

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope
JULY 20, 2025

Prelude “*Speak, O Lord*”

Welcome and Announcements

THE GATHERING

(Please stand.)

Confession and Forgiveness

P In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful God,

C **you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.
Amen.**

P You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God’s children through faith.
In the cross of Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C **Amen.**

Gathering Song *“Give Me Jesus”*

*In the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
give me Jesus.*

Refrain

*Give me Jesus,
give me Jesus.
You may have all the rest,
give me Jesus.*

*Dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry,
give me Jesus. Refrain*

*Just about the break of day,
just about the break of day,
just about the break of day,
give me Jesus. Refrain*

*Oh, when I come to die,
oh, when I come to die,
oh, when I come to die,
give me Jesus. Refrain*

*And when I want to sing,
and when I want to sing,
and when I want to sing,
give me Jesus. Refrain*

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.**

Hymn of Praise *“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”*

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Alleluia, alleluia.*

*Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Alleluia, alleluia.*

*We do not live by bread alone, but by ev’ry word
that proceeds from the mouth of God. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Prayer of the Day

- P Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C **Amen.**

(Please be seated.)

THE WORD

The First Reading Genesis 18:1-10a

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

- A The Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 15

- A Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?
Who may abide upon your holy hill?
- C **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**
- A they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.
- C **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the Lord.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**
- A They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

Second Reading Colossians 1:15-28

Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its minister according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand.)

Gospel Acclamation *"Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom" vs.1*

*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.*

Gospel Luke 10:38-42

Now as Jesus and his disciples went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

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

(Please be seated.)

Sermon Rev. John Gerike

(Please stand.)

Hymn of the Day “God, Be the Love to Search and Keep 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*

Prayers of the People

A In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

(a moment of silence)

A Inspire your church, like Sarah and Mary, to listen with eager longing for your words of life. Equip biblical interpreters and teachers with faithful discernment, that your word may be more fully known. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Every creature under heaven has been promised the hope of the gospel. From that promise, generate in humankind an eagerness to protect and care for creation. Bring healing to the earth with your words of life. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Peel away the distractions, worries, and fears of all who govern the nations of the world. May your word of love and life dispel all other voices. Provide gracious hospitality in places where hostile forces hold sway. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Speak your word of comfort to any who suffer pain, illness, grief, depression, or despair. Bring honor to any who experience slander and evil intent or are discredited by others. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Enliven and uphold all siblings in Christ who strive to provide hospitality and safe spaces where everyone, without exception, can receive and be transformed by your word of life. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A For Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Mary, Martha, and all the saints who attended to your word, we give thanks. Open our ears to your voice until that day when we realize the promise of the gospel with all creation. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

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 O give thanks unto the Lord, for God is good. We worship God with our offerings.

Offering

(Please stand.)

Offertory Song *“For Such a Time as This”*

*Could it be (could it be) that we are called
for such a time as this?*

*Could it be (could it be) that we are called
for such a time as this?*

Offertory Prayer

- A Creator God,
 in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
 and the harvest is plentiful.
 Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
 and our labor,
 that we may work for the good of all;
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- 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 You are indeed holy,
 almighty and merciful God.
 You are most holy,
 and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to
accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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 The kingdom of God is set before you.
Eat and rejoice.**

(Please be seated.)

Communion Distribution

Communion Songs

"Lamb of God"



"Come, Let Us Eat"

*Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
Our Lord's body let us take together,
our Lord's body let us take together.*

*Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.*

*In Jesus' presence now we meet and rest,
in Jesus' presence now we meet and rest.
In the presence of our Lord we gather,
in the presence of our Lord we gather.*

*Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word,
rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word.
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom,
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom.*

(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 We give you thanks, almighty God,
that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life.
In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
C **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
C **Amen.**

Sending Song "O Savior Precious Savior"

*O Savior, precious Savior,
whom yet unseen we love;
O name of might and favor,
all other names above:
we worship thee; we bless thee;
to thee alone we sing;
we praise thee and confess thee,
our holy Lord and King.*

*O bringer of salvation,
who wondrously hast wrought,
thyself the revelation
of love beyond our thought:
we worship thee; we bless thee;
to thee alone we sing;
we praise thee and confess thee,
our gracious Lord and King.*

*In thee all fullness dwelleth,
all grace and pow'r divine;
the glory that excelleth,
O Son of God, is thine.*

*We worship thee; we bless thee;
to thee alone we sing;
we praise thee and confess thee,
our glorious Lord and King.*

*Oh, grant the consummation
of this our song above,
in endless adoration
and everlasting love;
then shall we praise and bless thee
where perfect praises ring,
and evermore confess thee,
our Savior and our King!*

Dismissal

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

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY

MariLynn Bergmark	Caty K	Frank Roy
Sue Blender	Zepplyn Killmer	Ben Sabourin
Sharon Bolerjack	Lenny Kobilca	Pr. Elaina Salmon
Hazel Brant	Carrie Koon	George Scheel
Scott Browne	Rev. John Lang	Bernie Schroeder
Evelyn Cahill	Nancy Lang	Tim Schroeder
Tom Casey	Sue Lucheon	Virginia Schroeder
Gary Cobbett	Scott Lundgren	Gary Szafranski
Sidney Colburn	Dede Machowski	Josh Shaw
Jim Connelly	Ashley Maestre	Sharon Skopek
Beau Dowling	Hanna Mau	Gene Sobba
Finley Engnell	Jim McKeever	Gary Sperka
Elwood Faulhaber	Ruth Ann Miller	Burt Swartz
Judy Faulhaber	Omni Rook Myers	Dom Thielmann
Abby Galvin	Linda Nelson	Kayley Koter Taddeo
David Gilchrist	Dave Nommenson	Chuck Vlcek
Chriss Hassel	Charlotte Pohlman	Cindy Vorel
Mike Hoffman	Misty Pounder	Rick Vorel
Bob Hoster	Brilee Robbins	Kyle Williams
Monica Johnson	Ken Rose	George Woolet
Pat Johnson		

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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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Give Me Jesus Text: African American spiritual

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Come, Let Us Eat Text: Billema Kwilla, b. c. 1925, sts. 1-3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1-3, alt.

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O Savior, Precious Savior Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVING TODAY — Pam Laasch and Rev. John Gerike

MUSICIANS — David Bergmark and Sue Gray

TECH CREW — Gary Gray and Zach Howell

SCHOOL SUPPLIES SERVICE PROJECT

Please join us! On Sunday, July 27, following worship, all are welcome to help us assemble approximately 40 kits for local children. Wear your Bethany gear the day of!

DONATIONS TO THE SCHOOL SUPPLIES FUND were given by Ann Walker, Lemont Township, Joan Florynski, Pam Laasch, Meg and Chris Domzalski, Cathy Karpiesiuk and the Salmon Family.

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