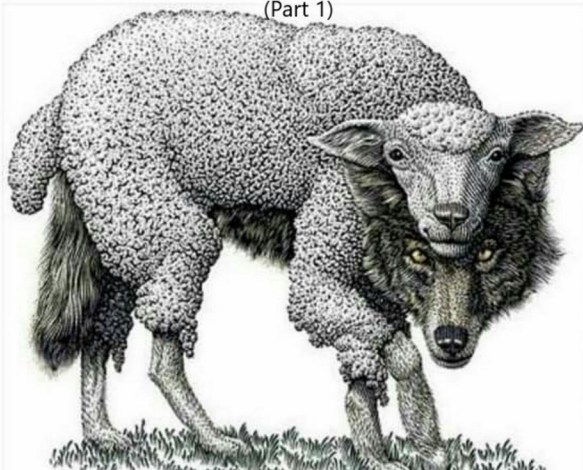


BEWARE OF THE FALSE TEACHERS

(Part 1)



THE EIGHTH 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 another congregation. In Christ, Pastor Lawson

AUGUST 10, 2025 † 11:00 A. M.

† In the Name of Jesus †

Prayer before Worship: Lord God, heavenly Father, we most heartily thank You that by Your Word you have brought us out of the darkness of error into the light of Your grace: We beseech You, mercifully help us to walk in that light, guard us from all error and false doctrine, and grant that we may not become ungrateful and despise and persecute Your Word, but receive it with all our heart, govern our lives according to it, and put all our trust in Your grace, through the merit of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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

The Office of Preparation

***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: 440, *O Lord, Look Down from Heaven, Behold*

**C: O Lord, look down from heav'n, behold, And let Thy pity waken.
How few are we within Thy fold, Thy saints by men forsaken;
True faith seems quenched on ev'ry hand; Men suffer not Thy Word to stand.
Dark times have us o'er-taken.**

**With fraud which they themselves invent Thy truth they have confounded;
Their hearts are not with one consent On Thy pure doctrine grounded.
While they parade with outward show, They lead the people to and fro,
In error's maze astounded.**

**May God root out all heresy, And of false teachers rid us
Who proudly say, "Now, where is he That shall our speech forbid us?
By right or might we shall prevail; What we determine cannot fail;
We own no lord and master."**

**Therefore saith God, "I must arise, The poor My help are needing.
To Me ascend My people's cries, And I have heard their pleading.
For them my saving Word shall fight And fearlessly and sharply smite,**

The poor with might defending.”

**As silver tried by fire is pure From all adulteration,
So through God’s Word shall men endure Each trial and temptation.
Its light beams brighter through the cross, And, purified from human dross,
It shines through every nation.**

**Defend Thy truth, O God, and stay This evil generation;
And from the error of its way Keep Thine own congregation.
The wicked everywhere abound And would Thy little flock confound;
But Thou art our Salvation.**

The Invocation: p. 60-61

1 Kings 8:27-30; Matthew 18:20; 28:18-20

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



C: A - - men.

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

1 John 1:8-9 and John 20:19-23; Matthew 16:19; 18:18

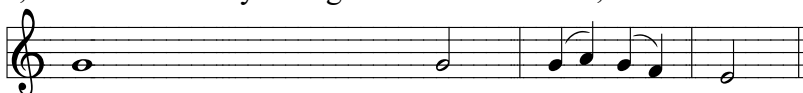
P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, beseech Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

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



C: Who made heav’n 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: *Psalm 48:9-10, 1, 3, 11, 14*



Antiphon **P:** We have thought of Your loving`kindness, O God:/ In the midst `of Your temple. According to Your name, O God, so is Your praise to the `ends of the earth:/ Your right hand is full `of righteousness.

Psalm C: Great is the Lord, and great`ly to be praised:/ In the city of our God, in His `holy mountain.

God is in `her palaces:/ He is known `as her refuge.

Let Mount Zion rejoice, let the daughters of `Judah be glad:/ Because `of Your judgments.

For this is God, our God forev`er and ever:/ He will be our guide ev`en unto death.

Gloria Patri **C: ♦Glory be to the Father `and to the Son:/ and to `the Holy Ghost.**

As it was in the be`ginning, is now:/ and ever shall be, forever`more. Amen.

Antiphon C: We have thought of Your loving`kindness, O God:/ In the midst `of Your temple.

According to Your name, O God, so is Your praise to the `ends of the earth:/ Your right hand is full `of righteousness.

The Kyrie Eleison (form I): p. 63

Mark 10:47; Luke 17:13



C: Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ have mer - cy up -



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

Gloria in Excelsis: pp. 64-66

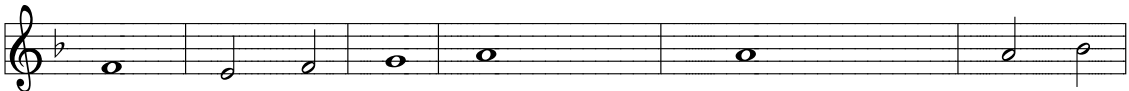
Luke 2:14; John 1:29



P: Glory be to God on high:



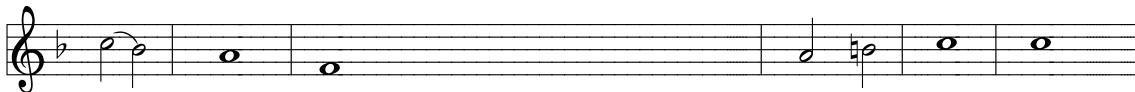
C: And on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise You, we bless



You, we ♦ wor - ship You, we glorify You, we ♦ give thanks to You, for



Your great glory. O Lord God, heav'n - ly King. God the Fa - ther



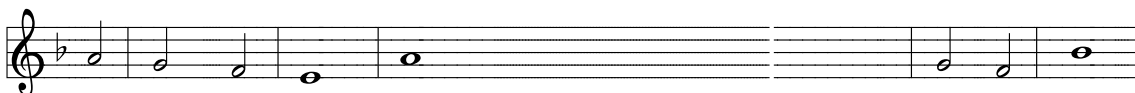
Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, ♦Je - sus Christ; O Lord



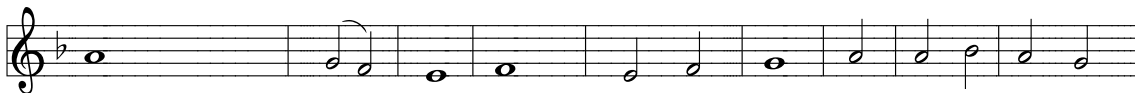
God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, You take away the sin of the



world, have mercy up - on us. You take away the sin of the world,



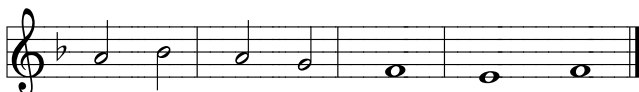
♦re - ceive our prayer. You are seated at the right hand of God the Father,



have mercy up - on us. For You only are holy; You on - ly are the



Lord. You only, ♦O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit, †are most high in the



glory of God the Father. A - men.

P: The Lord be with you.



C: And with your spir - it.

P: Grant to us, Lord, we beseech You, the spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without You, may by You be enabled to live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

Old Testament: *Jeremiah 23:16-32*

P: *In those days Jeremiah prophesied:* Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; They speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the Lord. They continually say to those who despise Me, ‘The Lord has said, “You shall have peace” ’; And to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, ‘No evil shall come upon you.’” For who has stood in the counsel of the Lord, and has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it? Behold, a whirlwind of the Lord has gone forth in fury – A violent whirlwind! It will fall violently on the head of the wicked. The anger of the Lord will not turn back until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly. I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in My counsel, and had caused My people to hear My words, then they would have turned them from their evil way and from the evil of their doings.” “Am I a God near at hand,” says the Lord, “And not a God afar off? Can anyone hide himself in secret places, so I shall not see him?” says the Lord; “Do I not fill heaven and earth?” says the Lord. “I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in My name, saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’ How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? Indeed they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart, who try to make My people forget My name by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as their fathers forgot My name for Baal. The prophet who has a dream, let him tell

a dream; And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat?" says the Lord. "Is not My word like a fire?" says the Lord, "And like a hammer that breaks the rocks in pieces? Therefore behold, I am against the prophets," says the Lord, "who steal My words every one from his neighbor. Behold, I am against the prophets," says the Lord, "who use their tongues and say, 'He says.' Behold, I am against those who prophesy false dreams," says the Lord, "and tell them, and cause My people to err by their lies and by their recklessness. Yet I did not send them or command them; therefore they shall not profit this people at all," says the Lord.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gradual: *Psalm 31:2b, 1a*



Be my `Rock of refuge:/ A fortress of de`fense to save me.

In You, O Lord, `I put my trust:/ Let me nev`er be ashamed.

Epistle: *Romans 8:12-17*

P: Therefore, *brethren*: we are debtors – not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PLEASE STAND

Alleluia Verse: *Psalm 78:1*

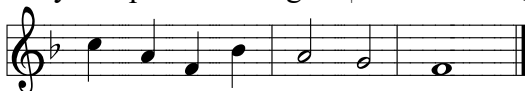
P: Alleluia! Alleluia! Give ear, O My people, to My law: Incline your ears to the words of My mouth. Alleluia!



C: Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

Holy Gospel: *St. Matthew 7:13-29*

P: The Holy Gospel according to † St. Matthew, the 13th chapter:



C: Glo - ry be to You, O Lord.

At that time Jesus said: Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them. Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord," shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?" And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!" "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

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,

Romans 10:10; Deuteronomy 6:4

Matthew 6:9; Exodus 6:3

**Maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

*Genesis 1:1; John 1:1
Colossians 1:16*

**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**

*Romans 10:9
John 3:16; Matthew 16:16
John 1:2
John 17:22; John 8:12; John 1:1
Colossians 2:9
John 1:2
John 10:30
Hebrews 1:1; John 1:3
1 Timothy 2:4; Romans 3:23
John 6:41; Luke 15:20
Luke 1:34-35
John 1:14*

**♦and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary
and was made man;**

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

Mark 15:25; John 19:16-18

He suffered and was buried;

John 19:1-3; Luke 23:53

and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures

1 Corinthians 15:4; Luke 24:6

and ascended into heaven,

Acts 1:9

and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

Acts 7:55

And He shall come again with glory

Matthew 26:64

to judge both the living and the dead;

Acts 10:42; Matthew 3:12

Whose kingdom shall have no end.

2 Peter 1:11

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

John 14:26; Genesis 1:2; Acts 2:38

the Lord and Giver of Life,

Genesis 1:2; John 3:6

Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

John 15:26

**Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified,**

Matthew 3:16-17; Luke 2:14

Who spoke by the Prophets.

Ezekiel 11:5; 2 Peter 1:20-21

And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church.

1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:19-22

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

Ephesians 4:5; Acts 2:38

And I look for the Resurrection of the dead

1 Corinthians 15:35-49; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

and the Life † of the world to come.

Mark 10:29-30; Matthew 10:40-42

Amen.

Psalms 106:48

Chief Hymn: 533, *Preserve Thy Word, O Savior* (Tune: 517)

**C: Preserve Thy Word, O Savior, To us this latter day
And let Thy kingdom flourish, Enlarge Thy Church, we pray.
O keep our faith from failing, Keep hope's bright star aglow.
Let naught from Thy Word turn us While wand'ring here below.**

**Preserve, O Lord, Thine honor, The bold blasphemer smite;
Convince, convert, enlighten The souls in error's night.
Reveal Thy will, dear Savior, To all who dwell below –
Thou Light of all the living – That men Thy name may know.**

**Preserve, O Lord, Thy Zion, Bought dearly with Thy blood;
Protect what Thou hast chosen Against the foe's dread brood.
Be Thou her great Defender When dangers gather round;
E'en though the earth be crumbling, Safe will Thy Church be found.**

**Preserve, O Lord, Thy children, Thine own blest heritage;
Resist, disperse, and scatter Those who against Thee rage.
Let Thy commandments guide us, Grant us Thy heav'nly food;
Clothe us in Thy rich garments, Bought with Thy precious blood.**

**Preserve Thy Word and preaching, The truth that makes us whole,
The mirror of Thy glory, The pow'r that saves the soul.
O may this living water, This dew of heav'nly grace,
Sustain us while here living Until we see Thy face!**

**Preserve in wave and tempest Thy storm-tossed little flock;
Assailed by wind and weather, May it endure each shock.
Take Thou the helm, O Pilot, And set the course aright;
Thus we shall reach the harbor In Thine eternal light.**

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

Offertory: pp. 70-71

Psalm 51:10-12



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Your pres - ence, and



take not Your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of



Your sal - va - tion; and up - hold me with Your free spir - it. A - men.

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

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Hymn of Preparation: *309, A Wondrous Mystery Is Here (Tune: 403)*

**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 mystery 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, Proper Preface: pp. 72-75

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136

P: The Lord be with you.



C: And with your spir - it.

P: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

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



C: It is good and right so to do.

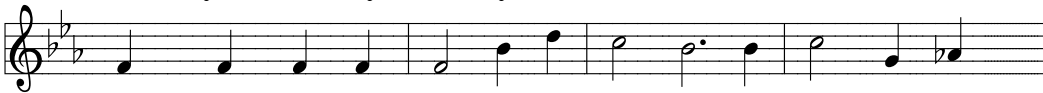
P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.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

Sanctus: p. 76

Isaiah 6:3; Mark 11:9-10; Revelation 4:8, 5:13



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



C: Heav'n and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho -



san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



Bless - ed is He, Bless - ed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Lord's Prayer: pp. 77-78

Matthew 6:9-13

P: Our Father ... †but deliver us from evil;



C: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the



glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Words of Institution: pp. 78-79

Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

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.

The Pax Domini: p. 79

John 20:19

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



C: A - men.

The Agnus Dei: pp. 79-80

John 1:29; Revelation 5:6, 12



C: O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world,



have mer - cy u - pon us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take a - way



the sin of the world, have mer - cy u - pon us. O Christ, the Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world, grant us Your peace.



A - men.

The Distribution of the Holy Communion 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.

Nunc Dimittis: pp. 81-82

Luke 2:29-32



C: Lord, now you let Your servant de - part in peace ac -



cord-ing to Your word, For my eyes have seen Your Salvation:



which You have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a Light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the Glo - ry of Your



peo - ple Is - ra - el. ♦Glo - ry be to the Father and



to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the beginning,



is now, and ev - er shall be, for - ev - er - more. A - men.

The Collect of Thanksgiving: pp. 82-83

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



C: And His mercy en - dures for - ev - er.

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: A - men.

The Salutation: p. 84

P: The Lord be with you.



C: And with your spir - it.

The Benedicamus: p. 84

1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 103

P: Let us bless the Lord.



C: Thanks be to God.

The Benediction: p. 84

Numbers 6:24-26

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: A - men, a - men, a - men.

Dismissal Hymn: 511, *Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide*

C: **Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide, For round us falls the eventide;
Nor let Thy Word, that heav'nly light, For us be ever veiled in night.**

**In these last days of sore distress Grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness
That pure we keep, till life is spent, Thy holy Word and Sacrament.**

**Lord, Jesus, help, Thy Church uphold, We are so sluggish, thoughtless, cold,
O prosper well Thy Word of grace And spread its truth in every place.**

**O keep us in Thy Word, we pray; The guile and rage of Satan stay!
O may Thy mercy never cease! Give concord, patience, courage, peace.**

**O God, how sin's dread works abound! Throughout the earth no rest is found,
And falsehood's spirit wide has spread, And error boldly rears its head.**

**And ever is there something new Devised to change Thy doctrines true;
Lord Jesus! as Thou still dost reign, Those vain presumptuous minds restrain;**

**And as the cause and glory, Lord, Are Thine, not ours, to us afford
Thy help and strength and constancy, And keep us ever true to Thee.**

**Thy Word shall fortify us hence, It is Thy Church's sure defense;
O let us in its pow'r confide, That we may seek no other guide.**

**O grant that in Thy holy Word We here may live and die, dear Lord;
And when our journey endeth here, Receive us into glory there.**

*It is a laudable custom to offer SILENT PRAYER
at the end of the Divine Service. See p. 40 in the front
of the hymnal.*

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)

The Flowers on the Altar Today are from the Lawsons, in celebration of their 27th Wedding Anniversary on August 8.

The Bible Study & Sunday School meet together for the opener at 12:30 in the parish hall. Today’s study gets into Genesis 12 and the story of the Israelite Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The Thursday study will start 1 Kings.

Childrens' Bulletin: Please be sure to take a copy of the childrens' bulletin home with you, to review with your kids or grandkids the Sunday gospel (or a related gospel) during the week.

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.

Albrecht & Norman Wedding: Peter Albrecht and Lydia Norman will be joined in Holy Marriage in a small family wedding at Concordia, Hood River in two weeks (Saturday, August 23).

Cleaning at Bethany
August 11-23
Rieses

The New Financial Report is 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.

Equipping the Priesthood of All Believers ... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. *Recent topics include: Alternatives to IVF, Evidence for Infant Baptism in the First Century, Adoption, Practical Insights from the Book of Numbers, The Lutheran View of the Lord's Supper and more.* You can listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn, the LPR mobile app and a podcast provider like Spotify.

Feasts, Commemorations, and Events this Week

Monday: Pastor at Bethany

Tuesday: Pastors' Monthly Study in Gresham

Wednesday: Pastor at Concordia

Thursday: Bible Study at Bethany, 10:00am

Friday: FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF ST. MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
Pastor at Bethany

Saturday: *Commemoration of Old Testament Patriarch, Isaac;* Pastor's Day Off

Next Sunday: *The Ninth Sunday After Trinity*

Concordia Service Holy Communion, 9:00am

Bethany Holy Communion, 11:00am

Bethany Bible Study & Sunday School, 12:30pm; Youth Catechesis, 1:45pm

Trinity 8 Hymn: Today's chief hymn, *Preserve Thy Word, O Savior* (ELH 533) was written by Andreas Gryphius (1616-1664), a theologically astute Lutheran layman, and well-known poet. His hymn is an all-embracing prayer for the preservation and extension of the Christian Church. Stanza 1 asks that God would enlarge His Kingdom. The concern is for people everywhere, and yet the concern is very personal: "Oh, keep our faith from failing." Stanza 2 is concerned with our neighbors who are not Christians: "Convince, convert, enlighten ... to all who dwell below." Stanzas 3 & 4 are then a prayer specifically for Zion – the Church itself – that she would be defended from all danger and false teaching, and be built up in the one true faith. Stanza 5 prays for that by which the Church is preserved: faithful pastors and the pure preaching of God's Word. The hymn concludes with the prayer that Christ would bring each little congregation over the wind and waves of life on the Last Day: "Thus we shall reach the harbor in Thine eternal light." This hymn is not only a prayer. It is a strong confession that the church belongs to God. He will defend and preserve His faithful people. He will extend His church according to His good will and pleasure.

Trinity 8: The relaxing lies our culture prophesies cannot even approach our Lord's promises (Jeremiah 23:16-18). We speak the Gospel of Jesus Christ boldly and gladly (Jeremiah 23:28-29), though it earns us persecution, because He sets great joy before us. In this faith we will sit around His throne with the cloud of witnesses His Word saved.

Prayer: *Lamb of God, You have given me Your people's crown of life; forge in me Your prophets' faith. Amen.*

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