

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope*  
AUGUST 4, 2024 PASTOR ELAINA SALMON

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

*(Please stand.)*

THE GATHERING

**Gathering Song** “*O Christ, Surround Me*”

*God, be the love to search and keep me;  
God, be the prayer to move my voice;  
God, be the strength to now uphold me:*

*Refrain  
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*

*Bind to myself the name of Holy,  
great cloud of witnesses enfold;  
prophets, apostles, angels witness: Refrain*

*Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight,  
flashing of lightning, strength of wind,  
depth of the sea to soil of planet: Refrain*

*Walking behind to hem my journey,  
going ahead to light my way,  
and from beneath, above, and all ways: Refrain*

*Christ in the eyes of all who see me,  
Christ in the ears that hear my voice,  
Christ in the hearts of all who know me: Refrain*

**Call to Worship**

L We gather in the name of the Creator,  
C **inviting us always to risk the unknown.**  
L We gather in the name of the Christ,  
C **fully human, fully divine, full of gift and mystery.**  
L We gather in the name of the Spirit,  
C **unveiling for us what feels long-hidden. Amen.**

## Greeting

- L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
C **And also with you.**

## Hymn of Praise      *“We Eat the Bread of Teaching”*

### *Refrain*

*We eat the bread of teaching,  
drink wine of wisdom,  
are given here a taste of the kingdom.  
Together joined, the greatest and the least,  
we all are one at Wisdom's holy feast.*

*Wisdom calls throughout the city,  
knows our hunger, and in pity  
gives her loving invitation  
to the banquet of salvation. Refrain*

*Simple ones whose hearts are yearning,  
come and gain from Wisdom's learning;  
bread and wine she is preparing,  
know her loving in the sharing. Refrain*

*Enter with delight and singing,  
for her richness now is bringing  
us this joyful celebration;  
eat and drink in jubilation. Refrain*

## Prayer of the Day

- L O God, you know our whole selves – small, and grown, and everything in between. Help us to remember that you are always calling us to be ever more our full selves, your good creation made manifest in the world.  
C **Amen.**

## THE WORD

## Acclamation      *“Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom”*

*Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,  
she who danced when earth was new.  
Follow closely what she teaches,  
for her words are right and true.  
Wisdom clears the path to justice,  
showing us what love must do.*

*(Please be seated.)*

### **The First Reading** Luke 2:41-52

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

**Reflection**      **Erin Kissick**

*(Please stand.)*

### **Hymn of the Day**      *"Faith Begins by Letting Go"*

*Faith begins by letting go,  
giving up what had seemed sure,  
taking risks and pressing on,  
though the way feels less secure:  
pilgrimage both right and odd,  
trusting all our life to God.*

*Faith endures by holding on,  
keeping mem'ry's roots alive  
so that hope may bear its fruit;  
promise-fed, our souls will thrive,  
not through merit we possess  
but by God's great faithfulness.*

*Faith matures by reaching out,  
stretching minds, enlarging hearts,  
sharing struggles, living prayer,  
binding up the broken parts;  
till we find the commonplace  
ripe with witness to God's grace.*

## Prayers of the People

A Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*(a moment of silence.)*

A O Wise One, your wisdom has been present in this world since its beginning. Pour out your wisdom into the hearts of the whole church, especially the newly baptized, lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Holy God of all creation, you are the source of all life. Where the sun blazes hard and strong, bring a gentle breeze. In the places experiencing the cold of winter, bring your warmth. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Compassionate God, help government leaders of this world unite for peace and justice. Humble all who hold authority, that power is directed toward a more just society. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Bread of life from heaven, you feed us. Fill all who hunger with needed nutrition and open our hearts to eliminate hunger in this world. May we see a day when all are fed. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A O Wisdom of truth, help us to understand your will for the church. Be with congregations experiencing transition, redevelopment, and the exciting yet frightening path of newness. May your wisdom be found at every step. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Redeeming God, we give you thanks for the lives and witness of your saints now departed. Bring your beloved into eternal glory, opening wide the gates to the heavenly banquet. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

**C Amen.**

## Sharing of Christ's Peace

L The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

*(You may share the sign of peace with a handshake, jazz hands, a peace sign, or a bow. Please stay near your seats to do so.)*

*(Please be seated.)*

## THANKSGIVING

### Invitation to the Offering

L For the sake of God's reign, let us offer our gifts as an act of love for God and our neighbor.

### Offering

*(Our offering is an act of worship and thanksgiving for all God has first given us. Our gifts support the mission of the church to "nurture with love and serve with hope.")*

*(Please stand.)*

### Offertory Song      *"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

### Offertory Prayer

A God of every good thing, you provide for us in every season of our lives. Help us to open our hands, open our lives, to your whole creation, that we might prioritize justice over wealth, truth over reputation, people over profits.

C **Amen.**

### Thanksgiving for the Word

L Let us pray.

L Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C **we give you thanks and praise.**

L By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

C **we give you thanks and praise.**

L Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

C **we give you thanks and praise.**

- L Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.
- C **Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

- L Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,
- C **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### SENDING

#### Blessing

- L May God bless us with curiosity to continue growing into our full self.  
May God keep us steady in the face of all that is unknown.  
May God's face shine on us as we seek new answers to old questions being born anew.
- C **Amen.**

#### Sending Song "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

*I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.*

#### Refrain

*In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

*I want to see the brightness of God.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,  
and show me the way to the Father. Refrain*

*I'm looking for the coming of Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
we shall know the joy of Jesus. Refrain*

## Dismissal

L Go in peace to nurture with love and serve with hope.

C **Thanks be to God!**

## *PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY*

EJ Ahlberg	Nancy Iwan	Charlotte Pohlman
MariLynn Bergmark	Monica Johnson	Misty Pounder
Sharon Bolerjack	Pat Johnson	Linda Ray
Scott Browne	Zepplyn Killmer	Brilee Robbins
Anthony Campagna	Lenny Kobilca	Ken Rose
Gary Cobbett	Erica Lai	Frank Roy
Sidney Colburn	Rev. John Lang	Joseph Rymkey
Jim Connelly	Nancy Lang	Ben Sabourin
Beau Dowling	Sue Luchon	George Scheel
Finley Engnell	Scott Lundgren	Bernie Schroeder
Elwood Faulhaber	Bill Lynch	Tim Schroeder
Judy Faulhaber	Dede Machowski	Virginia Schroeder
Abby Galvin	Hanna Mau	Sharon Skopec
David Gilchrist	Jim McKeever	Gene Sobba
Mary Hately	Ruth Ann Miller	Gary Sperka
Liz Hawkinson	Omni Rook Myers	Dom Thielmann
Marie Heeren	Linda Nelson	Chuck Vlcek
Mike Hoffman	Jane Nilles	Kyle Williams
Bob Hoster	Dave Nommenson	

For Sean Acosta, Dustin Johnson, Steve Kleinfelder, Damen McDermott, Chad Peters, Mitch Pohlman and all others serving our country and their families.

For those we name in our hearts, and for those who have not yet found Jesus.

### Acknowledgements

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Call to Worship, Prayer of the Day, Offertory Prayer and Blessing by Rev. Andrea Roske-Metcalf, The Good Book, Summer Series in a Box Vol 1 (2024)

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*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934 Text © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SERVING TODAY** — Erin Kissick and Bill McAdam

**MUSICIANS** — Sandy Doebert and Sue Gray

**TECH CREW** — Gary Gray, Sue Gray and Zach Howell

### **PRAYER GROUP**

Our monthly Prayer Group will meet on Wednesday, August 7 at 7pm in the sanctuary. Please use the back door into the sanctuary (southside of building, facing the parsonage). If you need other arrangements, please let Pr. Elaina know.

### **BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING!**

Join us on Sunday, August 11 for a Back to School Blessing! Educators and students from preschool through college are welcome to participate.

**A DONATION TO THE GENERAL FUND** was given by Daniel Kallemeyn.

**A DONATION TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE STAINED-GLASS FUND** was given in memory of Martha Walsh by Betty Tenbroeck.

### **MUSIC AVAILABLE**

If you like to follow along with the music for our worship songs, we have some song packets available at the back of the sanctuary.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING** is available to support Bethany Lutheran Church. It is fast, easy and secure. You can schedule a weekly or monthly contribution that is automatically debited from your savings or checking account. Make a one-time donation to a special fund; even direct the gift in honor or in memory of someone. Visit our website: [bethanylemont.org](http://bethanylemont.org) and click the Donate button on the homepage.