



THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church
2323 E. 12th St. The Dalles, OR 97058
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gorgelutherans.com

Rev. Rob Lawson, Pastor (760) 715-3993
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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

OCTOBER 5, 2025 † 11:00 A. M.

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

† 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: 573, *O Lord, My God, I Cry to Thee*

**C: O Lord, my God, I cry to Thee; In my distress Thou helpest me.
My soul and body I commend Into Thy hands; Thine angel send
To guide me home and cheer my heart When Thou dost call me to depart.**

**O Jesus Christ, Thou Lamb of God, Once slain to take away our load,
Now let Thy cross, Thine agony, Avail to save and solace me,
Thy death, to open heav'n, and there Bid me the joy of angels share.**

**O Holy Spirit, faithful Friend, Grant me Thy comfort to the end.
When death and hell assail me sore Leave me, oh, leave me, nevermore,
But bear me safely through the strife, As Thou has promised, into life.**

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

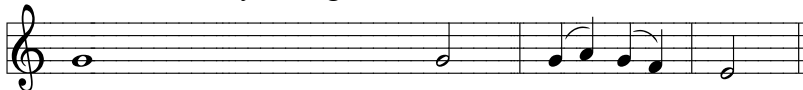
P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, beseech Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

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 86:3, 5, 1, 7, 12, 13*



Antiphon **P:** Be merciful `to me, O LORD:/ For I cry to `You all day long.

For You, Lord, are good, and rea`dy to forgive:/ And abundant in mercy to all those who `call upon You.

Psalm **C:** **Bow down Your ear, `O Lord, hear me:/ For I am `poor and needy.**

In the day of my trouble I will `call upon You:/ For You `will answer me.

I will praise You, O Lord my God, `with all my heart:/ And I will glorify

Your name `forevermore.

For great is Your `mercy toward me:/ And You have delivered my soul from the `depths of Sheol.

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:** **Be merciful `to me, O LORD:/ For I cry to `You all day long.**

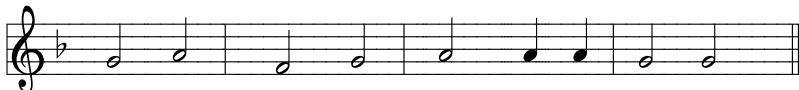
For You, Lord, are good, and rea`dy to forgive:/ And abundant in mercy to all those who `call upon You.

The Kyrie Eleison (form I): p. 63

Mark 10:47; Luke 17:13



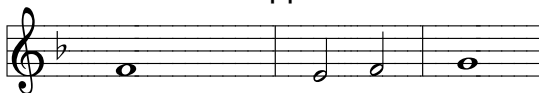
C: Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ have mer - cy up -



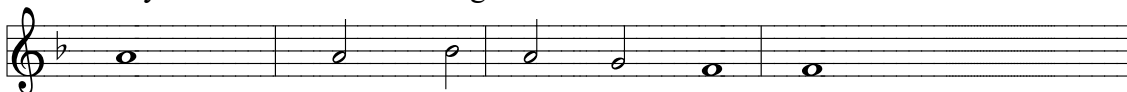
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis: pp. 64-66

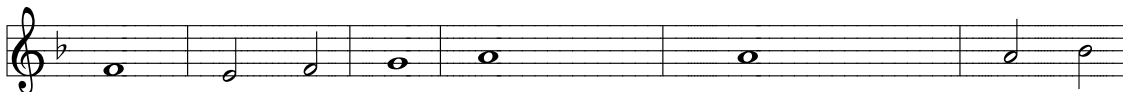
Luke 2:14; John 1:29



P: Glory be to God on high:



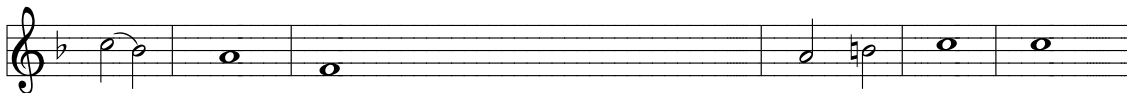
C: And on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise You, we bless



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



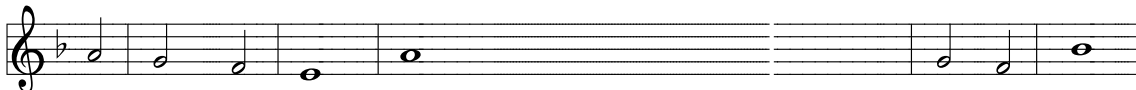
Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, ♦ Je - sus Christ; O Lord



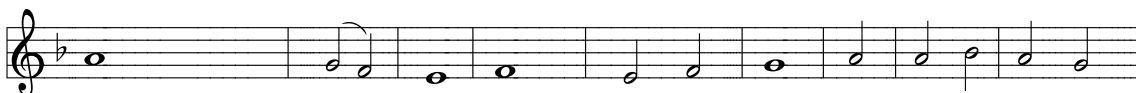
God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, You take away the sin of the



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: Lord, we pray that Your grace may always go before and follow after us, that we may be continually given to all good works; 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: *1 Kings 17:17-24*

P: Now, *in those days*, it happened after these things that the son of the woman of Zarapheth who owned the house became sick. And his sickness was so serious that there was no breath left in him. So she said to Elijah, “What have I to do with you, O man of God? Have you come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to kill my son?” And he said to her, “Give me your son.” So he took him out of her arms and carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed. Then he cried out to the LORD and said, “O LORD my God, have You also brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?” And he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the LORD and said, “O LORD my God, I pray, let this child's soul come back to him.” Then the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived. And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house, and gave him to his mother. And Elijah said, “See, your son lives!” Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is the truth.

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

Hymn: *252, I Walk in Danger All the Way, sts. 3, 5, 6*

C: **Death doth pursue me all the way; Nowhere I rest securely.
He comes by night, he comes by day, And takes his prey most surely.
A failing breath, and I In death's strong grasp may lie
To face eternity for aye. Death doth pursue me all the way.**

**I walk with Jesus all the way; His guidance never fails me.
Within His wounds I find a stay When Satan's pow'r assails me,
And, by His footsteps led, My path I safely tread.
In spit of ills that threaten may, I walk with Jesus all the way.**

**My walk is heav'nward all the way; Await, my soul, the morrow,
When thou shalt find release for aye From all thy sin and sorrow.
All worldly pomp, begone! To heav'n I now press on.
For all the world I would not stay; My walk is heav'nward all the way.**

Gradual: *Psalm 102:15-16*



C: The nations shall fear the `name of the Lord:/ And all the kings of the `earth Your glory.
For the Lord shall `build up Zion:/ He shall appear `in His glory.

Epistle: *Ephesians 3:13-21*

P: *Brethren:* I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height -- to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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

PLEASE STAND

Alleluia Verse: *Psalm 115:11*

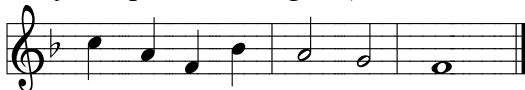
P: Alleluia! Alleluia! You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD: He is their Help and their Shield. `Alleluia!



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

Holy Gospel: *St. Luke 7:11-17*

P: The Holy Gospel according to † St. Luke, the 7th chapter:



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

P: Now it happened *at that time*, that Jesus went into a city called Nain; and many of His

disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has risen up among us”; and, “God has visited His people.” And this report about Him went throughout all Judea and all the surrounding region.

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

<p>C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.</p> <p>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</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">♦and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man;</p> <p>and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried;</p>	<p><i>Romans 10:10; Deuteronomy 6:4 Matthew 6:9; Exodus 6:3 Genesis 1:1; John 1:1 Colossians 1:16</i></p> <p><i>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 Mark 15:25; John 19:16-18 John 19:1-3; Luke 23:53</i></p>
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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: 477, *The Will of God Is Always Best*

C: The will of God is always best And shall be done forever;
And they who trust in Him are blest, He will forsake them never.
He helps indeed In time of need, He chastens with forbearing;
Thy who depend on God their Friend, Shall not be left despairing.

God is my Comfort and my Trust, My Hope and Life abiding;
And to His counsel, wise and just, I yield, in Him confiding.
The very hairs, His Word declares, Upon my head He numbers.
By night and day God is my Stay, He never sleeps nor slumbers.

Lord Jesus, this I ask of Thee, Deny me not this favor:
When Satan sorely troubles me, Then do not let me waver.
Keep watch and ward, O gracious Lord, Fulfill Thy faithful saying:
Who doth believe He shall receive An answer to his praying.

When life's brief course on earth is run And I this world am leaving,
Grant me to say: "Thy will be done," By faith to Thee still cleaving.
My heav'nly Friend, I now commend My soul into Thy keeping,
O'er sin and hell, And death as well, Through Thee the vict'ry reaping.

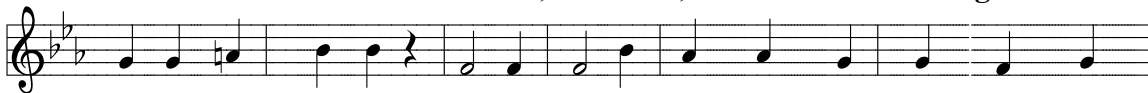
Sermon: Christ is in our midst. **He is and ever shall be.**

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.**

Hymn of Preparation: 343, *Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands*

**C: Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands, For our offenses given;
But now at God's right hand He stands And brings us life from heaven;
Therefore let us joyful be And sing to God right thankfully
Loud songs of alleluia! Alleluia!**

**No son of man could conquer death, Such mischief sin had wrought us,
For innocence dwelt not on earth, And therefore death had brought us
Into thralldom from of old And ever grew more strong and bold
And kept us in its bondage. Alleluia!**

**But Jesus Christ, God's only Son, To our low state descended,
The cause of death He has undone, Its pow'r forever ended,
Ruined all its right and claim And left it nothing but the name,
Its sting is lost forever. Alleluia!**

**It was a strange and dreadful strife When life and death contended.
The victory remained with life, The reign of death was ended;
Holy Scripture plainly saith That death is swallowed up by death,
In vain it rages o'er us. Alleluia!**

**Here the true Paschal Lamb we see, Whom God so freely gave us;
He died on the accursed tree – So strong His love – to save us.
See, His blood doth mark our door; Faith points to it, death passes o'er,
And Satan cannot harm us. Alleluia!**

**So let us keep the festival Whereto the Lord invites us;
Christ is Himself the Joy of all, The Sun that warms and lights us.
By His grace He doth impart Eternal sunshine to the heart;
The night of sin is ended. Alleluia!**

**Then let us feast this Easter Day On Christ, the Bread of heaven;
The Word of Grace hath purged away The old and evil leaven.
Christ alone our souls will feed, He is our meat and drink indeed;
Faith lives upon no other. Alleluia!**

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

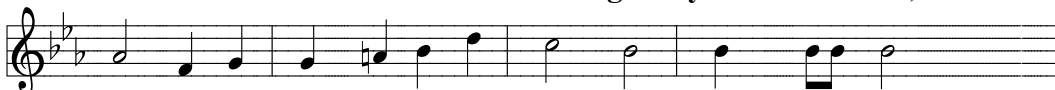
Isaiah 6:3; Mark 11:9-10; Revelation 4:8, 5:13



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



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 faithful **may** make the sign of the cross.*

*As each sacred species is elevated, the faithful **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 faithful **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

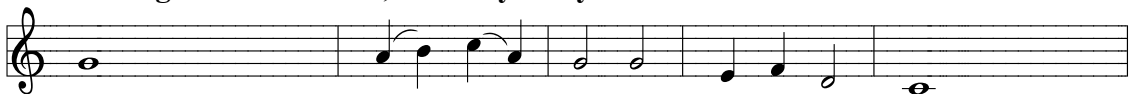
Luke 2:29-32



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

P: Let us bless the Lord.



C: Thanks be to God.

1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 103

The Benediction: p. 84

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.

Numbers 6:24-26



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

Dismissal Hymn: 473, *For Me to Live Is Jesus*

C: For me to live is Jesus, To die is gain to me;
Then, whensoe'er He pleases, I meet death willingly.

For Christ, my Lord and Brother, I leave this world so dim
And gladly seek that other, Where I shall be with Him.

My woes are nearly over, Though long and dark the road;
My sin His merits cover, And I have peace with God.

Lord, when my pow'rs are failing, My breath comes heavily,
And words are unavailing, O hear my sighs to Thee.

When mind and thought, O Savior, Are flick'ring like a light
That to and fro doth waver Ere 'tis extinguished quite,

**In that last hour, O grant me To slumber soft and still,
No doubts to vex or haunt me, Safe anchored on Thy will;**

**And so to Thee still cleaving Through all death's agony,
To fall asleep believing And wake in heav'n with Thee.**

**Amen! Thou, Christ, my Savior, Wilt grant this unto me.
Thy Spirit lead me ever That I fare happily.**

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. The Sunday study is covering Genesis 14 and is in the middle of a discussion of the figure of Melchizedek, the mysterious Priest of God Most High who greeted Abraham after his rescue of Lot and is a figure of Christ. We will hopefully also get into Genesis 15 and God’s Covenant with Abraham. The Thursday study is working through 1 Kings.

Cleaning at Bethany
October 6-18
Lawsons/Steve Klaviter

Hope Medical Clinic’s Walk for Hope was a success yesterday. There were several walkers total and even more participants at the after party at Jackson Park. Thank you to everyone who gave a donation for the event. Thank you to the Voters of Bethany for

approving a \$1000 contribution to this annual fundraiser. Hope will continue to receive donations to the Walk for about another week or so. So if you haven't given yet, but would like to, there is still time.

With Reverence and Awe, a podcast of the Johannes Bugenhagen Liturgical Institute: The new episode of the Institute's podcast deals with *the Kirk effect*. Pastor Caleb Strutz and Mr. Jeremy Aiello (both Institute board members) explore the claim that there is a new spiritual revival taking place in America, and a renewed interest in Christian faith especially among young people, in the wake of Charlie Kirk's assassination.

New Lutheran Sentinels: There are still a few copies of the new *Lutheran Sentinel* on the table in the entryway. This issue is the annual rehearsal of the synod convention that took place in June. It includes the convention essay by Pr. Jay Webber on Luther's treatise *The Bondage of the Will*. If you have not received your copy, Please take one on the way out of church today. Only one copy per household, please!

Elders, please talk to Pastor after church about having a meeting.

Gifts & Offerings: Copies of the new *treasurer's report* are on the table in the entryway. Each month a new report is published. Please keep yourself apprised of the congregation's finances. Our treasury is looking kind of low right now. We are very thankful to have so many generous brothers & sisters in Christ here at Bethany Lutheran Church. Moving forward, though, please prayerfully consider your gifts to the work the Lord of the Church has appointed for His people to do here.

Possible Joint Parish Reformation Service: Reformation Sunday is the last Sunday in October as usual (Oct. 26). Is there interest in making it a joint Parish Service at 10:00am with a dinner afterwards, as we did last year? Since the last joint Service was at Concordia (the Epiphany Service last January), this time it would be at Bethany. Please let Pastor know what you think. If the majority at both churches are in favor of the idea (or, at least, are not against it), then that's what we will do.

Feasts, Commemorations, and Events this Week

Monday: *Commemoration of Pastor Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg, Father of American Lutheranism; Pastor at Bethany*

Tuesday: Pastor at Bethany

Wednesday: *Commemoration of OT Patriarch, Abraham; Pastor at Concordia*

Thursday: Bible Study at Bethany, 10am; Adult Catechesis at Concordia, 4:30pm

Friday: *Commemoration of NT Deacon, Philip, Holy Man; Pastor at Bethany*

Saturday: Pastor's Day Off

Next Sunday: *The Seventeenth Sunday After Trinity*

Concordia Service of the Word, 9:00am

Bethany Holy Communion, 11:00am

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

Why is the Gradual inserted between the Readings?

The Gradual, which consists in the chanting of a psalm or part thereof, is so called because there was formerly a step, called the *gradine*, on which the reader stood to chant the psalm following the first reading. Traditionally there have been four parts of the Mass sung by the choir: Introit, Gradual, Offertory, and Communion. Unlike the other three, the Gradual did not arise from the desire or need to fill up the time during which something else was being done in the Mass, but is probably as old as the Readings themselves. The idea of interspersing a psalm or psalms with the Readings appointed for the day is a practice carried over from the synagogue. This insertion of a psalm between the Readings helps to provide a stream of faith's "language," a mind-set or "zon" of thought springing primarily from the Psalter, in the midst of which the Readings are heard. Introit, Psalm, and Sentence all serve this same purpose. The words of faith's language flow around and through the Readings, and indicate that the Word of God is itself living and active, like a river or stream.

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