

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH <i>Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope</i> SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 PASTOR ELAINA SALMON

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

(Please stand.)

THE GATHERING

Presentation of Losey First Fruit Gifts

Gathering Song “O God of Mercy, God of Light”

*O God of mercy, God of light,
in love and mercy infinite,
teach us, as ever in your sight,
to live our lives in you.*

*Teach us the lesson Jesus taught:
to feel for those his blood has bought,
that ev'ry deed and word and thought
may work a work for you.*

*For all are kindred, far and wide,
since Jesus Christ for all has died;
grant us the will, and grace provide,
to love them all in you.*

*In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
may we each other's burdens share;
may we, where help is needed, there
give help as though to you.*

Greeting

P 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.**

Kyrie

Refrain

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,

Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;

for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord Refrain

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;

that we may live out truth and justice and grace,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord Refrain

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;

for life and for love, for our work and our play,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord Refrain

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;

that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord Refrain

Prayer of the Day

P Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life.
Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your
promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

C Amen.

(Please be seated.)

THE WORD

The First Reading Isaiah 35:4-7a

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,

with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,

and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146

A Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

C **I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

A Put not your trust in rulers,
in mortals in whom there is no help.

C **When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.**

A Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

C **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

A who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The Lord sets the captive free.

C **The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.**

A The Lord cares for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates
the way of the wicked.

C **The Lord shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

Second Reading James 2:1-10, 14-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand.)

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Mark 7:24-37

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded

beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated.)

Sermon Rev. Elaina Salmon

(Please stand.)

Hymn of the Day “Let Streams of Living Justice Flow”

*Let streams of living justice
flow down upon the earth;
give freedom's light to captives,
let all the poor have worth.
The hungry's hands are pleading,
the workers claim their rights,
the mourners long for laughter,
the blinded seek for sight.
Make liberty a beacon,
strike down the iron pow'r;
abolish ancient vengeance:
proclaim your people's hour.*

*For healing of the nations,
for peace that will not end,
for love that makes us lovers,
God grant us grace to mend.
Weave our varied gifts together;
knit our lives as they are spun;
on your loom of time enroll us
till our thread of life is run.
O great weaver of our fabric,
bind church and world in one;
dye our texture with your radiance,
light our colors with your sun.*

*Your city's built to music;
we are the stones you seek;
your harmony is language;
we are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service,
our hope in others' dreams,
our love in hand of neighbor;
our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice;
your way—the path untried;*

*your truth—the heart of stranger;
your life—the Crucified.*

Prayers of the People

A Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

(a moment of silence)

A Awaken in our communities of faith a spirit of radical hospitality. Encourage our churches to celebrate and embrace people of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and abilities. Deepen our commitment to ecumenical and interreligious partnerships. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Bring forth water to nourish plants and animals in places suffering from drought. Renew our commitments to protect rivers, lakes, and streams, and make us good stewards of water in our homes and communities. Preserve wetland habitats and the creatures that make their homes there. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Inspire leaders of cities, nations, and tribes to lead with wisdom and humility. Bring peace among peoples in conflict and strengthen global commitments to nonviolent solutions. Guide all who seek refuge from war to a safe haven. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Comfort all who live with chronic illness. Surround them in your tender embrace and sustain all who provide ongoing care and support. Bring hope and healing to people struggling with addiction and nourish the spirits of all who are in recovery. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Nurture in all people the gift of your creating Spirit. Inspire artists and musicians, woodworkers and quilters, poets and dancers. Revive those whose artistic wells have run dry and enliven all who doubt their creative talents. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We pray for our children and youth who start Sunday School and Confirmation today. This year may they grow in their love and trust in you. May we always welcome their questions, gifts, and laughter with open hearts. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We give you thanks for all who have died and now find their rest in you. May their faithful witness guide us in our daily life with you. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

Sharing of Christ's Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

(Please be seated.)

THE MEAL

Invitation to the Offering

P Let us joyfully share our abundance with others, as trust in God who provides for all our needs.

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 “This is Christ’s Body”

This is Christ's body, broken and blest.

Feed us with mercy and love.

We are Christ's body, broken and blest.

Heal us and make us one.

Offertory Prayer

A Blessed are you, O God,
source of every gift of your creation.
By these gifts and with our lives,
help us to serve one another and all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,

who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P 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.**

Invitation to Communion

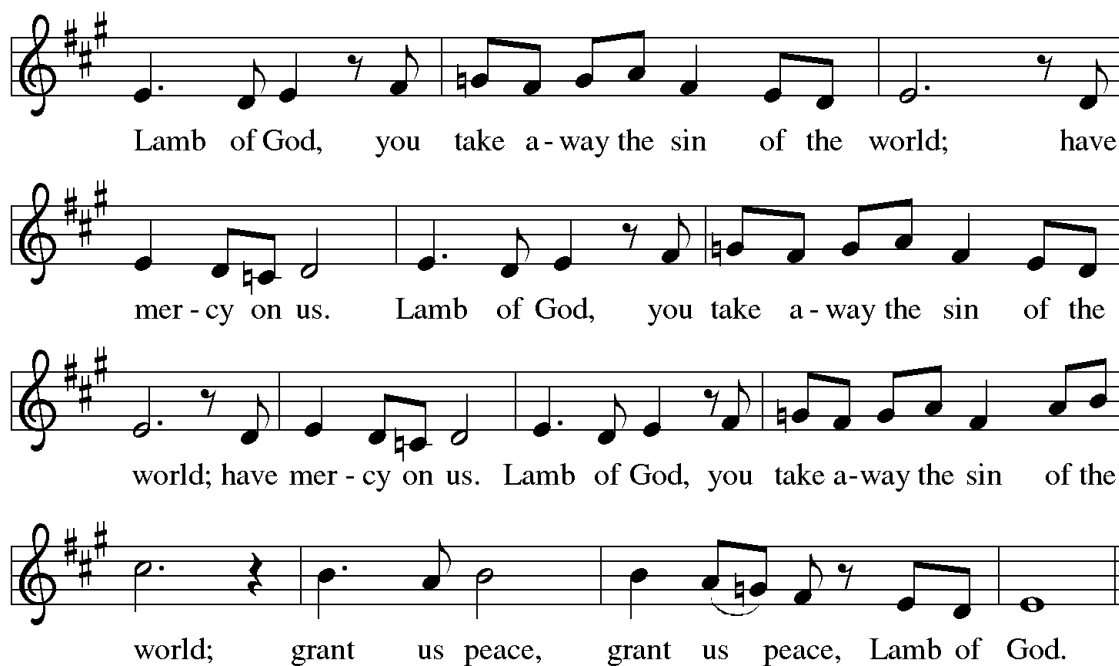
P Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

(Please be seated.)

Communion Distribution

Communion Songs

“Lamb of God”



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

“When We Are Living”

*When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
we belong to God, we belong to God.*

*'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,
we belong to God, we belong to God.*

*Across this wide world, we shall always find
those who are crying with no peace of mind;
and when we help them, or when we feed them,
we belong to God, we belong to God.*

(Please stand.)

Communion Blessing

- P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen.

Prayer after Communion

- A Holy God,
 you have welcomed us to this meal
 and fed us with dignity at your table.
 Send us now to welcome others
 and to be at peace with one another,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

- P God all mighty,
 God most merciful
 bless you, keep you,
 and give you peace.
- C **Amen.**

Sending Song *“Light Dawns on a Weary World”*

*Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see
all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes.*

*Refrain
The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy,
and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.*

*Love grows in a weary world
when hungry hearts find bread
and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world:
the promised feast of plenty comes. Refrain*

*Hope blooms in a weary world
when creatures, once forlorn,
find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world:
the promised green of Eden comes. Refrain*

Dismissal

- P Go in peace to nurture with love and serve with hope.
- C **Thanks be to God!**

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY

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

The family and friends of Gloria Faye Walker.

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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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVING TODAY — Pam Laasch

MUSICIANS — Sandy Doeber, Sue Gray and Shawn Salmon

TECH CREW — Gary Gray, Sue Gray and Zach Howell

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

Jesus tells us to welcome the little children! Next Sunday, we do so in a big way. Children and youth will be invited to assist in worship. We'll have a children's sermon and a couple of songs even our littlest friends may know. Let the little children come!

COMING SOON: NURSERY CLASS!

Once again this year, our littlest friends, preschool aged, will be welcome to participate in a Sunday School class just for them. It will start on Sunday, October 27 and run through the Children's Christmas Pageant on December 15. More details to come, but in the meantime, if you have questions, you can reach out to Elena Ceci (630-863-4126).

A DONATION TO THE CEMETERY FUND was given in memory of Kerri Schroeder, on the anniversary of her birth, 9/10, by Kelly Jaje.

A DONATION TO THE GENERAL FUND was given in memory of Gramma Gloria Faye Walker by Rachel and Rob Borowski.

DONATIONS TO THE WINDOW PRESERVATION FUND were given in memory of Dorothy Freehauf by Joe and Kristen Falese, Pam Laasch and the Salmon Family.

DONATIONS TO THE OPEN PANTRY were given by Lois Miller, Douglas & Marie DeGregorio, Elsie Schultz, Louise Egofski and the Gray Family.

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