

CREATION IN CHRIST SUNDAY
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope
SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 *PASTOR ELAINA SALMON*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

(Please stand.)

THE GATHERING

Litany of Praise for Creation

- P Glory to you, O God:
you speak a word of power,
and so you create the world.
We praise you, O God:
- C We praise you, O God.**
- P For the Spirit hovering to bring forth life,
for the earth ordered from chaos,
and for light and dark,
we bless you, O God:
- C We bless you, O God.**
- P For the cosmos beyond our earth,
for the sky above our heads,
and for the cycle of evening and morning,
we exalt you, O God:
- C We exalt you, O God.**
- P For the seas, the lakes, and the rivers,
for the land with its mountains and plains,
and for the trees, the plants, and their fruits,
we magnify you, O God:
- C We magnify you, O God.**
- P For the sun to rule the day,
for the moon to brighten the night,
and for the shining stars,
we extol you, O God:
- C We extol you, O God.**
- P For the fish in the sea,
for the birds of the air,
and for the monsters in the deep,
we glorify you, O God:
- C We glorify you, O God.**

P For wild animals and creatures of all kinds,
for cattle and all livestock,
and for everything that creeps on the earth,
we adore you, O God:

C **We adore you, O God.**

P For humankind made in your image,
for setting us on your good earth,
and for providing us food to eat,
we worship you, O God:

C **We worship you, O God.**

P Bless us, your creatures.
Accept our praise,
and make us worthy of your marvelous creation.
We praise you, O God:

C **We praise you, O God.**

P Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving
and honor and power and might
be to you, our God, forever and ever.

C **Amen.**

Gathering Song “Soli Deo Gloria”

*O God of blessings, all praise to you!
Your love surrounds us our whole life through.
You are the freedom of those oppressed;
you are the comfort of all distressed.
Come now, O holy and welcome guest:
Soli Deo gloria! Soli Deo gloria!*

*All praise for Jesus, best gift divine
through word and witness, in bread and wine;
incarnate love song of boundless grace,
priest, teacher, prophet in time and space,
your steadfast kindness with human face:
Soli Deo gloria! Soli Deo gloria!*

*A billion voices in one great song,
now soft and gentle, now deep and strong,
in ev'ry culture and style and key,
from hill and valley, with sky and sea,
with Christ we praise you eternally:
Soli Deo gloria! Soli Deo gloria!*

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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



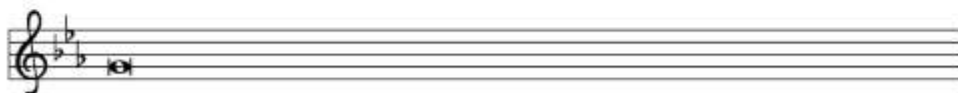
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



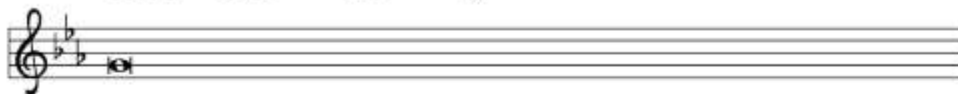
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

This is the Feast

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



Refrain
hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



Refrain
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

P O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

(Please be seated.)

THE WORD

The First Reading Genesis 1:1-2:4a

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was

morning, the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humans in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148

A Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

C **Praise the Lord, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

A Praise the Lord, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

C **Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

A Let them praise the name of the Lord,
who commanded, and they were created,
C **who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

- A Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
- C **fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**
- A mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
- C **wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**
- A sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
- C **young men and maidens,
old and young together.**
- A Let them praise the name of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
- C **The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!**

Second Reading Acts 17:22a, 24-28

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we, too, are his offspring.'

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

(Please stand.)

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Gospel John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

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 “When Long before Time”

*When long before time and the worlds were begun,
when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,
and all was deep silence and night reigned supreme,
and even our Maker had only a dream--*

*The silence was broken when God sang the Song,
and light pierced the darkness and rhythm began,
and with its first birth-cries creation was born,
and creaturely voices sang praise to the morn.*

*The sounds of the creatures were one with their Lord's,
their harmonies sweet and befitting the Word;
the Singer was pleased as the earth sang the Song,
the choir of the creatures reechoed it long.*

*Though down through the ages the Song disappeared,
its harmonies broken and almost unheard,
the Singer comes to us to sing it again,
our God-is-with-us in the world now as then.*

*The Light has returned as it came once before,
the Song of the Lord is our own song once more,
so let us all sing with one heart and one voice
the Song of the Singer in whom we rejoice.*

*To you, God the Singer, our voices we raise,
to you, Song Incarnate, we give all our praise,
to you, Holy Spirit, our life and our breath,
be glory for ever, through life and through death.*

Prayers of the People

- A We join with Christians far and near to worship God the Creator, praying for the earth and for all in need, responding to each petition with the words “Your mercy is great.”

(a moment of silence)

- A O God of mystery, mercy, and might, for the church we pray: that churches around the globe collaborate in care for the earth, and that all the baptized nurture a zeal for the wellbeing of creation. Hear us, O God, source of life:

C Your mercy is great.

- A For the earth we pray: that this bounteous creation receive continued divine blessing, that the air be wholesome, that the waters be plenteous and clean, that the land be treasured, and that animals be protected. Grant that what on earth has been despoiled will be healed. Hear us, O God, our creator:

C Your mercy is great.

- A For the nations we pray: that farmers, herders, foragers, fishers, and grocers provide the food humans need, that legislators strive in all things for the common good, and that science and technology lead us toward more responsible ways to live. Hear us, O God, our stronghold:

C Your mercy is great.

- A For our country we pray: that national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges be safeguarded, that all natural resources benefit the whole population, and that our children learn respect for nature. Hear us, O God, our guardian:

C Your mercy is great.

- A For those in need we pray: that humankind be sheltered from pandemic and from extreme weather, and that all who are sick or suffering receive medical attention and communal support. Give heed to those whose names we call out to you. Hear us, O God, our healer:
- C **Your mercy is great.**
- A We praise you for all believers who have lived and died in communion with the earth. Grant that in your good time we join with all your creatures in your presence forever. Hear us, O God, the beginning and the end:
- C **Your mercy is great.**
- A Into your hands, O God, our maker and keeper, we commend ourselves and your whole creation, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- 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's provision from the fruit of the earth and the bread of life satisfy the needs of every living thing. Let us give thanks with an offering from what God has first given us.

Offering

(Please stand.)

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in a soprano clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The lyrics are: "Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come."

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

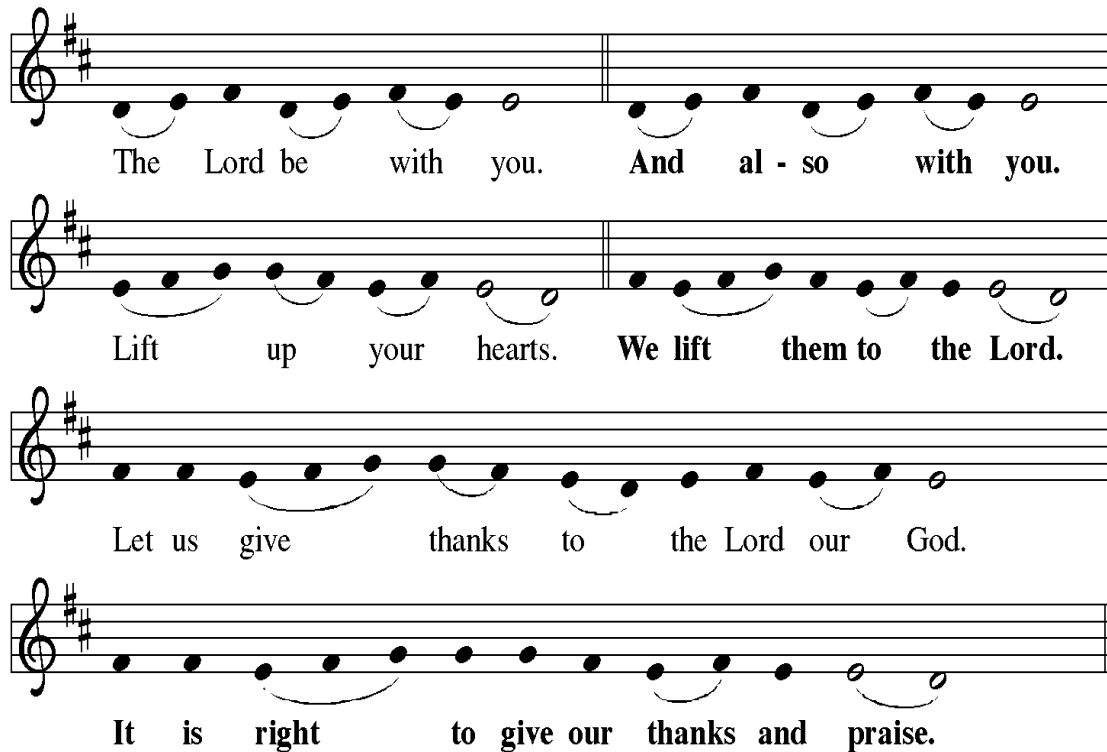
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Offertory Prayer

- A O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
- C **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Preface

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things: our Savior, Jesus Christ. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out of the womb. You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing; all you create is a sign of hope for our journey. And so as the morning stars sing your praises, with the heavenly beings and all creation, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P O God triune, how majestic
is your name in all the earth.
Over the eons your merciful might
evolved our home, a fragile tree of life.
Here by your wisdom
are both life and death,
growth and decay,
the nest and the hunt,
sunshine and storm,
darkness and light.
Sustained by these wonders,
we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:
The earth is full of your glory.

C **The earth is full of your glory.**

P O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer.
In Christ you bring life from death;
we remember his cross,
we laud his resurrection.
Broken like bread, he enlivens our body.
Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness.
Receiving this mystery,
we mortals sing our song:
The earth is full of your glory.

C **The earth is full of your glory.**

P We praise you for the heart of Jesus,
so filled with your love for this earth.

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.

Gathered around this table,
we your children unite in this song:
The earth is full of your glory.

C **The earth is full of your glory.**

P O God triune, you create the worlds,
you uphold the living,
you embrace the dead.
Send forth your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.
Strengthen us for our journey with this meal,
the body and blood of Christ.
Give us a future that trusts in you
and cares for your earth.
Empowered by your promises,
we rise from our deaths
to praise you again:
The earth is full of your glory.

C **The earth is full of your glory.**

P Amen, and amen.

C **Amen, and 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

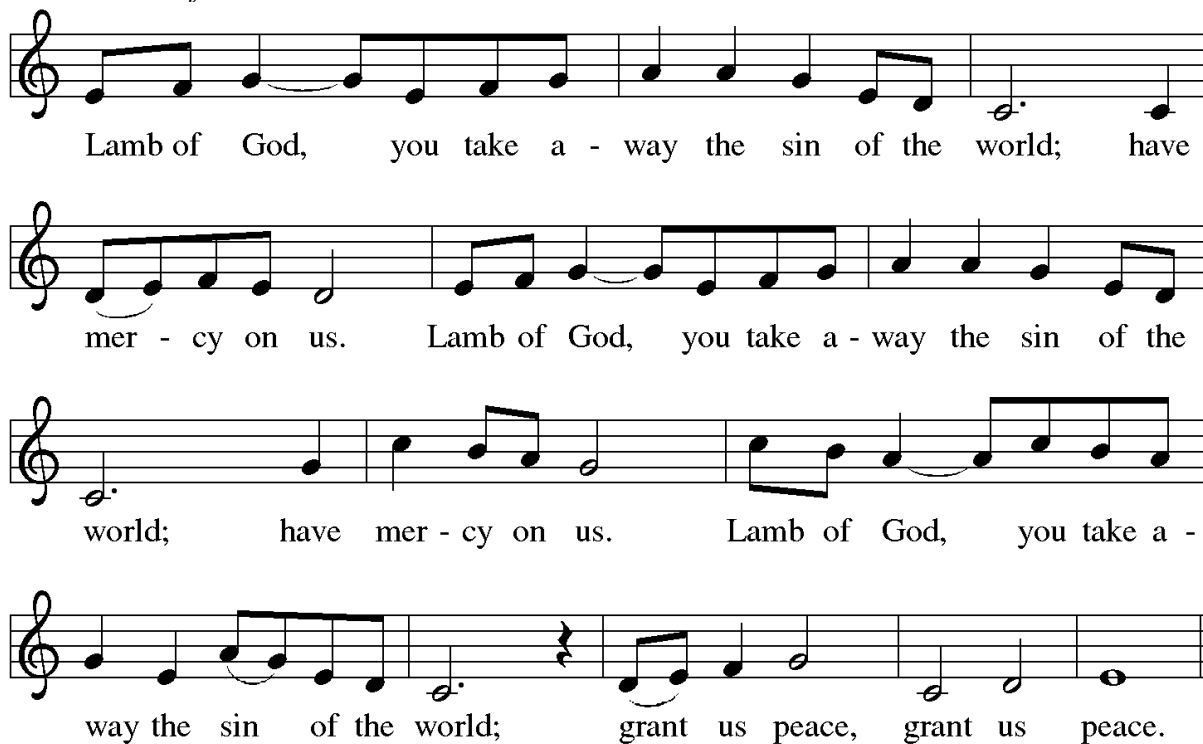
P The gifts of creation for God's beloved creatures. Come and share.

(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.

"Before the Waters Nourished Earth"

*Before the waters nourished earth
or night imagined morning,
a Love conceived the universe
and reveled in its forming.*

*This Love remained as time revealed
the loss of Eden's glory
and, grieving, holds in memory
each tragic human story.*

*Despair, so deep it bears no name,
or sorrows paralyzing
cannot revoke Love's faithful claim*

to dwell within our dying.

*The Love that called creation good
all goodness still is bringing.
This Love turns death again to life
and silence into singing.*

(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 God of our salvation,
 we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
 reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
 Through the body and blood of your Son,
 may we become Christ's body in the world,
 bearing witness to your love for all creation,
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

- P God our Mother root you deep in grace.
 God our Neighbor stand with you in strength.
 God our Nourishment sustain you in hope
 and bless you unto evergreen life.
C **Amen.**

Sending Song “All Creatures, Worship God Most High!”

*All creatures, worship God most high!
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;
sing, sister moon and stars of night:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain

*you grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear sister water, useful, clear,
make music for your Lord to hear:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong,
drive far the shadows, join the throng: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear mother earth, so rich in care,
praise God in colors bright and rare:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart: Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Dismissal

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

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY

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

For Sean Acosta, Dustin Johnson, Steve Kleinfelder, Damen McDermott,
Chad Peters 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 — Glenda Anderson

MUSICIANS — Sue Gray and Shawn Salmon

TECH CREW — Gary Gray and Zach Howell

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF

Our Sunday School and Confirmation classes will get rolling again on September 13, 2026 from 9:15-10:15am. Following worship that day, we'll have a family picnic at Northview Park Pavilion from Noon-2pm. See email for food sign-up.

LOSEY ENDOWMENT

The next round of Losey Endowment applications are due September 15. You can find the application and guidelines on Bethany's website. bethanylemont.org/losey-endowment/

DONATIONS TO THE OPEN PANTRY were given by Lemont Garden Club, Ellen McNeeley, Gary & Sue Gray and Mark Brandner.

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 and click the Donate button on the homepage.