

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope*

JULY 12, 2026

PASTOR ELAINA SALMON

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

THE GATHERING

**Call to Worship**

P Let us remember that we are always in the holy presence of God.

*(a moment of silence)*

*(Please stand.)*

**Centering Song**      *“Let There Be Rest”* vs. 1-3

*Let there be rest; there is rest for you.  
Claim back your breath; there is breath for you.  
Free from the pressure, the pushing, the pain –  
yes, take your rest, yes, take your rest,  
yes, take your rest, there is rest for you.*

*Let there be peace; there is peace for you.  
Trust in your breath; there is breath for you.  
After the struggle, release and receive-  
yes, find your peace, yes, find your peace,  
yes, find your peace, there is peace for you.*

*Let there be joy; there is joy for you.  
Deepen your breath; there is breath for you.  
Now in the stillness, remember your song;  
yes, feel your joy, yes, feel your joy,  
yes, feel your joy, there is joy for you.*

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,  
whose compassion endures forever.

**C Amen.**

**P** Let us confess our sin to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God,

**C we confess to you all our sins.**

**Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.**

**In your mercy, call us back to you.**

**Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.**

**Restore us to dwell in your peace.**

**In Christ's name we pray,**

**Amen.**

**P** Jesus says, "Come to me,

all you who are weary

and are carrying heavy burdens,

and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

**C Amen.**

### **Gathering Song** "Come to Me"

*Refrain*

*Come to me, come to me*

*and I will give you rest.*

*Come to me, come to me*

*and I will give you rest, give you rest.*

*We come to offer you our burdens.*

*We come to worship you with faith.*

*We come to ask you for forgiveness.*

*We come to you for your embrace. Refrain*

*We come to you to tell our story.*

*We've come to give ourselves to grace.*

*We've come with all our faults and failings.*

*We come because you call our name. Refrain*

### **Greeting**

**P** The amazing grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God, and the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

**C And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

P Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

*(Please be seated.)*

## THE WORD

### The First Reading Isaiah 55:10-13

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy  
and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,  
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Today's Psalm** is Psalm 65 from Psalms for Praying by Nan C. Merrill

You visited the earth and quenched our thirst,  
offering Living Streams of water;  
You fed the hungry, and taught of Love's way.  
You watered hardened souls, filled with stone and weeds,  
softening them with kindness, and blessing their growth.  
You crowned your years with abandonment,  
inviting all to Eternal Life.  
In the desert flowers come forth, the pastures flourish with fruit and grain;  
Creations diversity is glorious!  
May all people honor these gifts with joyful song

while walking the path of Love.

## Second Reading Romans 8:1-11

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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** Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!"

"Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

**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**    *"As Rain from the Clouds"*

*As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,  
as snow from the heavens refreshing the land.  
Then soften our soil that the good seed may grow  
and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.  
We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;  
we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.  
We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,  
for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.*

*As grain that is scattered your word has been sown  
on rocks and on roadways, in good earth and sand.  
Make fertile our soil that the good seed may grow  
and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.*

*We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;  
we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.  
We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,  
for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.*

*As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,  
awaking and warming and healing our land.  
Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow  
and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.  
We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;  
we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.  
We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,  
for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.*

### **Prayers of the People**

A Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*"The Spirit Intercedes for Us"*

*The Spirit intercedes for us  
with sighs too deep for words to express. Oh, oh.*

A God our gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world. Continue to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit. God of grace,  
C **hear our prayer.**

A God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life despite our actions disregarding its wonder. We look toward Isaiah's vision, when all creation rejoices, and the trees will clap for joy at your salvation. God of grace,  
C **hear our prayer.**

A God our life, you give us the same Spirit by which you raised Christ from the dead. Set our minds on that Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelm throughout the world. God of grace,  
C **hear our prayer.**

A God our host and table, we pray for children who hunger and rely on school meals, for all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment, for the chronically ill who have exhausted their resources, and for local concerns. God of grace,  
C **hear our prayer.**

A God our source, tend this assembly with your grace throughout this summer season. May those who travel for work or recreation do so safely, and may visitors find refreshment among us. God of grace,  
C **hear our prayer.**

A We give you thanks that the roots of your goodness run deep throughout history. We remember those saints who have gone before us in faith. God of grace,  
C **hear our prayer.**

A Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.  
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 God scatters seeds of grace with abandon and abundance. God is generous to us. Let us respond with grateful hearts.

### **Offering**

### **Instrumental Music**

*(Please stand.)*

### **Offertory Song**      *“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*

## Offertory Prayer

- A Loving God,  
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.  
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,  
so that all creation can taste your abundance.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus,  
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
- 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 Blessed are you, O God,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
You rescued your covenant people,  
led them on all their journeys,  
and taught them by the prophets.  
You so loved the world  
that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him  
may not perish but may have eternal life.

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.

As often as we eat this bread  
and drink this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death

until he comes.  
**C Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

**P** Pour out your Holy Spirit  
in this meal,  
and make us one  
in this community of faith  
and with your people  
throughout the world.

Glory and praise to you, O God,  
Author of life,  
Word made flesh,  
Power of the Most High,  
now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer – A Celtic Version**

**P** Holy One beyond all names  
Eternal Wellspring  
**C** **May love rise again in us today  
With food for every table  
Shelter for every family  
And reverence for every life.  
Forgive us our failing in love  
And free us from all falseness  
That the light of our souls may shine  
And the strength of our spirits endure  
For earth and all its people  
This day, tonight, and forever.  
Amen.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

**P** Heaven has come near.  
Come, share in the feast!

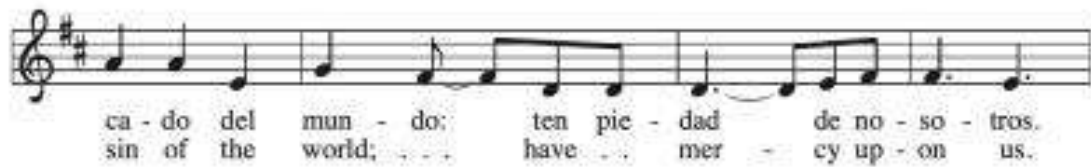
*(Please be seated.)*

### **Communion Distribution**

Communion Songs  
"Lamb of God"



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui - tas el pe -  
O Lamb . . of God, you . . take a - way the



ca - do del mun - do: ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.  
sin of the world; . . . have . . mer - cy up - on us.



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui - tas el pe -  
O Lamb . . of God, you . . take a - way the



ca - do del mun - do: ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.  
sin of the world; . . . have . . mer - cy up - on us.



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui - tas el pe -  
O Lamb . . of God, you . . take a - way the



ca - do del mun - do: ten pie - dad de no -  
sin of the world; . . . have . . mer - cy up -



so - tros, ten pie - dad de no - so - stros.  
on us, have . . . mer - cy up - on us.



Da - nos tu paz. A - mén.  
Grant us your peace. A - mén.

*“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”*

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*There’s a song in ev’ry silence, seeking word and melody;  
there’s a dawn in ev’ry darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity;  
in our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*(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 Compassionate God,  
through the gifts of bread and wine  
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.  
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,  
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus,  
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

SENDING

**Blessing**

- P Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,  
one God,  
bless, heal, and hold you  
today and always.
- C **Amen.**

**Sending Song**    *“Bring Forth the Kingdom”*

*You are a salt for the earth, O people:  
Salt for the kingdom of God  
Share the flavor of life, O people:  
Life in the kingdom of God*

*Refrain*

*Bring forth the kingdom of mercy  
Bring forth the kingdom of peace  
Bring forth the kingdom of justice  
Bring forth the City of God*

*You are a light on the hill, O people:  
Light for the city of God  
Shine so holy and bright, O people:  
Shine for the kingdom of God [refrain]*

*You are a seed of the Word, O people:  
Bring forth the kingdom of God  
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,  
Grow in the kingdom of God [refrain]*

*We are a blest and a pilgrim people:  
Bound for the kingdom of God!  
Love our journey and love our homeland:  
Love is the kingdom of God!*

**Dismissal**

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

## *PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY*

Ed Anderson	Monica Johnson	Dave Nommenson
MariLynn Bergmark	Pat Johnson	Charlotte Pohlman
Sue Blender	Jessica Kean	Misty Pounder
Sharon Bolerjack	Zepplyn Killmer	Brilee Robbins
Hazel Brant	Lenny Kobilca	Ken Rose
Scott Browne	Carrie Koon	Frank Roy
Evelyn Cahill	Rev. John Lang	Ben Sabourin
Tom Casey	Nancy Lang	Bernie Schroeder
Gary Cobbett	Sue Lucheon	Tim Schroeder
Jim Connelly	Scott Lundgren	Virginia Schroeder
Vicki Dieska	Dede Machowski	Josh Shaw
Beau Dowling	Ashley Maestre	Sharon Skopec
Finley Engnell	Hanna Mau	Gene Sobba
Elwood Faulhaber	Jim McKeever	Gary Sperka
Abby Galvin	Ruth Ann Miller	Dom Thielmann
David Gilchrist	Devin Mulcahy	Rick Vorel
Terri Hacker	Omni Rook Myers	Kyle Williams
Charlie Hagedorn	Linda Nelson	George Woollet
Mike Hoffman		

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

### **BETHANY RAFFLE FUNDRAISER!**

This is the week! Join us on Wednesday, July 15 at the Tap House (1243 State St.) for our culminating fundraising event and raffle draw! We will be in the "party room" starting at 6:00pm with music bingo and fellowship with the Raffle Drawing at approximately 7:30pm. You can order off the menu, with Bethany receiving 15% of dinner sales. These are also the final days to purchase a ticket! Please see Chris Domzalski following worship to purchase a ticket.

### **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

School supply donations are greatly appreciated! You can see the list of requested items or make a donation directed for school supplies. We love to see kids head off to school with all they need in their backpack! We will be packing school supply kits on Sunday, July 19. Thank you for your support!

Scan the QR code to purchase directly from the Amazon Wishlist:



### **HOLY CONVERSATION**

Join us at Athens Park (20 Stephen St.) on Tuesday, July 21 from 6:30-8:00pm for Holy Conversations. We'll gather to reflect on our life of faith in light of Sunday's scripture readings. We will be in the pavilion right next to the playground so this is definitely family friendly!

### **REQUESTING PICTURES!**

As our congregation grows, it's helpful to have pictures so that we can put names to faces. To complete a Bethany picture directory, we are requesting that you email a picture of you/your family to [bethanylmt@aol.com](mailto:bethanylmt@aol.com).

**A DONATION TO THE WINDOW PRESERVATION FUND** was given in memory of Linda Naus by Ed and Glenda Anderson.

**A DONATION TO THE WINDOW PRESERVATION FUND** was given in memory of Linda Naus' first heavenly birthday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, by Joy and Steve Semetulskis.

**DONATIONS TO THE OPEN PANTRY** were given by Hope and Friendship Foundation and Lemont Garden Club.

### **MUSIC AVAILABLE**

If a hymn number is listed with a song, you can find the music in the red hymnal in your pew. We have packets available at the back table that include the songs for the day.

**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.