

Sunday, July 11, 2021
Seventh Sunday After Pentecost
Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)

**PRELUDE
RINGING OF BELL
WELCOME**

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalm 118:24*)

This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

GATHERING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

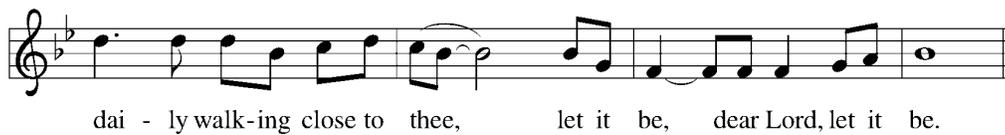
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

HYMN *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*



- 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
- 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

Text: North American traditional
Music: CLOSER WALK, North American traditional

WORD
God speaks to us in scripture reading,
preaching, and song.

READING: Amos 7:7-15

Amos is not the kind of prophet attached to temples or royal courts. Rather, he is an ordinary farmer from Judah (the southern kingdom) called by God to speak to Israel (the northern kingdom). God's word of judgment through Amos conflicts with the king's court prophet Amaziah, whom Amos encounters at Bethel.

A reading from Amos.

⁷This is what [the Lord GOD] showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸And the LORD said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said, “See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by; ⁹the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

¹⁰Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹For thus Amos has said, ‘Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.’”

¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

¹⁴Then Amos answered Amaziah, “I am no prophet, nor a prophet’s son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 85:8-13

Psalm 85 is a prayer for help.

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;

for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

READING Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God’s plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God’s children and have been promised eternal salvation.

A reading from Ephesians.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him,

were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - iah. Hal - le - lu - iah. Hal - le - lu - iah.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 6:14-29

As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist's martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those opposed to the gospel of salvation.

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching,] for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." ²³And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Pastor Dirk Stadlander

HYMN *Let Justice Flow like Streams*



- 1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling wa - ter, pure,
- 2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
- 3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,



en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926

Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731-1776

Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*Each petition ends with, "Lord, in your mercy." Those worshipping respond with, "**Hear our prayer.**"*

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

We are grateful for your gifts and they are needed to continue the work of the church. Options on ways to give are found on our website (www.wbbethany.org). Thank you!

Offerings received throughout the week and from those in attendance are brought forward and placed on the altar as the hymn on the next page is sung.

Sanctuary

Words and Music by
John W. Thompson
and Randy Scruggs

$\text{♩} = 46$

D/A Em/A D A G Em⁷

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and ho - ly, tried and

4 D A F#m/A Em/A D

true; With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a

6 A G Em⁷ F#m/A A⁷ D

liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for You.

Detailed description: The image shows the musical score for the hymn 'Sanctuary'. It is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 46. The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 1-3) has chords D/A, Em/A, D, A, G, and Em7. The second system (measures 4-5) has chords D, A, F#m/A, Em/A, and D. The third system (measures 6-8) has chords A, G, Em7, F#m/A, A7, and D. The lyrics are: 'Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and ho - ly, tried and true; With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for You.'

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with the gifts of ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

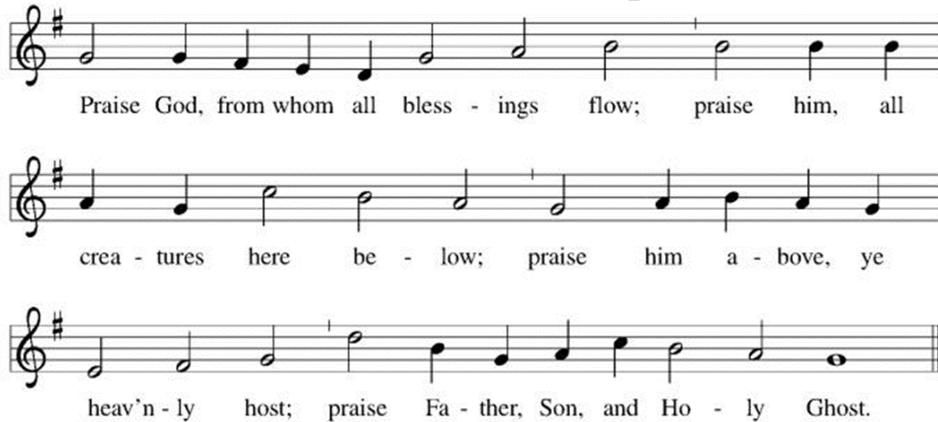
The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

HYMN *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDETH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS		
Ministers of:	Today	July 25
Music	Jill Barnhart	Jill Barnhart
Proclamation (Lector)	Wayne Frauenholtz	Dave Bahnsen
Christ's Light (Acolytes)		
Minister of Technology	Paula C	Jill Taylor
Worship (Altar Care)	Nancy Bruns	Nancy Bruns



Thank you for worshipping with us this morning! We invite you to join us again next Sunday at 9:30 AM on Facebook or indoors. Blessings to you as you shine forth the light of Christ in the world this week! Thanks, and praise to God for everything you do in the name of Jesus Christ!

If you are interested in learning more about Bethany Lutheran or interested in becoming a member, please contact Pastor Chad Whaley at 319-643-5998 or email (pastor@wbbethany.org).

If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter and email updates, please send your email address to our Administrative Assistant Paula Casper (blcsecretary@lcom.net).



Join us for worship indoors on the first and third Sunday of the month in which the Sacrament of Holy Communion will also be celebrated. On the second and fourth Sunday of the month we will gather outdoors if weather permits. All worship services will be streamed online via Facebook.



Attention Youth (8-12th Grade) and Parents

We will be having an informational meeting Monday, August 2 at 6:30 PM to explore the possibility of attending the 2022 ELCA Youth gathering in Minneapolis, which will be held July 24-28. Parents and interested students are encouraged to attend. For more information, please contact Pastor Chad, Amber Marsh or <https://elca.org/gathering>

Join us every Monday at noon for a 30-minute discussion about the upcoming Sunday gospel reading. We gather via Zoom Meeting so join at home or work while on your lunch break. If interested, contact Pastor Chad at pastor@wbbethany.org and the Zoom invitation will be forwarded to you. The gospel for Sunday, July 18 Mark 6 30-34, 53-56.



We welcome Pastor Dirk Stadtlander to Bethany as he leads worship and proclaims the good news of Jesus Christ this morning. Pastor Stadtlander serves at the FreeIndeed congregation within the Anamosa State Penitentiary. FreeIndeed is a community that shares the good news of Jesus Christ with and through those inside the prison walls, with support of ministry partners outside the prison walls.

A special offering will be taken that day to support this ministry. If you would like to send an offering, please make a check payable to Bethany Lutheran Church and mail it to us at PO Box 236, West Branch, IA 52358. Please note your gift is for FreeIndeed. Thank you!

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You are loved!