



THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER
TRINITY
FEAST OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,
APOSTLE (AUG. 24)

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church
2323 E. 12th St. The Dalles, OR 97058
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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. Our altar is ordinarily 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 another congregation. *Other guests who desire to commune, please speak to the pastor about Holy Communion after the service.* In Christ, Pastor Lawson

AUGUST 24, 2025 † 11:00 A. M.

† In the Name of Jesus †

Prayer before Worship: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your holy Word. We pray You to open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins; to believe on Jesus in life and death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake. Amen.

The Divine Service: Rite Four (The Lutheran Choral Service) *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary: p. 107*

The Office of Preparation (Confession & Holy Absolution)

Please Note: When the Prelude Music begins it is a laudable custom to keep talking to a minimum and prepare for God's Service with prayer.

It is a laudable custom to bow the head when the holy Name of Jesus is mentioned and at other places marked with a diamond (◆)

It is a laudable custom to cross oneself in remembrance of baptism at those places marked by a †.

Hymn of Invocation: 8, *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

**C: Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ, the head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord, and precious, Binding all the Church in one,
Holy Zion's help forever, And her confidence alone.**

**All that dedicated city, Dearly loved of God on high,
In extultant jubilation Pours perpetual melody:
God the One in Three adoring In glad hymns eternally.**

**To this temple, where we call Thee, Come, O Lord of hosts, today;
With Thy tender lovingkindness Hear Thy people as they pray,
And Thy fullest benediction Shed within its walls always.**

**Here vouchsafe to all Thy servants What they ask of Thee to gain,
What they gain from Thee forever With the blessed to retain,
And hereafter in Thy glory Evermore with Thee to reign.**

**Laud and honor to the Father, Laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit, Ever Three and ever One,
One in might, and One in glory, While unending ages run.**

Invocation & Confession of Sin (spoken)

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

C: Amen.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

C: Make haste to help me, O Lord.

P: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit.

C: A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

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, forevermore. Amen.

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

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us; have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You, and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: Hear the holy and comforting Word of our Lord:

Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Lift up your hearts! By the authority of God and of my holy office I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Kyrie Eleison: 34, Kyrie, God Father in Heaven Above

**C: Kyrie, God Father in heav'n above, Great art Thou in grace and love,
Of all things the Maker and Preserver. Eleison, eleison!**

**Kyrie, O Christ, our King, Salvation for sinners Thou didst bring.
O Lord ♦ Jesus, God’s own Son, Our Mediator at the heav’nly throne,
Hear our cry and grant our supplication. Eleison, eleison!**

**Kyrie, O God the Holy Ghost,
Guard our faith, the gift we need the most; Do Thou our last hour bless;
Let us leave this sinful world with gladness. Eleison, eleison!**

Gloria in Excelsis (*ELH p. 44-45*)

P: Glory be to God in the highest

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

C: All glory be to God on high Who hath our race befriended!
To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended;
God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall dwell on earth again;
O thank Him for His goodness!

Salutation: p. 66

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

Collect for the Day

P: O God, You declare Your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Mercifully grant that we, who by Your grace in Christ have been made partakers of Your heavenly treasure, may cheerfully serve You also in this life, walking in the way of Your commandments; 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 Feast of St. Bartholomew, Apostle (August 24)

P: Almighty God, through Your Son Jesus Christ You chose Saint Bartholomew to be an Apostle to preach the blessed Gospel: give to Your Church evermore faithful teachers to proclaim the glory of Your name; 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.

Old Testament: *Jeremiah 7:1-11*

P: *In those days* the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, “Stand in the gate of

the LORD's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, 'Hear the word of the LORD, all you of Judah who enter in at these gates to worship the LORD!'" Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place. Do not trust in these lying words, saying, 'The temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD are these.' "For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your doings, if you thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor, if you do not oppress the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, or walk after other gods to your hurt, then I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever. "Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit. Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know, and then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name, and say, 'We are delivered to do all these abominations'? Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of thieves in your eyes? Behold, I, even I, have seen it," says the LORD.

P: This is the Word of the Lord. **C:** **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: 583, *God's Word Is Our Great Heritage*

C: **God's Word is our great heritage, And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way; In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure, We keep its teachings pure,
Throughout all generations.**

Epistle: *1 Corinthians 12:1-11*

P: Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same

Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

P: This is the Word of the Lord. **C:** **Thanks be to God.**

Chief Hymn: *450, Lord, to Thee I Make Confession*

C: **Lord, to Thee I make confession: I have sinned and gone astray.**

I have multiplied transgression, Chosen for myself my way.

Led by Thee to see my errors, Lord, I tremble at Thy terrors.

Yet, though conscience' voice appall me, Father, I will seek Thy face.

Though Thy child I dare not call me, Yet receive me to Thy grace.

Do not for my sins forsake me; Do not let Thy wrath o'er-take me.

For Thy Son did suffer for me, Gave Himself to rescue me,

Died to heal me and restore me, Reconciled me unto Thee.

'Tis alone His cross can vanquish These dark fears and soothe this anguish.

Then on Him I cast my burden, Sink it in the depth below.

Let me know Thy gracious pardon; Wash me, make me white as snow.

Let Thy Spirit leave me never; Make me only Thine forever.

Holy Gospel: *St. Luke 19:41-48*

P: The Holy Gospel according to † St. Luke, the 19th chapter:

C: **Glory be to You, O Lord.**

P: *At that time as Jesus drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."* Then He went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in it, saying to them, "It is written, 'My house is a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'" And He was teaching daily in the temple. But the chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people sought to destroy Him, and were unable to do anything; for all the people were very attentive to hear Him.

P: This is the † Holy Gospel. **C:** **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

Creedal Hymn: 38, *We All Believe in One True God*

**C: We all believe in one true God, Who created earth and heaven,
The Father, who to us in love Hath the right of children given.
He both soul and body feedeth, All we need He doth provide us;
He through snares and perils leadeth, Watching that no harm betide us.
He careth for us day and night, All things are governed by His might.**

**We all believe in Jesus Christ, His own Son, our Lord, possessing
An equal Godhead, throne, and might, Source of every grace and blessing.
Born of Mary, virgin mother, By the power of the Spirit,
Made true man, our elder Brother, That the lost might life inherit;
Was crucified for sinful men And raised by God to life again.**

**We all confess the Holy Ghost, Who sweet grace and comfort giveth
And with the Father and the Son In eternal glory liveth;
Who the Church, His own creation, Keeps in unity of spirit.
Here forgiveness and salvation Daily come through Jesus' merit.
All flesh shall rise, and we shall be In bliss with God eternally. Amen.**

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

The Intercessions

Hymn of Preparation: 211, *Built on the Rock*

**C: Built on the Rock the Church doth stand Even when steeples are falling;
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land, Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest, But above all the soul distressed.
Longing for rest everlasting.**

**Surely in temples made with hands God, the Most High, is not dwelling,
High above earth His temple stands, All earthly temples excelling.
Yet He whom heav'ns cannot contain Chose to abide on earth with men –
Built in our bodies His temple.**

**We are God's house of living stones, Buildded for His habitation;
He through baptismal grace us owns Heirs of His wondrous salvation;**

**Were we but two His name to tell, Yet He would deign with us to dwell
With all His grace and His favor.**

**Now we may gather with our King E'en in the lowliest dwelling;
Praises to Him we there may bring, His wondrous mercy forthtelling;
Jesus His grace to us accords, Spirit and life are all His words,
His truth doth hallow the temple.**

**Still we our earthly temples rear That we may herald His praises;
They are the homes where He draws near And little children embraces;
Beautiful things in them are said, God there with us His cov'nant made,
Making us heirs of His kingdom.**

**Here stands the font before our eyes, Telling how God did receive us;
Th' altar recalls Christ's sacrifice And what His table doth give us;
Here sounds the Word that doth proclaim Christ yesterday, today, the same,
Yea, and for aye our Redeemer.**

**Grant then, O God, where'er men roam, That, when the church bells are ringing,
Many in Jesus' faith may come Where He His message is bringing:
"I know mine own, mine own know me, Ye, not the world, my face shall see:
My peace I leave with you, Amen."**

The Liturgy of Holy Communion

Exhortation of Holy Communion: ELH p. 77

P: Dear friends in Christ! In order that you may receive this holy Sacrament worthily, it is good that you consider what you must now believe and do. From the words of Christ: "This is My body, which is given for you; this is My blood which is shed for you for the remission of sins" you should believe that Jesus Christ is Himself present with His body and blood, as the words declare.

From Christ's words "for the remission of sins" you should believe that Jesus Christ bestows upon you His body and blood to confirm unto you the forgiveness of all your sins.

And finally, you should do as Christ commands you when He says "Take, eat; drink of it, all of you," and "this do in remembrance of Me."

If you believe these words of Christ, and do as He therein has commanded, then you have rightly examined yourselves and may worthily eat Christ's body and drink His blood for the forgiveness of all your sins.

You should also unit in giving thanks to Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for so great a gift, and should love one another with a pure heart, and thus with the whole

Christian Church have comfort and joy in Christ our Lord. To this end may God the Father grant you His grace; through the same, our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Sanctus: 40, Isaiah, Mighty Seer, in Days of Old

**C: Isaiah, mighty seer, in days of old
The Lord of all in Spirit did behold
High on a lofty throne, in splendor bright,
With flowing train that filled the Temple quite.
Above the throne were stately seraphim,
Six wings had they, these messengers of Him.
With twain they veiled their faces, as was meet,
With twain in reverent awe they hid their feet,
And with the other twain aloft they soared,
One to the other called and praised the Lord:
♦ "Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!
Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!
Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!
Behold, His glory filleth all the earth!"
The beams and lintels trembled at the cry,
And clouds of smoke enwrapped the throne on high.**

**Now let us to the Lord lift up our hearts
By faith which God the Holy Ghost imparts,
Now let us with the angel host unite,
And with the company of saints in light,
To bring our thanks and praise to God our Lord
Almighty, Everlasting, Gracious God.
For all creation's splendor, earth and light;
For our redemption and eternal life,
Bought with the precious blood of Christ our King
Whose gracious Name we magnify and sing:
♦ "Holy is God, the Lord of pow'r and might!**

**Holy is God, the Lord of pow'r and might!
Holy is God, the Lord of pow'r and might!
His love and glory filleth heav'n and earth!
†Blest is the One who comes in God's own Name,
Hosanna! Save us, Lord! Your grace we claim!"**

Lord's Prayer (sung together)

P: Taught by our Lord and trusting in His saving promises, we are bold to pray:

C: Our Father...

Words of Institution: pp. 77-79

*At the words "This is My Body ... This cup is the New Testament in My Blood" the congregation **may** make the sign of the cross.*

*As each sacred species is elevated, the congregation **may** bow as an act of reverent worship toward the Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ.*

*When the Pastor turns and elevates the Host and Cup, the congregation **may** bow.*

Pax Domini & Agnus Dei: 41, *Lamb of God, Pure and Holy*

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

C: Amen.

**C: Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus!**

**Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus!**

**Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Thy peace be with us, O Jesus!**

Distribution of the Body & Blood of Christ to the Faithful

Prayers for "Before Holy Communion" and

for "After Holy Communion" are found on page 40 in ELH.

The Pastor distributes the sacred host with the words "This is the true Body of Christ, given for you." It is a laudable custom for communicants to respond "Amen" before receiving the host on the tongue. The Pastor distributes the sacred blood of Christ with the words "This is the true Blood of Christ, shed for you." It is a laudable custom for communicants to respond "Amen" before receiving the Blood of Christ.

After all have communed, whatever remains of Christ's Body & Blood is consumed and the Pastor reverently cleanses the sacred vessels.

Hymn of Thanksgiving: 327, *O Lord, We Praise Thee*

C: O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,

In thanksgiving bow before Thee.

Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish

Our weak souls that they may flourish: O Lord, have mercy!

May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,

That our sins and sorrows did carry,

And Thy blood for us plead In all trial, fear, and need:

O Lord, have mercy!

Thy holy body into death was given, Life to win for us in heaven.

No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;

May this feast thereof remind us! O Lord, have mercy!

Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee

That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.

All our debt Thou hast paid; Peace with God once more is made:

O Lord, have mercy.

May God bestow on us His grace and favor

To please Him with our behavior

And live as brethren here in love and union

Nor repent this blest Communion! O Lord, have mercy!

Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;

Grant that heavenly-minded He make us;

Give Thy Church, Lord, to see Days of peace and unity: O Lord, have mercy!

Collect of Thanksgiving: p. 83

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.

Benediction

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: 558, *From All Thy Saints in Warfare* (tune: 486)

C: From all Thy Saints in warfare, For all Thy saints at rest,
To Thee, O blessed Jesus, All praises be addressed.
Thou, Lord, didst win the battle That They might conqu'rors be;
Their crowns of living glory Are lit with rays from Thee.

Bartholomew's All praise for him whose candor Through all his doubt Thou saw'st
Day When Philip at the fig tree Disclosed Thee in the law.
Discern, beneath our surface, O Lord, what we can be,
That by Thy truth made guileless, Thy glory we may see.

**Apostles, prophets, martyrs, And all the sacred throng
Who wear the spotless raiment, Who raise the ceaseless song;
For these, passed on before us, Savior, we Thee adore,
And walking in their footsteps, Would serve Thee more and more.**

**Then praise we God the Father, And praise we God the Son,
And God the Holy Spirit, Eternal Three in One;
Till all the ransomed number Fall down before the throne,
And honor, pow'r, and glory Ascribe to God alone.**

Prayer After Worship: O Lord, we render unto You our heartfelt thanks that You have taught us what You would have us believe and do. Help us, O God, by Your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to keep Your Word in pure hearts, that we thereby may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and death. Amen.

Our Life Together

THE PASTOR IS AVAILABLE for private Confession & Absolution, and for confidential pastoral counselling, 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)

Congratulations to Peter & Lydia (nee Norman) Albrecht who were married yesterday at Concordia in Hood River. May the Lord grant them many years, keep their union strong in Christ, and bless them out of Zion.

The Bible Study & Sunday School meet together for the opener at 12:30 in the parish hall. In the context of our study of Genesis 12 and God’s promises to Abraham and his descendants, the Sunday class is in the middle of a discussion of the false teaching of *Christian Zionism*. Christian Zionism is very much relevant to current events because of what is going on the Middle East. The Thursday study is working through 1 Kings.

Cleaning at Bethany
August 25 – September 6
Cushmans

The 2025 PNW Women’s Missionary Rally is at Bethany Lutheran Church in Port Orchard WA, Saturday, Sept. 27. Copies of the flyer and details are on the table in the entryway. *The deadline to RSVP is coming up soon! So please be thinking about whether you plan to attend and let Pastor know.*

There are still copies of the newest Financial Report on the table in the entryway. Please take a copy on your way out of church today. Direct any questions to our congregational treasurer, Greg Riese. Thank you for your kind generosity throughout the year.

Elders: Please speak with Pastor about scheduling a meeting this week.

Walk for Hope: The 2025 *Walk for Hope* is scheduled for the morning of Saturday, October 4. The walk will begin in Mosier and end at Thompson Park in Hood River, where there will be food and entertainment. This is one of two major fundraisers that Hope Medical Clinic does during the year to fund its critical work in our community. More information for registration and donating will be forthcoming.

Feasts, Commemorations, and Events this Week

Monday: Pastor at Concordia

Tuesday: Pastor at Bethany

Wednesday: *Commemoration of St. Monica, Mother of St. Augustine & Holy Woman*
Pastor at Concordia

Thursday: *Commemoration of St. Augustine of Hippo, Bishop & Doctor of the Church*
Bible Study at Bethany, 10:00am

Friday: FEAST OF THE MARTYRDOM OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST;
Pastor at Bethany

Saturday: Pastor's Day Off

Next Sunday: *The Eleventh Sunday After Trinity*
Concordia Service of the the Word, 9:00am
Bethany Holy Communion, 11:00am
Bethany Bible Study & Sunday School, 12:30pm; Youth Catechesis, 1:45pm

Trinity 10: With God's prophets we call the culture around us to turn away from the destruction they are bringing upon themselves (Jeremiah 8:5, 11; Luke 19:43-44). With us they each remain precious to Jesus, who by His visitation in the flesh (Luke 19:44) for forgiveness delivers the Gospel that makes for peace (Luke 19:42) and righteousness (Romans 10:4).

Prayer: *O Lord God, intervene and redeem our people that we may behold and inhabit Your kingdom. Amen.*

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



Trinity 10 Hymn: The hymns of Johann Franck (1618-1677) mark the transition from the objective, doctrinally sturdy German “church song” of the Reformation and immediate post-Reformation period, to a more personal and mystical kind of poetry. Yet Franck’s hymns are based solidly on God’s Word of Law & Gospel. Frank was born in the territory of Brandenburg, Germany. He was a faithful, orthodox Lutheran layman, University educated, who became a lawyer, and later a councilor, then mayor of his home town. His hymns exhibit all the earnest faith and simple piety of Lutheran Orthodoxy. His best known are

Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness (ELH 328), *Jesus, Priceless Treasure* (ELH 263) and today’s HYMN OF INVOCATION *Lord, to Thee I Make Confession* (ELH 450). This hymn teaches what every Christian knows: contrition – sorrow over sin; terror over sin from God’s just judgment – leads us to take hold of Christ’s forgiveness – the word of Absolution. Absolution comes by God’s promise fulfilled in His Son. We sinners have no right to it. Rather, the Lord Himself claims us as children by His grace alone.

Why does the Salutation precede the Collect? Immediately before the Collect in the Mass, the pastor turns to face the people, and says, “The Lord be with you,” to which they reply, “And with your spirit.” This, along with the Collect itself, is in preparation for the hearing of the reading of the Word of God. The pastor’s words, “The Lord be with you,” are an adaptation of the words of the risen Christ to His disciples, “Peace be with you.” Some traditions retained the latter formula when spoken by a bishop. These words, which are the first words Christ said to the disciples when He appeared to them in the upper room, indicate the putting away of their sins, even as the Resurrection itself demonstrates this. When the pastor says the words of the Salutation, he is repeating the pattern set by Christ Himself. These are the first words he says to the people as pastor (since the preparatory service is not part of the Mass itself). As the first words from the mouth of Christ’s ambassador to His people, they reestablish the fact that their forgiveness has been obtained by His resurrection and is therefore rightly granted at once. When the people reply “And with you spirit,” they are not merely responding in kind, but are praying for their pastor, that the Holy Spirit may rest upon him, for now he will speak to them as bearer of the office of the Holy Spirit. Therefore grace is required, that the pastor may be faithful in the carrying out of his duty, that is, that all of the words he speaks, including the words of the sermon, might be words fitly spoken as coming from God’s ambassador to them.

Why? A Layman’s Guide to the Liturgy, Rev. Dr. Burnell F. Eckardt