

# **BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**

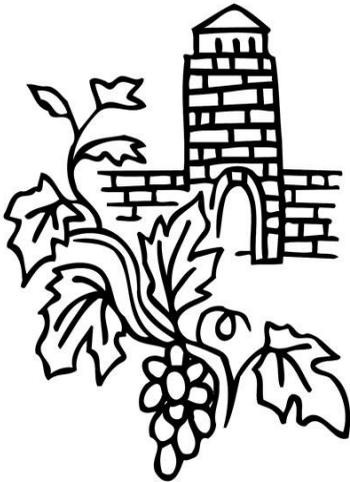
*"You have a place here! Joyfully we profess our faith through God's unconditional love. Here and now God dwells in all of our lives, bears our sins on the cross, and forgives us all."*

## **TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**9:00 am on Sunday, October 4 , 2020**

Holy Communion Worship

*Pastor Dave Johnson, presiding*



In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

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### **ALL ARE WELCOME**

The family of Bethany hopes that your worship experience is spiritually fulfilling and your day begins with our Lord's gifts of peace and joy.

As Christians of the Reformation tradition, we believe that the Sacrament of the Altar is the Real Presence of Christ's body and blood, instituted by Christ Himself as a sign of unity. All baptized and confessing believers are welcome to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. For those who are worshipping online at home, communion kits may be picked up in the parking lot at Bethany on Saturdays between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. and on Sundays between 8 and 8:30 a.m.

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR PENTECOST SEASON**

*Minister/Leaders speak regular print—Congregation speaks bold print*

### **THE GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

#### ▼ **Prelude Reflections for Meditation**

##### ▼ **Welcome and Greeting**

##### ▼ **Prayers and Praises**

##### ▲ **Invocation**

We gather together in the name of the Father,  
the † Son and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

##### ▲ **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**Amen.**

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

*(Silence is kept for reflection)*

Faithful God,  
**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace  
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another  
before examining ourselves.**

**We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.**

**We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.**

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,  
and turn us again to life in you**

**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,  
and through his death and resurrection,  
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:  
Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.  
Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness  
to do God's work in the world.

**Amen.**

▼ **Greeting**

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.**

▲ **Prayer of the Day**

Beloved God,  
**from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your  
Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance,  
help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **THE WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song*

▼ **God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)**

A reading from Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and

thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

▼ **God's Word from the Psalms (NRSV)**

Let us read responsively from Psalm 80:7-15

Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**You have brought a vine out of Egypt;  
you cast out the nations and planted it.**

You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.

**The mountains were covered by its shadow  
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.

**Why have you broken down its wall,  
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,  
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

**Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;**

behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.

▼ **God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)**

A reading from Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes] If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know

Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

▼ ***God's Word from the Gospel (NRSV)***

▲ The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 21:33-46  
**Glory to You, O Lord**

[Jesus said to the people:] “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

▼ **Sermon—God’s Word Applied to Life**

▼ **Hymn of the Day**

*“Lord Whose Love In Humble Service,” page 10*

▲ **The Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
 Creator of heaven and earth.  
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
 and born of the virgin Mary.  
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.  
 On the third day he rose again.  
 He ascended into heaven,  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again 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**

Holy God, you call us to work for peace and justice in your vineyard. Refresh the church with your life, that we may bear fruit through work and service.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you for the abundant harvest of the earth. Bless and care for those whose hands bring the fruits of the earth to the tables of all who hunger. May we be inspired by your servants who cared deeply for your creation, especially Francis of Assisi, whom we commemorate today.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Curb the impulses of greed and pride that lead us to take advantage of others.  
 Grant that world leaders seek the fruits of the kingdom  
 for the good and welfare of all people.  
 Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain all who suffer with the promise of new life.  
 Assured of your presence, heal our pain and suffering, and equip us to embrace all  
 bodies aching for wholeness of mind, body, and soul.  
 We lift up those who are struggling today especially *Arlene and Rod Walter, Tim,  
 Barbara, Mike Day; Ava Johnson Mitchell (Pastor Dave's Aunt);  
 those who have received prayer shawls and are in need of comfort;  
 those who have requested special prayers through our website;  
 and others that we now name silently or aloud.*  
 (brief silence)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all managers in our community and for all who seek employment.  
 Give hope and a future to those who lack meaningful work,  
 those who have been marginalized or abused in the workplace, and  
 those who desire new opportunities.  
 Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear now these other intercessions we offer aloud or in the silence of our hearts.  
 (brief silence)  
 Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you for the saints who teach us to live faithfully in your vineyard. May our  
 chorus join theirs until our labor is complete.  
 Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we  
 pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### ▲ *Sharing of the Peace*

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**  
*Greet each other with love and the sign of Christ's peace.*

▼ **Offering and Presentation of the Gifts***October—December Mission ~ Adopt-A-Family*▲ **The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution**

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, 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.

▲ **The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

▲ **Invitation To Communion**

Come to the banquet table  
where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

▼ **Distribution of Communion**

▲ **Post Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in His grace until He comes again.  
In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

▲ **Post Communion Prayer**

We give you thanks, gracious God,  
**that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare,  
the body and blood of Christ.**  
**Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,  
into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and  
thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ  
and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

**THE SENDING**

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

▲ **Hymn of Sending**

*"What A Friend We Have In Jesus," page 11*

▲ **Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  
In the name of the Father and the † Son and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**Announcements**

*Anyone is welcome to announce upcoming events or share thoughts of interest.*

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,  
 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;  
 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light  
 4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:  
 still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
 in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,  
 to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;  
 As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
 mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,  
 hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.  
 by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.  
 stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.  
 that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © Oxford University Press

## What a Friend We Have in Jesus



- 1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—  
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - row share?  
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886

Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

## ALTAR FLOWERS

In Memory of Larry Underhill by Vicki Underhill

In memory of Gladys Casanova by Children Melvin and Marion

### Announcements and Upcoming Events

**Christ in Our Home**, the daily devotion booklets, are now available for October through December in regular and large print formats. Pick them up at the church when communion kits are distributed or at the entrance to Sunday worship. Contact the church office to have the devotions mailed to your home.

**All are invited to Community Coffee** at 9 a.m. every Tuesday in the Pavilion; **The Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** at 7 a.m. every Thursday in the Great Room, and **Pub Theology**, meeting at Calvary, Quinnesec at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday.

Please contact the church office to request additions or to make changes to the prayer list published in our weekly bulletin and newsletter.

**Communion kits** are available for pick-up in the Bethany parking lot from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday and 8 to 8:30 a.m. on Saturday. This is done so those who worship online from their homes have the opportunity to receive communion.

### **Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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Pastor Dave Johnson, phone and e-mail: 651-769-3365, [ftp565@yahoo.com](mailto:ftp565@yahoo.com)

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.—12 noon, Monday and Thursday, and by appointment.

Tuesday and Wednesday: by appointment.

Lori Ward, Secretary

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