



THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER  
TRINITY  
FEAST OF THE DORMITION  
OF ST. MARY, MOTHER OF  
GOD (AUGUST 15)

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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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*

AUGUST 17, 2025 † 11:00 A. M.

*the pastor about Holy Communion after the service.* In Christ, Pastor Lawson

† 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 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: 23, *Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now* (tune: 50)

**C:** Lord Jesus Christ, be present now, And let Thy Holy Spirit bow  
All hearts in love and fear today To hear the truth and keep Thy way.

Unseal our lips to sing Thy praise, Our hearts in true devotion raise,  
Our faith increase, our minds enlight That we may know Thy name aright

Until we join the host that cry, "Holy art Thou, O Lord most high!"  
And 'mid the light of that blest place Shall gaze upon Thee face to face.

Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To Thee, O blessed Trinity, Be praise throughout eternity!

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 54:4-5, 1-3, 7*



Antiphon **P**: Behold, God `is my helper:/ The LORD is with those who `uphold my life.  
He will repay my enemies `for their evil:/ Cut them off in `Your truth, O LORD.

**Psalm C**: Save me, O `God, by Your name:/ And vindicate `me by Your strength.  
**Hear `my prayer, O God:/ Give ear to the `words of my mouth.**

**For strangers have risen `up against me:/ They have not set `God before them.**

**He has delivered me out `of all trouble:/ And my eye has seen its desire upon `my enemies.**

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

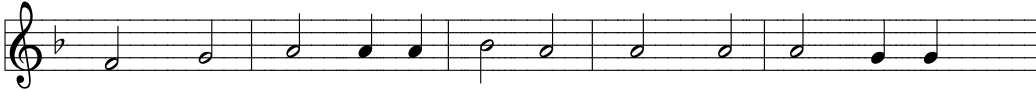
**As it was in the be`ginning, is now:/ and ever shall be, forever`more. Amen.**

Antiphon **C**: Behold, God `is my helper:/ The LORD is with those who `uphold my life.

**He will repay my enemies `for their evil:/ Cut them off in `Your truth, O LORD.**

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

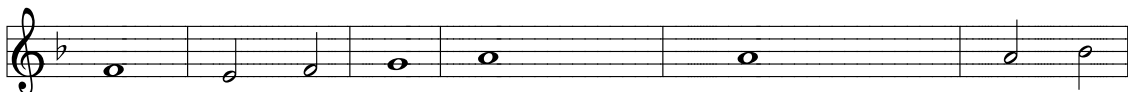
*Luke 2:14; John 1:29*



**P: Glory be to God on high:**



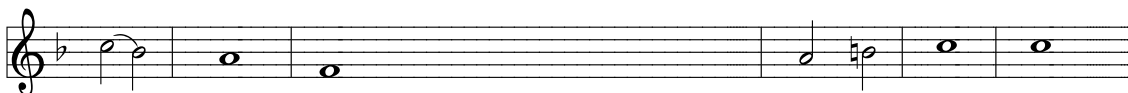
C: And on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise You, we bless



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



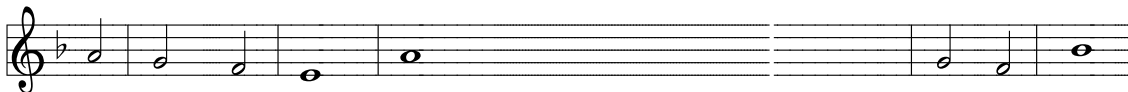
Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, ♦Je - sus Christ; O Lord



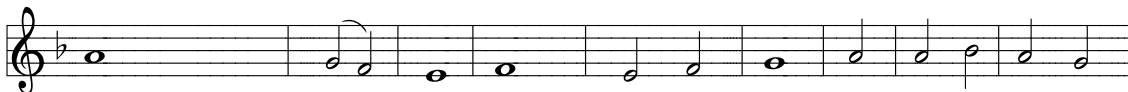
God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, You take away the sin of the



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.**

The Salutation and Collect for the Day: p. 66

2 Timothy 4:22

**P:** The Lord be with you.



**C: And with your spir - it.**

**P:** Let Your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of Your humble servants; and, that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as are pleasing to You; 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.**

Collect for the Dormition (“Falling Asleep”) of St. Mary, Mother of God

O God, You have taken to Yourself the blessed Mary, Mother of Your only Son: Grant that we who have been redeemed by His Blood may share with her the glory of Your eternal kingdom; through the same, 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: *1 Chronicles 29:10-13*

**P:** *In those days David* blessed the LORD before all the assembly; and David said: “Blessed

are You, LORD God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours in the kingdom, O LORD, and You are exalted as head over all. Both riches and honor come from You, and You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. Now therefore, our God, we thank You and praise Your glorious name.

**P:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gradual: *Psalm 8:1*



**O LORD, our LORD, how excellent is Your Name `in all the earth:/ Who have set Your glory a`bove the heavens.**

Epistle: *1 Corinthians 10:6-13*

**P:** *Brethren:* Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.” Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

**P:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PLEASE STAND**

Alleluia Verse: *Psalm 112:1*

**P:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD: Who delights greatly in His commandments. Alleluia!



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

Holy Gospel: *St. Luke 16:1-13*

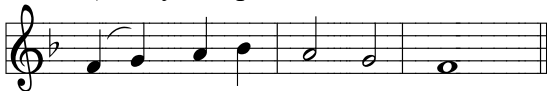
P: The Holy Gospel according to † St. Luke, the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter:



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

P: *At that time Jesus also said to His disciples:* There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. So he called him and said to him, “What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.” Then the steward said within himself, “What shall I do? For my master is taking the stewardship away from me. I cannot dig; I am ashamed to beg. I have resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.” So he called every one of his master's debtors to him, and said to the first, “How much do you owe my master?” And he said, “A hundred measures of oil.” So he said to him, “Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.” Then he said to another, “And how much do you owe?” So he said, “A hundred measures of wheat.” And he said to him, “Take your bill, and write eighty.” So the master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light. And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home. He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own? No servant 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.

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

<b>C: I believe in one God,</b>	<i>Romans 10:10; Deuteronomy 6:4</i>
<b>the Father Almighty,</b>	<i>Matthew 6:9; Exodus 6:3</i>
<b>Maker of heaven and earth</b>	<i>Genesis 1:1; John 1:1</i>
<b>and of all things visible and invisible.</b>	<i>Colossians 1:16</i>
<b>And in one Lord Jesus Christ,</b>	<i>Romans 10:9</i>
<b>the only-begotten Son of God,</b>	<i>John 3:16; Matthew 16:16</i>
<b>Begotten of His Father before all worlds,</b>	<i>John 1:2</i>
<b>God of God, Light of Light,</b>	<i>John 17:22; John 8:12; John 1:1</i>
<b>Very God of Very God,</b>	<i>Colossians 2:9</i>
<b>Begotten, not made,</b>	<i>John 1:2</i>
<b>Being of one substance with the Father,</b>	<i>John 10:30</i>
<b>By Whom all things were made;</b>	<i>Hebrews 1:1; John 1:3</i>
<b>Who for us men and for our salvation</b>	<i>1 Timothy 2:4; Romans 3:23</i>
<b>came down from heaven</b>	<i>John 6:41; Luke 15:20</i>
<b>♦and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary</b>	<i>Luke 1:34-35</i>
<b>and was made man;</b>	<i>John 1:14</i>
<b>and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.</b>	<i>Mark 15:25; John 19:16-18</i>
<b>He suffered and was buried;</b>	<i>John 19:1-3; Luke 23:53</i>
<b>and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures</b>	<i>1 Corinthians 15:4; Luke 24:6</i>
<b>and ascended into heaven,</b>	<i>Acts 1:9</i>
<b>and is seated at the right hand of the Father;</b>	<i>Acts 7:55</i>
<b>And He shall come again with glory</b>	<i>Matthew 26:64</i>
<b>to judge both the living and the dead;</b>	<i>Acts 10:42; Matthew 3:12</i>
<b>Whose kingdom shall have no end.</b>	<i>2 Peter 1:11</i>
<b>And I believe in the Holy Spirit,</b>	<i>John 14:26; Genesis 1:2; Acts 2:38</i>
<b>the Lord and Giver of Life,</b>	<i>Genesis 1:2; John 3:6</i>
<b>Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,</b>	<i>John 15:26</i>
<b>Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped</b>	
<b>and glorified,</b>	<i>Matthew 3:16-17; Luke 2:14</i>
<b>Who spoke by the Prophets.</b>	<i>Ezekiel 11:5; 2 Peter 1:20-21</i>
<b>And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church.</b>	<i>1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:19-22</i>
<b>I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,</b>	<i>Ephesians 4:5; Acts 2:38</i>

**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.**

*Psalm 106:48*

Chief Hymn: *182, One Thing Needful, sts. 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10*

**C: One thing needful! This one treasure Teach me, Savior, to esteem;  
Other things may promise pleasure, But are never what they seem;  
They prove to be burdens that vex us and chafe us,  
And true lasting happiness never vouchsafe us;  
This one precious treasure that all else exceeds,  
Gives joy above measure and fills all my needs.**

**Seekest thou the one thing needful, Leave all cares that hind'ring prove;  
Be of earthly joys unheedful, Fix thy heart on things above;  
For where God and man both in one are united,  
With God's perfect fullness the heart is delighted;  
There, there is the worthiest lot and the best,  
My one and my all, and my joy, and my rest.**

**Wisdom's foundatin ever-flowing Has its highest source in Thee.  
By Thy grace confine my going In Thy footsteps, trod for me;  
In which I with lowly and perfect submission  
May bend to Thy wisdom my will and ambition;  
And when, O my Savior, I know Thee aright  
I then shall have risen to wisdom's great height.**

**I have naught, my God, to offer, Save the blood of Thy dear Son;  
Graciously accept the proffer; Make His righteousness mine own.  
His holy life gave He, was crucified for me;  
His righteousness perfect He now pleads before Thee;  
His own robe of righteousness, my highest good,  
Shall clothe me in glory, through faith in His blood.**

**In Thine image then awaking, May my soul be all Thine own;  
Of Thy holy life partaking, Sanctified to Thee alone.  
For all that I need here, to serve and obey Thee,  
In Thee I receive – and my Savior, I pray Thee:  
From things transitory, absorbing my love,  
Withdraw mine affections, and fix them above.**

Jesus, in Thy cross are centered All the marvels of Thy grace;  
 Thou, my Savior, once hast entered Through Thy blood the holy place:  
 Thy sacrifice holy there wrought my redemption,  
 From Satan's dominion I now have exemption;  
 The way is now free to the Father's high throne,  
 Where I may approach Him, in Thy name alone.

Henceforth Thou alone, my Savior, Shall be all in all to me.  
 Search my heart and my behavior, Cast out all hypocrisy.  
 Restrain me from wand'ring in pathways unholy,  
 And throughout life's pilgrimage keep my heart lowly;  
 I'll value but lightly earth's treasure and store:  
 Thou art the One needful, and mine evermore!

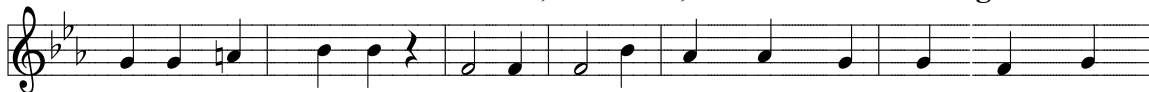
Sermon: Christ is in our midst. He is and ever shall be.

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 Rite of the Reception of New Communicant Members

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

Hymn of Preparation: 324, *O Jesus, at Your Altar Now*

**C: O Jesus, at Your altar now In penitence and faith I bow  
Before God's precious Paschal Lamb, Who bears the world's great sin and shame.**

**My heart to You I gladly bring, So sorely wounded by my sin,  
And healing find in that great tide That flows from out Your wounded side.**

**Today I am my Savior's guest; My soul, consider this great feast;  
He bids you now to sit at meat With Him – and of Himself to eat.**

**Here tenders He in form of bread His body, which for you did bleed;  
And in the wine His royal blood, Of grace a precious purple flood.**

**Eat, drink, and in your heart be glad For such food angels never had;  
And for the cup your Lord now thank, Which heaven's angels never drank.**

**I trust and know what I obtain Is far above my mind's domain.  
My Jesus here entire and whole Is food and drink for my poor soul.**

**Look earthward, angels, now with me And honor this great mystery,  
That Jesus, set at God's right hand Is here in bond and testament.**

**In heav'nly gladness dwells our Head, Yet is He here in this blest bread.  
There dwells He in His pow'r divine, Yet gives Himself in this blest wine.**

**How this can be I do not know; He has not willed the way to show;  
Such streams my reason ought not ford; I only need to trust His Word.**

**My soul, your spirit now expand That e'en a servant's lowly hand  
May freely here the pledge bestow That God has cursed Himself for you.**

**Your table, Lord, grants me great pow'r, Here find I heav'n's life-giving show'r;  
It is my heart's strong, sure defense, It is my trust and confidence.**

**This feast which You in truth prepared As our salvation's firmest guard,  
Is now my hope, refreshing me, My life's desire eternally.**

**On this blest table e'er shall be Your body/blood once shed for me;  
Therefore I cast the world aside And in Your saving grace abide**

**Until You wholly me translate To be with You in heav'nly state,  
Where honor shall my life attend And joy in You shall never end.**

## 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.



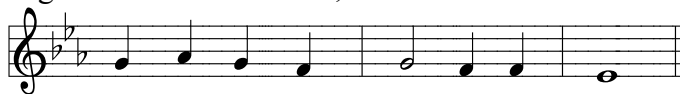
**C:** And with your spir - it.

**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: 588, *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing* (tune: 114)

C: Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing; Fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
Let us each, Thy love possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us, O refresh us, Trav'ling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration For Thy Gospel's joyful sound.  
May the fruits of Thy salvation In our hearts and lives abound.  
May Thy presence, may Thy presence With us evermore be found.

So that when Thy love shall call us, Savior, from the world away,  
Fear of death shall not appall us, Glad Thy summons to obey.  
May we ever, may we ever Reign with Thee in endless day.

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)

**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 on Saturday at 11:00am.

**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.

**The Light of God’s Word in a World of Darkness ... 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 teachings include: Biblical Manhood, Loving Your LGBTQ Neighbor Without Compromise, The Death of Mainline Protestantism, Gen Z Women & the Church and more.* You can listen on-demand at [issuesetc.org](http://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; Youth Catechesis, 1:30pm

**Tuesday:** *Commemoration of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Doctor of the Church*  
Pastor at Bethany; Hope Clinic Board Meeting in The Dalles, 5:00pm

**Wednesday:** *Commemoration of Old Testament Prophet, Samuel;*  
Pastor at Concordia, Youth Catechesis, 1:30pm

**Thursday:** Bible Study at Bethany, 10:00am

**Friday:** Pastor at Bethany; Wedding Rehearsal at Concordia, 4:30pm

**Saturday:** Albrecht & Norman Wedding at Concordia, 11:00am

**Next Sunday:** *The Tenth 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 9:** Temptations to idolatry exist today as they did in biblical times. The great idol “Death” draws many to its altar. They look to death for rescue from a crisis pregnancy or chronic disease or pain. Death’s allure is so great it even tempts Christians to bow before it. But we have a way out of such temptations to faithlessness: “God is faithful” (1 Corinthians 10:1-13). Christ our “Rock” never leaves us (10:4). We can trust in Him.

**Prayer:** *Rock of our salvation, may Your faithful service to us through Your cross and resurrection move us to be faithful to You. Amen.*

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

**Trinity 9 Hymn:** The Christian life is different from those around us on account of what our treasure is; on account of whom we serve: Jesus. This is the emphasis of today's CHIEF HYMN, *One Thing Needful* (ELH 182). The hymn was written by the Lutheran Pietist Johann H. Schroeder (1667-1699), who served as pastor in Meseberg. It was published in 1697 under the title: *One thing is needful, Luke 10:42*. "But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" (1 Cor. 1:30). The Biblical basis is in general as indicated above. The various stanzas follow the references in detail as follows: 1. But one thing is needful, Luke 10:42; 2. Where this is to be sought, in the Son of God, Col. 2:9; 3 and 4. How it is to be found, John 6:63 and the following; 5-9. The treasure we have in this one thing: wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, 1 Cor. 1:30; 10. How we are to strive after it with all our soul, Ps. 139:23-24; Phil. 3:8-9. Using the example of Mary and Martha, the hymn shows Christ as our Treasure, our true source of life. Sitting at Jesus' feet and hearing His teaching, "Mary's heart burning with fervent emotion, was quickened to serve [Him] with perfect devotion; And there filled with love for her Savior and Lord, Was, with the One needful, in blessed accord" (st. 3). So also, in Christ, Christians put aside anything that keeps us from His Word and Sacraments: "Thus, O Jesus, my endeavor Is to be forever Thine" (st. 4). For Christians, all time and responsibilities revolve around our Treasure: The Divine Service, daily prayer, and life in God's Word. For it is from here that "[Jesus'] own robe of righteousness, my highest good, shall clothe me in glory, through faith in His blood" (st. 6). The Word and Sacraments deliver to us all the gifts of Jesus' cross. Through faith in Jesus "the way is now free to the Father's high throne" (st. 8). In Jesus God's people are the possessors of "joys unnumbered, peace and blessing [and] comforts full and free" and sweetest communion which lasts eternally (st. 9). This hymn is truly one of the marvels of Lutheran hymnody. Stanzas 6 and 8 in particular are worthy of learning by heart and repeated meditation. The pleasing and easy-to-sing tune make this hymn a true treasure indeed!