

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH <i>Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope</i> OCTOBER 11, 2026 PASTOR ELA/NA SALMON

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

(Please stand.)

THE GATHERING

Song “Change My Heart, O God”

*Change my heart, O God;
make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God;
may I be like you.
You are the potter;
I am the clay.
Mold me and make me;
this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God;
make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God;
may I be like you.*

Confession & Forgiveness

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

A brief silence.

P Saving God,

C since the days of Moses, you have observed the misery of your people and heard the cries of those in captivity.

We call on your name because we, too, are bound and unable to save ourselves.

We confess that we build and protect systems that pretend freedom is scarce and

cause grave harm. We are quick to consume and hoard resources. We make

assumptions about our neighbors before we know them and seek our security at the expense of others.

Forgive us, God. Loosen the bonds of sin and evil. Break every yoke of Pharaoh's economy. Make a way where we cannot, and deliver your people into new life.

- P Beloved ones, you are made in the image of God who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. You are saved by grace and your sins are forgiven. Everything that is killing you has already been put to death on the cross. Remember your salvation and rise, for you are a sign that God is still setting the world free with love.
- C **Alleluia! Amen.**

Gathering Song *“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”*

*God, whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store:
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door,
gifted by you, we turn to you,
off'ring up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.*

*Skills and time are ours for pressing
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom,
races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
lest we strive for self alone;
born with talents, make us servants
fit to answer at your throne.*

*Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through pow'rs your grace conferred;
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.*

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 *“Christ, Be Our Light”*

*Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.*

Refrain
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come. Refrain

Prayer of the Day

- P** God of satisfaction, you know what we need, even when we do not. Teach us to trust your creation and that you provide for every living thing. Turn us from the urge to take and keep at the expense of others. Open our hands and our hearts to heaven's economy, so that we cling to the source rather than resources. We give you thanks for manna from heaven, multitudes fed, and for Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life.
- C** **Amen.**

(Please be seated.)

THE WORD

Children's Sermon

The First Reading Exodus 16:1-5, 13-18

The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim and came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days."

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. This is what the Lord has commanded: Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer per person according to the number of persons, all providing for

those in their own tents.” The Israelites did so, some gathering more, some less. But when they measured it with an omer, those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

A The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

C **The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

A You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

C **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

A You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

C **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

(Please stand.)

Gospel Acclamation “*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?*

Gospel Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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 “Shepherd Me, O God”

Refrain

*Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.*

*God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. Refrain*

*Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
my spirit shall sing the music of your name. Refrain*

*Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,
your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. Refrain*

*You have set me a banquet of love
in the face of hatred,
crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold. Refrain*

*Surely your kindness and mercy follow me
all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. Refrain*

Prayers of the People

A Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

(a moment of silence)

A Holy God, we remember your promise of unity on your holy mountain. Empower the World Council of Churches and all those working across religious difference, that the world may know your undivided love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We remember your promise of green pastures and quiet waters. Preserve all places of natural beauty and restore our relationship with the land. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We remember your promise to not abandon us amid storm and disaster. Renew all communities facing disasters and give your courage to those leading relief efforts. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We remember your promise to wipe away every tear. Heal and console all who are sick or suffering. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We remember your promise of a banquet open to all people. Challenge this congregation to open wide our doors and welcome everyone to the table. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We remember your promise to swallow up death forever. We give thanks for those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our 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

Mission Moment

Invitation to the Offering

P Whether we have much or only a little, we can share our daily bread so that all will be fed. As we have received, so now we give, in the vineyard of the Lord.

Offering

(Please stand.)

Offertory Song “We are an Offering”

*We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering.*

*Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives,
they are yours: we are an offering.*

*All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be,
we give to you, we give to you.*

*We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
We are an offering, we are an offering.*

Offertory Prayer

A Lord, you open your hand and bless us again and again.
May your abundance shape our hearts
so that we may hold loosely and live generously.
Do your good work of life and liberation through the gifts we offer now.
In Jesus’ name we pray.

C **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

P This is an altar where we worship
the One who provides for creation,
who gathers all people and nations
together, one dynasty everlasting.

And. This is a table where we flock
from the fields humble and hungry,
empty hands open and hoping
there is enough and we are enough.
Let us pray.

P God is here.

C **God's Spirit is with us.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them up 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 Creator.
You carve rivers and nourish the soil,
rain down manna from heaven
and burst fresh water from stones.

Blessed are you, O Christ.
You tend the flock and find lost sheep,
bless the bread and break it
feeding the whole world with love.

Blessed are you, O Holy Spirit.
You fill our lungs with breath from heaven,
the same wind that stirs our faith
soars with the falcons and ibis.

On 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.

You meet us, Lord, in this bread and wine,
and with the bounty of this table
show us again the abundance of your love.
Bless the bread and wine.
And bless us to shine bright with your light.
In Jesus' name, we pray.

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 Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

(Please be seated.)

Communion Distribution

Communion Songs

"Lamb of God"

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.

"Bread of Life, Hope for the World"

*Bread of life, hope of the world,
Jesus Christ, our brother;
feed us now, give us life,
lead us to one another.*

*As we proclaim your death,
as we recall your life,
we remember your promise*

to return again.

*The bread we break and share
was shattered as grain;
just as now it is gathered,
make your people one.*

*We eat this living bread,
we drink this saving cup;
sign of hope in our broken world,
source of lasting love.*

*Hold us in unity, in love for all to see;
that the world may believe in you,
God of all who live.*

*You are the bread of peace,
you are the wine of joy,
broken now for your people,
poured in endless love.*

(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, O God,
for in this meal you have turned us
from hunger toward satisfaction
from taking toward trusting
from empire's meager rations
toward daily bread from heaven.
May your plenty keep turning us,
until the whole world is turned toward love,
through Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life.
C **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

- P May the God of your ancestors,
who was and is and is to come,
bless you now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

Sending Song “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

*“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”*

*“Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”*

*“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”*

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

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.

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Lamb of God Music: Bread of Life, Jeremy Young, b. 1948. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

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Go My Children with My Blessing Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt. Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVING TODAY — Bill McAdam

ACOLYTES — Ella White and Owen White

MUSICIANS — Sandy Doebert, Sue Gray and Shawn Salmon

TECH CREW — Gary Gray and Zach Howell

PICTURE DIRECTORY

Bethany would like to put together a picture directory for our faith community so that we can nurture connections. Please send a picture to bethanylmt@aol.com to be included. This can be a formal picture done by a photographer or an informal picture taken from your phone.

DONATIONS TO THE CEMETERY FUND were made in memory of

Ruth Ann Miller by:

Pamela Laasch

Sheila Reiter

Family of Ruth Ann Miller

Rosemarie McAdam

Kelly Jaje

Jan Ozer

EJ and Marlene Ahlberg

The Salmon Family

Tim & Amy Schlueter

Elwood Faulhaber

Richard & Linda Darling

DONATIONS TO THE OPEN PANTRY were given by Lemont Garden Club, Annette Minkalis, Lemont Township and CITGO.

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.