



9th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship with Holy Communion

July 30, 2023



Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church

We are glad you are here, and we pray God will be real to you as you worship with us. Bethel is a Reconciling in Christ congregation; therefore, we invite all people, including those of all races, ethnicities, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientations, ages, economic levels, and abilities. God loves all creation and holds us all, so we welcome you who walk through our doors and you who are outside those doors. We honor and appreciate the rich diversity of age, sexual orientation, race, belief, emotional and physical health, gender identity and expression, marital status and station in life bring to the Bethel family and our relationships. We commit ourselves to embracing the work of anti-racism, social and economic justice, and environmental care.

Pride Season Decorations – You may have noticed the various Pride flags and colors in our sanctuary. We do this to celebrate our own history and identity of Bethel as a place where all people are welcomed. Part of this welcoming is creating a welcoming space. You may notice that the cross is draped in black and brown fabric. This is twofold: Firstly, and practically, there's not enough space in the front of the sanctuary for each color to have its own holder. Secondly is in recognition of Liberation Theology which encourages the work taking oppressed people off the cross. The black and brown fabric remains on the cross as recognition of the work we continually need to do to resist the prevailing racism and oppression that Black, our Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) neighbors face in our society, with the hopes that one day all people will experience liberation.

Communion - We will celebrate Holy Communion together via Zoom, as well as gathered in person. Please have bread/cracker(s) and a cup of wine/grape juice ready if you and those with you would like to participate. If you do not have access to wine or grape juice, you may receive Communion without the cup—Christ is present in the bread, as Jesus said, “I am the Bread of Life.” (John 6:35)

GATHERING

Prelude

Vocalise
By **Sergie Rachmoninoff**

Restrooms are located in the basement on the east side of the building. An all gender restroom is located behind the worship space next to the church office. Please ask the Usher or Greeter for assistance. There is also a rocking chair in the rear of the Sanctuary. Please use it as you wish.

Address 5658 North Denver Avenue • Portland, Oregon 97217 • **Email** bethel@bethelpdx.org • **Website** www.bethelpdx.org

Confession and Absolution

Please stand in body or spirit

Blessed be the holy Trinity,☩ one God,
who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails,
whose promise is sure.

Amen.

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

Merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned.

We have hurt our community.

We have squandered your blessings.

We have hoarded your bounty.

In the name of Jesus,

forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.

God offers boundless grace when we fail.

Claim the gift of God's mercy:

you are freed and forgiven

in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ.

Amen.



Gathering Song of Praise

Come All You People

Come, All You People *Uyaimose*

U - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
1 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
2 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
3 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;

u - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;

u - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;

u - ya - i - mo - se Zvi - no.
come now and wor - ship the Lord.
come now and wor - ship the Lord.
come now and wor - ship the Lord.

Text: Alexander Gondo; tr. I-to Loh, b. 1936, alt.

Music: UYAIMOSE, Alexander Gondo

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Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together:

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

Scripture Reading

Romans 8:26-39

A reading from Romans.

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit

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

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

Please be seated

Children's Time

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Please Stand in body or spirit

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

Jesus, Priceless Treasure



1 Je - sus, price - less trea - sure, source of pur - est plea - sure,
2 In thine arm I rest me; foes who would mo - lest me
3 Hence, all fears and sad - ness, for the Lord of glad - ness,



tru - est friend to me: ah, how long I've pant - ed, and my heart has
can-not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing, ev - 'ry heart be
Je - sus, en - ters in. God, who dear - ly loves us, from all tri - al



faint - ed, thirst - ing, Lord, for thee! Thine I am, O spot - less Lamb;
quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear. Lightnings flash and thun - ders crash;
saves us, gives sweet peace with - in. I have borne this world - ly scorn;



no - thing in this world can hide thee, naught I ask be - side thee.
yet, though sin and hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.
still in thee lies pur - est plea - sure: Je - sus, price-less trea - sure!

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: JESU, MEINE FREUDE, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Prayers of Intercession

The response to each prayer is: Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Sharing of Peace — Take time to share the peace on Zoom and in person

COMMUNION MEAL

For those worshiping virtually, please gather your bread and wine to participate in Holy Communion.

Offering

You may use one of our options for giving: The offering plate will be passed by the ushers, Venmo @BethelLutheran-Church phone # digits 6064, PayPal, see our website bethelpdx.org for link, online at: http://bethelpdx.org/donate Additionally you may give by mail. Thank you for supporting the many ministries of Bethel!

Offertory

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**God of field and forest, sea and sky,
you are the giver of all good things.
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us,
that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Pastor will guide you when to take the bread and cup to eat and drink.

The Lord be with you.

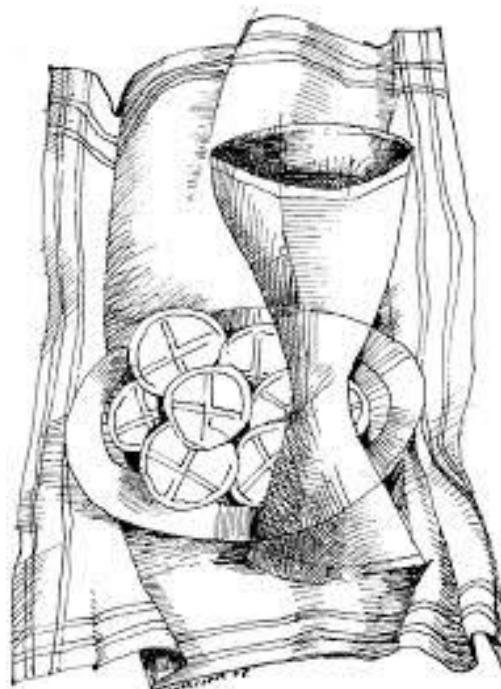
And also with you.

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 Thanksgiving continues with the preface.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high-est.

The presiding minister continues with the Thanksgiving at the Table. At the end, all say: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is 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.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

Portrait

By Reynaldo Hahn

SENDING

Announcements

Blessing

The God who calls across the cosmos
and speaks in the smallest seed
☩ bless, keep, and sustain you
now and to the end of the age.
Amen.

Sending Song

God Leads Us Along

By George A. Young

The Sending

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.



Stewardship of Service	This week – July 30, 2023	Next week – Aug. 6, 2023
Ministers	All Baptized Members of Bethel	All Baptized Members of Bethel
Pastor	Pastor Leon LaCross	Pastor Leon LaCross
Musician	Jenny Peterson	Devin Tran
Reader	Marlo Edman	TBD
Zoom Host	Joann Knoll	Volunteer needed!

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Pray For:

Pray for all those on the Turkey/Syrian border as they continue to rebuild following the earthquake.

Let us continue to pray for all victims of gun violence.

Pray for peace and justice in Russia and Ukraine

Pray for peace and justice and safety among our houseless neighbors. Help us understand how we can share your love with them.

Pray for Bethel leaders, including Pastor Leon LaCross, Music Director Shlomo Farber, YDIC Summer Program Director Heather Anderson, Admin Assistant Kerry Czuba, the 2023 Church Council members, and for all the members and friends of Bethel Lutheran Church.

Pray for those going through our confirmation program that they grow in faith and have a deeper understanding of Jesus as someone who is a guiding, loving force in their lives.

Pray for our children, as they conclude the school year. May their summer be filled with fun and frivolity.

Pray for those who are ill:

- **Neil Marshall** (Nash's Portland family) as Neil undergoes treatment for a brain tumor.
- **Faith Moser** (mother of Joann Noll) and all her family who are caregiving and traveling and dealing with plumbing adventures in Faith's older home.
- **David Gyles** for his improved lung health
- **Leo Lawrence** as he continues treatment for cancer
- **John Knight and family** as John continues in memory care
- **Laura Day**, mother of Natalie Peterson, in her diagnosis and treatment of cancer
- **Gary Andeen** as he receives treatments for lung cancer.
- **Amy Bishop McDonald** for her diagnosis and surgery for breast cancer.
- **Chuck Huntley**, brother of Marjorie Strieff, for his ongoing health.
- **Glenn Chase** for continued good results on medical tests.
- **Kerry Czuba** for a quick recovery after a knee injury.
- **Suzanne LaCross** who broke her wrist, healing prayers for her.

Pray for all those who have passed away that they experience the loving embrace of God's love:

Pray for the family of Dorothy Hansen (Warren's sister), who just passed away.

Pray for Ryan Olson & his family as they mourn the loss of their mom, Eunice Olson

Pray for Pastor Leon's family as they mourn Pr. Leon's uncle John Leslie who died recently.

Pray for the family of Dorothy Leonie Hawkin aka "Skye", who just passed away. She was a friend of Bethel who often attended events here.

Pray for the family, friends and coworkers of Bobby Smallwood who was recently killed while at work at Legacy Good Samaritan.

Continuing prayers for well-being for our loved ones Timothy, Elizabeth, Faith, Jim, Rob, Jacob, Miles, Andrew, Nash, and Patricia--may they walk in light and peace.

Pray in thanksgiving for all the blessings received this week.

Pray we know that God is close and we are open to receiving and sharing God's love.

Pray for Bethel Lutheran Church.

Mark Your Calendars...See what's happening at Bethel and Beyond this week:

07/30-08/05 Kerry (Admin. Assist) on vacation

08/03 Noon Crafternoon w/Pastor Leon

08/03 4:30 PM Happy Hour on Zoom

08/06 9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Hour on Zoom

08/06 10:00 AM Sunday Worship: in-person or on Zoom

08/08 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM Bethel BarBEEQ

08/11 Joann & Steve Noll's Anniversary Hoedown

07/05-08/11 8:00AM-5:30PM Summer Youth Program - M-F



Bethel Bees BarBEEQ Fun Night

Tuesday, Aug 8
5:30-7:30 PM
at

Bethel Lutheran Church
5658 N. Denver Ave.
Hot dogs & Burgers provided
Bring Salads and desserts to share



bethellutheran@bethelpdx.org
503.285.4919



Joann and Steve's August 11 Anniversary Hoedown

Join us to celebrate our 50 years together for our Anniversary Hoedown! Our daughter Stephanie will be calling the square dance and her partner Kate, and our grandsons Sam and Charlie along with friend Robin will provide the backup music!

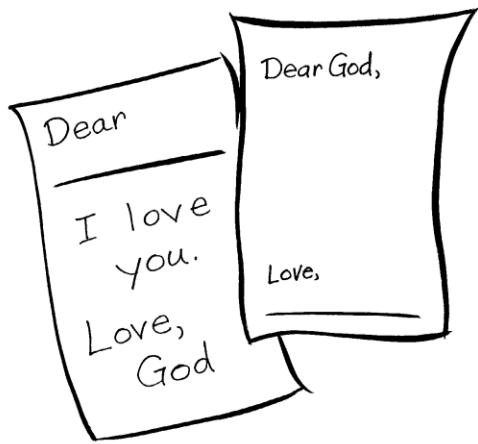
Please respond to the link below if you can come. It will be fun!

<https://forms.gle/2QEhofNcUmw1CKWB6>

send

Love letters

Write your name in the letter from God. Then write or draw a message of love to God.



Thank you for loving me no matter what. I love you, too. Amen

Kids Celebrate Lectionary 17

gather

Welcome to worship. Paul lived long ago. He wrote many letters, telling people about Jesus and about God's love. One of these letters is called Romans. In Romans, Paul wrote that God loves us all the time, no matter what! He wrote that nothing anywhere can separate us from the love of God.

That is very good news!



This week

Look for hidden treasures of God's kingdom indoors and outside.



How do you experience God's love when you worship?

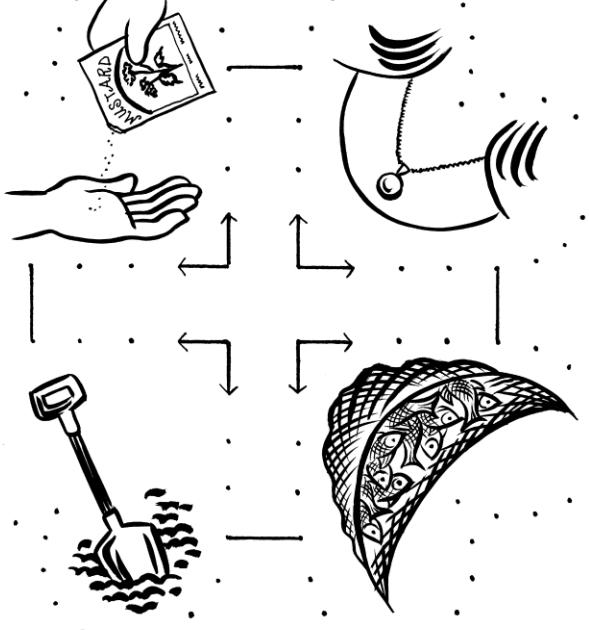
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hear & Celebrate

God's kingdom is like ...

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Paul told about God's love in letters. Jesus didn't write letters, but he told about God's love in parables—stories about everyday things. He described the treasures in God's kingdom of love.



Listen for signs of God's kingdom in the Gospel of Matthew. Trace the heart around each part of the story as you hear it. Color the empty space between the hearts. What do you see?