TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope
NOVEMBER 8, 2026 *PASTOR ELAINA SALMON*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

THE GATHERING

Gathering Song *"Send Down the Fire"*

Refrain
Send down the fire of your justice.
Send down the rains of your love;
Come, send down the Spirit,
breathe life in your people,
and we shall be people of God.

Call us to be your compassion,
Teach us the song of your love; hearts that sing,
Give us deeds that ring,
ring with the song of your love. Refrain

Call us to learn of your mercy,
Teach us the way of your peace; hearts that feel,
Give us hands that ring,
ring with the song of your peace. Refrain

Call us to answer oppression,
Teach us the fire your truth; righteous souls,
'Til your justice rolls,
burn with the fire of your truth. Refrain

Greeting

L 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 us.

C And also with us.

Hymn of the Day *"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!

Prayer of the Day

L O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C Amen.

(Please be seated.)

THE WORD

The First Reading Amos 5:18-24

Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord!
Why do you want the day of the Lord?
It is darkness, not light,
as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

Psalm 70

A Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O Lord, make haste to help me.
C Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.

A Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me
turn back because of their shame.
C Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the Lord!"

A But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever.
Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

(Please stand.)

Gospel Acclamation *"Thy Word"*

Refrain
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,
still you're there right beside me,
and nothing will I fear as long as you are near.
Please be near me to the end. Refrain

I will not forget your love for me
and yet my heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side,
and I will love you to the end. Refrain

Gospel Matthew 25: 1-13

Jesus said to the disciples: "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

(Please be seated.)

Sermon Elena Ceci

(Please stand.)

Hymn of the Day "*Beauty for Brokenness"*

Beauty for brokenness
Hope for despair
Lord in Your suff'ring world
This is our prayer

Bread for the children
Justice joy peace
Sunrise to sunset
Your kingdom increase

Refrain
God of the poor
Friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts
Let tears fall like rain
Come change our love
From a spark to a flame

Shelter for fragile lives
Cures for their ills
Work for the craftsmen
Trade for their skills
Land for the dispossessed
Rights for the weak
Voices to plead the cause
Of those who can't speak. Refrain

Refuge from cruel wars
Havens from fear
Cities for sanctu'ry
Freedoms to share
Peace to the killing fields
Scorched earth to green
Christ for the bitterness
His cross for the pain. Refrain

Rest for the ravaged earth
Oceans and streams
Plundered and poisoned
Our future our dreams
Lord end our madness
Carelessness greed
Make us content with
The things that we need. Refrain

Lighten our darkness
Breathe on this flame
Until Your justice
Burns brightly again
Until the nations
Learn of Your ways
Seek Your salvation
And bring You their praise. Refrain

Prayers of the People

A United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

(a moment of silence)

A You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

A You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

A You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict. Uphold veterans and those who care for them; We give thanks for their service. God, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

A You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. We pray especially for... God, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

A You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

A You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. God, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

A Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.
C Amen.

Sharing of Christ's Peace

L The peace of Christ be with you always.
C And also with you.

(Please be seated.)

Invitation to the Offering

L God has been gracious to us with mercy and love. Let us offer the Beloved a gift of thanksgiving, with grateful hearts.

Offering

(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.

Simple ones whose hearts are yearning,
come and gain from Wisdom's learning;
bread and wine she is preparing,
know her loving in the sharing. Refrain

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.

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.

Thanksgiving for the Word

L Let us pray.

L Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C we give you thanks and praise.

L By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

C we give you thanks and praise.

L Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

C we give you thanks and praise.

L Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory 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.

SENDING

Blessing

L Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
one God,
bless, heal, and hold us
today and always.

C Amen.

Sending Song *"What is the World Like"*

What is the world like when God's will is done?
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:
roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.
This is how God moves us each to believe.

What is the world like when God's will is done?
No more is neighbor just ally or friend;
peace thrives in places where once there was none.
This is how God works when rivalries end.

What is the world like when God's will is done?
Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,
tending our lamps till the new day's begun.
This is how God readies us for the light.

Dismissal

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

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY

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

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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Thy Word by Michael W Smith
Beauty for Brokenness by Graham Kendrick CCLI Song #1236690 © 1993 Make Way Music
What Is the World Like Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979 Text © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVING TODAY — Elena Ceci and Pam Laasch
ACOLYTES —
MUSICIAN — Sue Gray
TECH CREW — Gary Gray and Zach Howell

OFFICE SCHEDULE NOTICES
Pr. Elaina Salmon will be traveling to South Africa from November 3-11. In case of pastoral emergency, Pr. Rakel Evenson from New Life Lutheran Church in Bolingbrook will be available. Amy Padua and council members will have her contact information.

The church office will be closed Thanksgiving week.

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING
Please plan to join us for our Congregational Meeting on November 22 following worship. We will conduct the business of the church including adopting a budget, electing church leaders, and celebrating our ministry. Voting members are those who have communed and given a contribution of record in the past year.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REQUEST: Sue Gray and Sandy Doebert have a special request of parents of Sunday School students - To help everyone learn the songs and individual parts in the Christmas Program, they would like to rehearse every Sunday morning from 9 to 9:30 am. So, they are asking you to bring your Sunday School student to church 15 minutes early every Sunday from November 15th through December 13th. The students will. rehearse in the Sanctuary from 9 to 9:30 am and then they will head off to their regular Sunday School class. Pre-school students do not need to come early, but will learn their special songs during their regular class time. Thank you!

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.

A DONATION TO THE STAINED-GLASS WINDOW FUND was given in memory of Ruth Ann Miller by Sue & Gary Gray.

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.