



7th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship with Holy Communion

July 16, 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 it's 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

Someone To Watch Over Me

By George Gershwin

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

In the name of the + Child, the Nurturer,
And the Spirit that fills the fullness of our bodies.

Amen.

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

Righteous God,

We confess that we have neglected your children, your expansive creation,

We have failed to be honest about our own shortcomings and failures.

We have lacked the courage to speak out against racism, white supremacy,
homophobia, transphobia, ableism, fatphobia, indifference, and all other dimensions
of prejudice and injustice.

We have spoken falsely of those who are different from us and have ignored their
pleas for justice, equity, and love.

**In the name of the Holy One,
forgive us and show us your mercy.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

God quenches us and refreshes us when we thirst.

God never fails to extend a hand of grace when we fall.

God walks with us as we turn away from the actions that cause immeasurable pain
and suffering to ourselves and those we love.

**We have always been and continue to be worthy of the gift of God's mercy,
it is ours to claim.**

We are freed and forgiven, forever and always.

**We are prismatic reflections of your image, oh Holy One,
in the name of our beloved friend + Jesus Christ.**

Amen.



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

Text and music © 1986 World Council of Churches and the Asian Institute of Liturgy & Music

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together:

**God, who entices us to live our lives filled with your love and grace,
helps us to authentically love our neighbors even when it is hard to do so.
We are queerfully and wonderfully made and worth more than a flock of sparrows.
Let us stand firm in who we are: beloved sinners, centered misfits, and questioning saints.
God who is generous beyond our comprehension, be with us now and always.
Mysterious, promiscuous, and eternal triad: Creator, Redeemer, and Advocate.
Amen.**

Please be seated

WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 55:10-13

A reading from the book of Isaiah

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Second Reading

Romans: 8:1-11

A reading from the book of Romans

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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 13:1-9, 18-23

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

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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

Children's Time

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

For the Fruit of All Creation

Please stand in body or spirit



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Prayers of Intercession

The response to each prayer is: God of all. **Receive our prayer.**

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

Please be seated

COMMUNION MEAL

For those worshipping 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

Please stand in body or spirit

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.

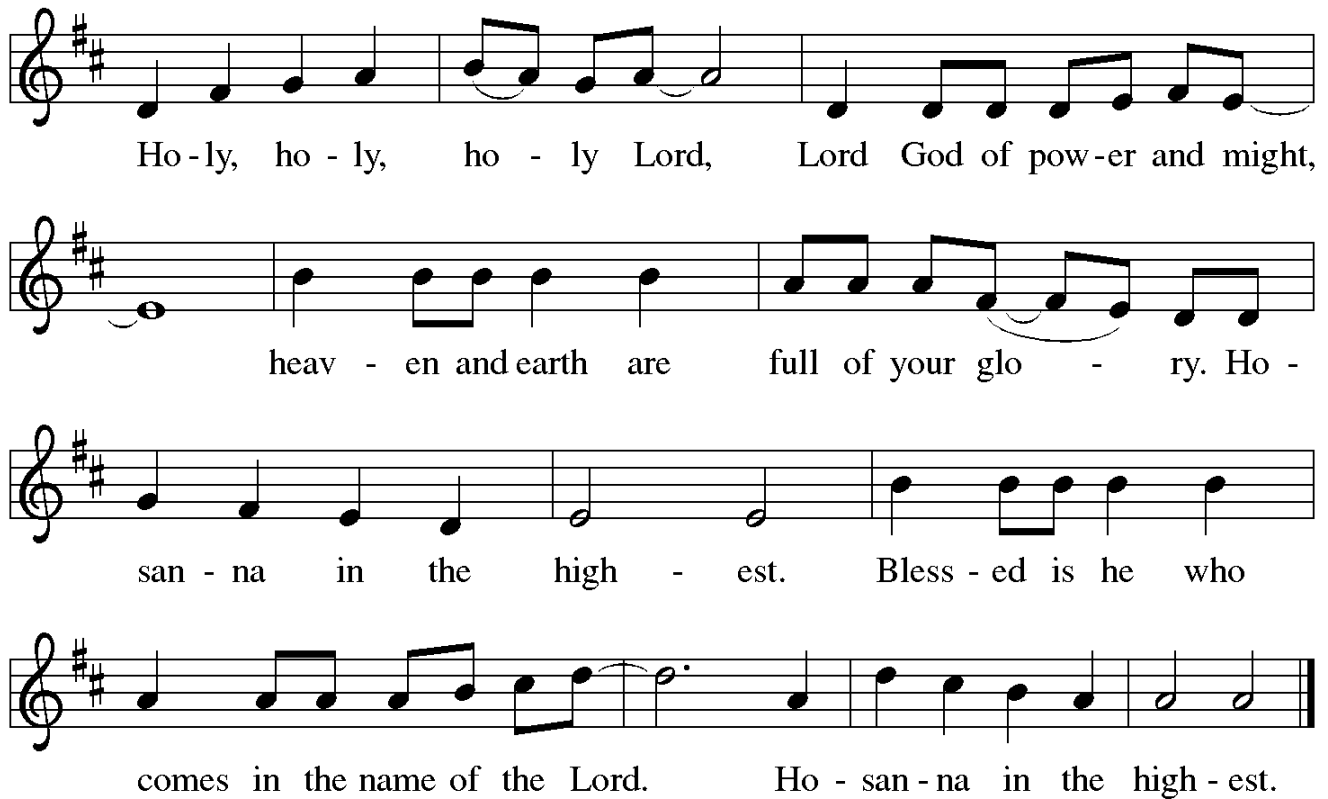
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.



The Thanksgiving continues with the preface.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er 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.

**Our beloved Parent on high,
hallowed be your name.**

Your Kin-dom come, Your will be done.

In this realm and beyond.

Give us today, our daily bread.

Forgive our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the Kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

Melodie
By Sigismund Stojowski

SENDING

Announcements

Blessing

Beloved siblings in Christ,

Let our hearts overflow with love and compassion as we enter the world in peace. Let us stand boldly as fierce advocates for our LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC siblings and all who are marginalized and need inclusion and advocacy.

As we depart from this sacred space, let our passion be transformed into action to create a welcoming and affirming community for all.

Let our efforts to include and welcome others serve as a shining example of God's love and grace.

United by the Spirit, we depart in peace to serve the Creator as one community.

Recognize and embrace God's limitless diversity in all that surrounds you, and acknowledge that you are made in the image of the Divine!

Amen.

Sending Song

English Suite No. 3 in G. minor

By Johann Sebastian Bach

The Sending.

Go in peace!

Share the rainbow tapestry of God's love with all,

Thanks be to God.



Sections of this liturgy were co-written by Pr. Margarette Oujj and Pr. Leon LaCross for ReconcilingWorks' Pride Liturgy 2023.

Stewardship of Service	This week – July 16, 2023	Next week – July 23, 2023
Ministers	All Baptized Members of Bethel	All Baptized Members of Bethel
Pastor	Pastor Leon LaCross	Pastor Leon LaCross
Musician	Jenny Peterson	Jamie Vandenberg
Reader	Miles Bard	Ronda Bard
Zoom Host	Joann Knoll	Volunteer needed!

Hymns shown on this bulletin are licensed via Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License number SAS10330

All other music used with the artist permission

Pray For:

Pray for all those on the Turkey/Syrian boarder 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, injured or in need:

- **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 this week, healing prayers for her.
- **Stephanie, daughter of JulieAnn & Marlo Edman**, that she has a quick recovery after knee surgery.

Pray for all those who have passed away that they experience the loving embrace of God's love. Especially Kent Burghard.

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 Cate Milburn's son, Rocky MacDonald, who was in a severe accident and has passed away; and their family as they grieve. Click [here](#) for the obituary.

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

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.

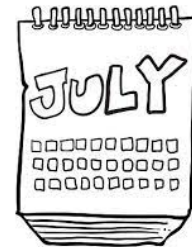
Pray in thanksgiving for all the blessings received this week.

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:

- 07/16 11:15 AM Church Council Meeting
- 07/20 Crafternoon canceled (Pr. Leon is out of town)
- 07/20 4:30 PM Happy Hour on Zoom
- 07/23 9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Hour on Zoom
- 07/23 10:00 AM Sunday Worship: in-person or on Zoom
- 07/23 4:00 PM Jazz Concert
- 07/05-08/11 8:00AM-5:30PM Summer Youth Program - M-F



Bethel Lutheran Presents
Jazz Concert with
Northwest Tempo

Donations accepted

July 23
at
4:00 PM

5658 N. Denver Ave.
Portland, OR 97217

bethelpdx.org

