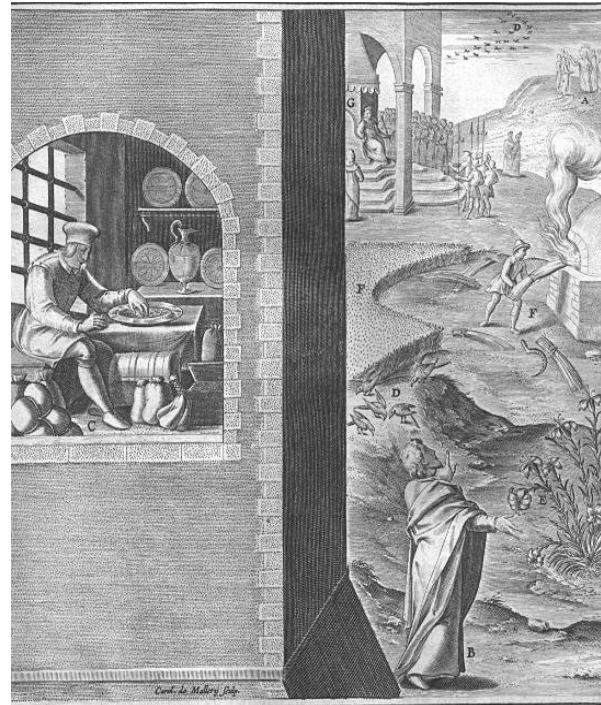


THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church
2323 E. 12th St. The Dalles, OR 97058
Telephone: (541) 298-8385 /
gorgelutherans.com

Rev. Rob Lawson, Pastor (760) 715-3993
E-mail: rlawson0651@gmail.com
Mrs. Kristen Lawson, Organist

**WELCOME IN THE NAME OF OUR
BLESSED LORD!** We are pleased you are
here, gathered around the Gospel in Preaching
and the Sacraments! **GUESTS** – If we can
assist you in any way with questions about our
confession of faith, spiritual struggles,



understanding our liturgical service, or any other need, please let us know. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will strengthen and comfort you.

CONFESSIONAL STATEMENT: Bethany Lutheran Church confesses all the Holy Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired word of God without any errors. We also hold, without any reservation, to the teachings of the Evangelical-Lutheran Confessions contained in the 1580 Book of Concord. We confess these teachings to be the correct interpretation of Scripture and a true explanation of the one, holy, catholic (universal) and apostolic faith.

PASTORAL CARE AND GUESTS AT THE LORD'S SUPPER: Scripture and our Confessions teach that the Lord's Supper "is the true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine" (Small Catechism). We are concerned about the spiritual welfare of all who commune at the Lord's Table. *If you are a guest and desire to commune, please speak to the pastor before the service.* Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are active members of sister churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and are not under church discipline in

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 † 11:00 A. M.

another congregation. In Christ, Pastor Lawson

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. St. Matthew 6:33

One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple. Psalm 27:4

*Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, an having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.
Hebrews 10:19-2*

† In the Name of Jesus †

Prayer before Worship: Lord God, heavenly Father, we most heartily thank You that You have granted us to live in this accepted time, when we may hear Your holy Gospel, know Your fatherly will, and behold Your Son, Jesus Christ! We pray, most merciful Father: Let the light of Your holy Word remain with us, and so govern our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that we may never forsake Your Word, but remain steadfast in it, and finally obtain eternal salvation; through Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Divine Service: Rite Two Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary: p. 60

The Office of Preparation (Confession & Holy Absolution)

Hymn of Invocation: *11, Come, Holy Ghost, in Love*

**C: Come, Holy Ghost, in love Shed on us from above
Thine own bright ray.
Divinely good Thou art; Thy sacred gifts impart
To gladden each sad heart. O come today!**

**Come, tend'rest Friend and best, Our most delightful Guest,
With soothing pow'r.
Rest which the weary know, Shade mid the noon-tide glow,
Peace when deep griefs o'er-flow, Cheer us this hour.**

**Come, Light serene and still, Our inmost boosoms fill,
Dwell in each breast.
We know no dawn but Thine; Send forth Thy beams divine
On our dark souls to shine And make us blest.**

**Exalt our low desires, Extinguish passion's fires,
Heal ev'ry wound.
Our stubborn spirits bend, Our icy coldness end,
Our devious steps attend While heav'nward bound.**

**Come, all the faithful bless; Let all who Christ confess
His praise employ.
Give virtue's rich reward, Victorious death accord
And, with our glorious Lord, Eternal joy.**

*At the Invocation and Absolution all **may** make the sign of the †
in remembrance of their Baptism.*

The Invocation: p. 60-61

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

The Confession of Sin (form I): pp. 60-62

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, beseech Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord;

C: And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins.

C: **O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them, and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P: I ask each of you, in the presence of God who searches the heart: Do you confess that you have sinned, and do you repent of your sins?

C: I do.

P: Do you believe that Jesus Christ has redeemed you from all your sins, and do you desire forgiveness in His name?

C: I do.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

May He comfort your heart by His holy Absolution,
and strengthen you by His Sacraments,
that your joy may be full.

Peace be with you!

C: Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Introit



Antiphon (**Pastor**) Bow down Your ear, `O LORD, hear me:/ You are my God; save Your servant `who trusts in You!

Be merciful `to me, O LORD:/ For I cry `to You daily.

Psalm (**All**) Rejoice the soul `of Your servant:/ For to You, O Lord, I `lift up my soul.

Give ear, O Lord, `to my *prayer*:/ And attend to the voice of my `supplications.

You, O Lord, are a God full `of compassion:/ Oh, turn to me, and have mer`cy upon me!

Give Your strength `to Your servant:/ And save the son of `Your maidservant.

Gloria Patri (All) **Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now: and ever shall be, forever more. Amen.**

Antiphon (All) **Bow down Your ear, O LORD, hear me: You are my God; save Your servant who trusts in You!**

Be merciful to me, O LORD: For I cry to You daily.

The Kyrie Eleison (form I): p. 63

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Gloria in Excelsis: pp. 64-66

P: Glory be to God on high:

C: And on earth peace, good will toward men.

**We praise You, we bless You, we worship You,
we glorify You, we give thanks to You, for Your great glory.**

O Lord God, heav'nly King,

God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

You take away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

**You are seated at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy
upon us.**

**For You only are holy. You only are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the
Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Salutation: p. 66

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

Collect for the Day: p. 66

**P: O Lord, we beseech You, let Your continual mercy cleanse and defend Your Church; and
because it cannot continue in safety without Your help, preserve it evermore by Your help and
goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the
Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.**

C: Amen.

**Thy will be done on earth, O Lord, As where in heav'n Thou art adored!
Patience in time of grief bestow, Obedience true in weal and woe;
Our sinful flesh and blood control That thwart Thy will within the soul.**

**Give us this day our daily bread, Let us be duly clothed and fed;
And keep Thou from our homes afar Famine and pestilence and war,
That we may live in godly peace Unvexed by cares and avarice.**

**Amen! That is, so let it be! Strengthen our faith and trust in Thee
That we may doubt not, but believe That what we ask we shall receive.
Thus in Thy name and at Thy word We say, "Amen. Now hear us, Lord."**

Epistle: *Galatians 5:25 – 6:10*

P: Brethren: If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For each one shall bear his own load. Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse (Pastor)

Alleluia! Alleluia! O God, my heart is steadfast: I will sing and give praise, even with my glory. Alleluia!

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Holy Gospel: *St. Matthew 6:24-34*

P: The Holy Gospel according to † St. Matthew, the 6th chapter:

C: Glory be to You, O Lord.

P: *At that time Jesus said:* “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

P: This is the † Holy Gospel.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ.

*At the words “And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary
And was made man” all **may** bow out of reverence for Christ’s Incarnation.*

Nicene Creed: p. 69

**C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
Begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
Very God of Very God,
Begotten, not made,
Being of one substance with the Father,**

**By Whom all things were made;
Who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried;
and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
And He shall come again with glory
to judge both the living and the dead;
Whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified,
Who spoke by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
And I look for the Resurrection of the dead
and the Life † of the world to come. Amen.**

Chief Hymn: 467, *In God, My Faithful God*

**C: In God, my faithful God, I trust when dark my road;
Thou many woes o'er-take me, Yet He will not forsake me.
His love it is doth send them And, when 'tis best will end them.**

**My sins assail me sore, But I despair no more.
I build on Christ, who loves me; From this Rock nothing moves me,
To Him I all surrender, To Him, my soul's Defender.**

**If death my portion be, Then death is gain to me
And Christ my Life forever, From whom death cannot sever.
Come when it may, He'll shield me, To Him I wholly yield me.**

**O Jesus Christ, my Lord, So meek in deed and word,
Thou once didst die to save us Because Thy love would have us
Be heirs of heav'nly gladness When ends this life of sadness.**

**“So be it,” then I say With all my heart each day.
We, too, dear Lord, adore Thee; We sing for joy before Thee.
Guide us while here we wander Until we praise Thee yonder.**

Sermon: **P:** Christ is in our midst. **C:** He is and ever shall be.

Offertory: pp. 70-71

**C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your free Spirit.
Amen.**

The Intercessions: *each petition concludes:* Lord, in Your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Hymn of Preparation: *309, A Wondrous Mystery Is Here*

**C: A wondrous mystery is here To hold in faith and holy fear:
The Savior comes as food divine, Concealed in earthly bread and wine.**

**This world is loveless, but above, What wondrous boundlessness of love!
The King of Glory stoops to me My spirit's life and strength to be.**

**In consecrated wine and bread No eye perceives the myst'ry spread;
But Jesus' words are strong and clear: “My body and My blood are here.”**

**How dull are all the pow'rs of sense Employed on proofs of love immense!
The richest food lies hid from view, The highest gifts we have below.**

**We have no greater boon on earth, And faith alone discerns its worth,
The Word, not sense, must be our guide, Christ's words assure though sight's denied.**

**Lord, show us still that You are good, And grant us evermore this food
To strengthen ev'ry humble soul And make each wounded spirit whole.**

The Liturgy of the Holy Communion

The Preface: p. 72

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

The Proper Preface & Sanctus: pp. 73-76

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**C: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
 Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.
 Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He
 who come in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

The Lord's Prayer: pp. 77-78

P: Our Father who art in heaven,
 Hallowed by 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;

C: For Thine is the kingdom and the pow'r and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Institution: pp. 78-79

*When the Pastor turns and elevates the Host and Cup, the congregation **may** bow as an act of reverent worship toward the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.*

The Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord): p. 79

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

The Agnus Dei: pp. 79-80

**C: O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,
grant us Your peace. Amen.**

The Distribution of the Holy Communion

*Prayers for “**Before Holy Communion**” and
for “**After Holy Communion**” are found on page 40 in ELH.*

The Nunc Dimittis: pp. 81-82

**C: Lord, now You let Your servant depart in peace according to Your word.
For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face
of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people
Israel.**

**Glory be the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.**

The Collect of Thanksgiving

P: O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good.

C: And His mercy endures forever.

P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through these salutary gifts, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through them in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Salutation, Benedicamus & Benediction: p. 84

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with your spirit.**

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.

C: **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Dismissal Hymn: *219, Lord, as Thou Wilt, Deal Thou with Me*

C: **Lord, as Thou wilt, deal Thou with me; No other wish I cherish.**

In life and death I cling to Thee; O do not let me perish!

**Let not Thy grace from me depart And grant an ever-patient heart
To bear what Thou dost send me.**

**Grant honor, truth, and purity, And love Thy Word to ponder;
From all false doctrine keep me free. Bestow, both here and yonder,
What serves my everlasting bliss; Preserve me from unrighteousness
Throughout my earthly journey.**

**When, at Thy summons, I must leave This vale of sin and sadness,
Give me Thy grace, Lord, not grieve, But to depart with gladness.
To Thee my spirit I commend; O Lord, grant me a blessed end
Through Jesus Christ, my Savior.**

Our Life Together

THE PASTOR IS AVAILABLE for private Confession & Absolution, and for confidential pastoral counseling, or just to chat. Please feel free to stop in. (The Augsburg Confession teaches that “[private] Confession is not abolished among us. ... Our people are taught that they should highly prize the Absolution as being God’s voice and pronounced by God’s command. ... They are reminded what great consolation it brings to anxious consciences. ... They are taught that faith in Christ truly obtains and receives the forgiveness of sins.” Article 25)

Bible Studies: The Bible study after the Service today continues in 1 John. We are also spending the first ten minutes of each class reading through the Augsburg Confession. The Thursday study is looking at 2 Samuel 6 and 1 Chronicles 13, 15 & 16. These chapters give the account of David bringing the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem and the establishment of the true worship of Yahweh in the Holy City. *Everyone is encouraged to participate in one or both studies.*

The Circuit 12 Women’s Mission Society Rally is at Christ Lutheran Church in Sutherlin, OR, Sept. 27-28. The theme of the Rally is from Malachi 3:6: *I Am the Lord, I Change Not*. The rally starts Friday evening with a meal and fellowship. Then on Saturday, Pastor Michael Lilienthal will be presenting on Luther’s Use of Languages to Preserve the Unchanging Gospel. Pastor Lawson will also be presenting on Luther’s View of the Importance of Hymns for the People. The rally schedule is posted on the bulletin board in the entryway. ***If you have not done so yet, please let Pastor know if you plan to attend. He will be sending in the RSVP this week.***

The Walk for Hope is Saturday, October 5. The Walk starts at 9am and the route will be from the Mosier Totem Pole to Jackson Park in HR, ending with an *After Party* at Jackson Park that will include music, food and activities. To donate go to givebutter.com/hope2024 and click the teal-colored Sponsor button and follow the steps. Our team name is Gorge Lutherans. There are paper pledge forms available on the table in the entryway if you would rather donate that way.

Church Cleaning
September 9-21
Pastor & Kristen Lawson

There are also fundraising packets available in the entryway for any willing to get more involved. *For more info speak with Pastor or Kristen.*

Worldview Workshop: Rev. David Thompson, the Director of our synod's *Apologetics & Worldview Center* in Mankato, MN, will be here the last weekend in October to conduct a *Worldview Workshop* for us. The workshop will go from 10am-3pm on Saturday, Oct. 26, with a break for lunch. Then Pastor Thompson will preach for the Sunday Service on Oct. 27 (Reformation Sunday) and conduct the Bible Study after the Service. More information to come.

Men's Breakfast: Please talk to Pastor if you have any interest in revitalizing the monthly men's breakfast.

New Lutheran Sentinels: Please take a copy of the new issue of the Lutheran Sentinel from the table in the entryway.

Sunday School started today. Sunday School will be held each week before the Divine Service from 10-10:45am and will consist prayer, Bible stories and activities, catechism learn-by-heart and hymn-singing. *If you know of any families looking for a Sunday School for their children,* please let them know about Bethany Lutheran Church.

Feasts, Commemorations, and Events Easter Week

Monday: Pastor at Concordia

Tuesday: Pastor at Bethany

Wednesday: Pastor at Concordia

Thursday: Bible study at Bethany, 10:00am

Friday: Pastor at *Called to Confess* conference in Albany, OR

Saturday: FEAST OF THE HOLY CROSS; Pastor's Day Off

Next Sunday: *The Sixteenth Sunday After Trinity*

Concordia Holy Communion, 9:00am

Bethany Sunday School, 10:00am

Bethany Holy Communion, 11:00am

Bible Study for the Parish at Bethany, 12:45pm

Hymns for Trinity 15: “I build on Christ, who loves me; From this Rock nothing moves me.” Today’s CHIEF HYMN, *In God, My Faithful God* (ELH 467) compliments well the Gospel for today: “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” Life in this world is filled with dark times, sin, temptation, despair, and death. Yet God is faithful. He, who orders all things for good, will end tribulation according to His good and gracious will. He died to save us because His love would have us “be heirs of heavenly gladness when ends this life of sadness.” This hymn was written the 17th century pastor, Sigismund Weingartner. Nothing is known of this hymnwriter, not even a firm birthday or death day.

Trinity 15: Our God Jesus has set us free from sin, death, and the power of the devil. He also gives us the gift of dependence, to depend upon Him in faith and on one another in love and service (Galatians 6:2). Rather than diminishing our humanity, mutual dependence dignifies it.

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, help me to depend upon You with Your people and defend those who depend upon me. Amen.*

Life Thoughts in the Church Year/One Year Lectionary – Lutherans For Life