

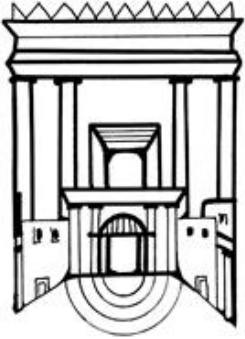


18th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship with Holy Communion

October 1, 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.

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

Fughette
By Gottlieb Muffat



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.

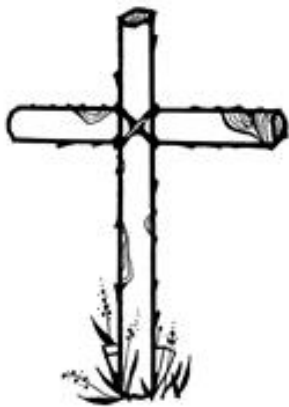
God offers boundless grace when we fail.

Claim the gift of God's mercy:

you are freed and forgiven

in the name of † Jesus Christ.

Amen.



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 of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

Scripture Reading

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

A reading from Ezekiel.

¹The word of the Lord came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit



Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:23-32

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

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the sex workers are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the sex workers believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

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

Please be seated

Children's Time

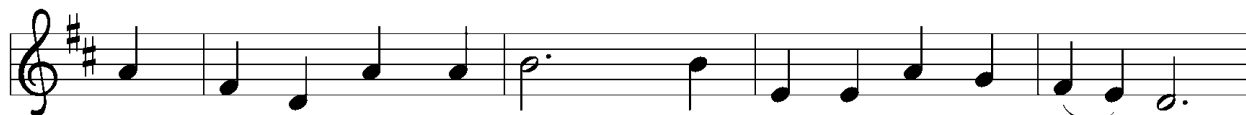
Sermon

Hymn of the Day

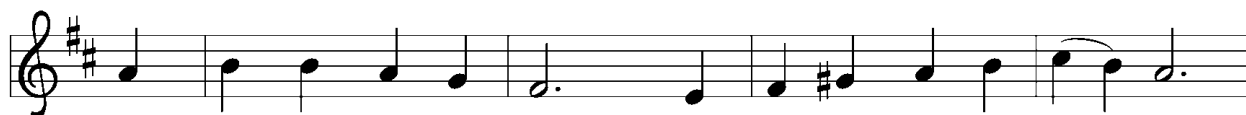
Please Stand in body or spirit

O God, My Faithful God

O God, My Faithful God



1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing
3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;
4 When dan-gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;



with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—
guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;
help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;



give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless
but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,
help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,



a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.
what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.
then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.
and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Music: WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT, Ahasuerus Fritsch, 1629–1701

Prayers of Intercession

The response to each prayer is: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

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

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.

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

Duetto II
By J. S. Bach

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

Isn't He
By John Wimber

The Sending.

Go in peace. Share the harvest.
Thanks be to God.



| Stewardship of Service | This week – Oct. 1, 2023 | Next week – Oct. 8, 2023 |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ministers | All Baptized Members of Bethel | All Baptized Members of Bethel |
| Pastor | Pastor Leon LaCross | Pastor Leon LaCross |
| Music Director | Shlomo Farber | Shlomo Farber |
| Reader | Ronda Bard | Karen Anderson |
| 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 border as they continue to rebuild following the earthquake.

Pray for those recovering from natural disasters especially those on Maui, Florida, Morocco, and Libya.

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

Pray for peace and justice in Russia and Ukraine: Armenia and Azerbaijan.

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, 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 begin the school year and embrace their yearning to learn.

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:** for his upcoming neuropathy surgery.
- **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 treatment 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 health.
- **Jackie Calder** that she recovers soon from her illness.
- **JulieAnn Edman** for swift healing following a surgery related to her newly diagnosed cancer.
- **Matthew LaCross** with a diagnosis of early-stage colon cancer.

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

Pray for Pastor Christine Core at the death of husband John, who passed away unexpectedly.

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.

Especially in thanksgiving for Joann's mom, Faith Moser's 100th birthday and the small celebration planned for her in Kansas City. Joann will be visiting her mom and sisters to celebrate.

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:

10/01 11:15 AM Confirmation Class

10/01 1:00 PM Blessing of the Animals – Bring your furry & not so furry friends to the parking lot for a special blessing. Pictures work too.

10/01 5:00 PM Codfather Rehearsal

10/02 7:00 PM Codfather Rehearsal

10/05 Noon Crafternoon w/ Pr. Leon

10/05 4:30-5:30 PM Happy Hour on Zoom

10/05 7:00 PM Codfather Rehearsal

10/08 9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Hour on Zoom

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

10/08 5:00 PM Codfather Rehearsal

*Kerry is out of the office until October 12th.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

October 1st at 1:00 PM

Bethel Lutheran Church

BRING YOUR
FURRY FRIENDS
OR NOT SO
FURRY FRIENDS



 5658 N. DENVER AVE, PORTLAND, OREGON
PHONE: 503.285.4919 BETHELPDX.ORG

The Bethel Players present

The Codfather



| | | | | |
|----------------|----------|---------|-----|------|
| Dinners: | Nov. 3, | Nov. 4 | 7PM | \$25 |
| | Nov. 10, | Nov. 11 | 7PM | \$25 |
| Desserts: | Nov. 5, | Nov. 12 | 3PM | \$20 |
| Just the Play: | Nov. 4, | Nov. 11 | 2PM | \$10 |

Bethel Lutheran Church 5658 N Denver

CALL OR EMAIL-TICKETS GO ON SALE OCT.1 - CALL OR EMAIL

503-285-4919 bethelplayers@gmail.com

To make sure everyone gets a fair chance to buy tickets we're asking that all reserved tickets be prepaid within a week of making the reservation so that unused tickets can be leased to folks who might otherwise be turned away. Sorry, we cannot offer refunds for unused tickets.

!!40th Anniversary T-shirts!!

See details and order form at

<https://bethelpdx.org/bethel-players>

Following Jesus, doing God's work

We can all follow Jesus and do God's work, yet be very different people. When you finish these lists, are they the same as anyone else's? Keep doing what you love to help others! God loves you for you!

I am good at...

What are 3 ways you might do God's work? [Check the other lists for ideas!]

I love doing....

My 3 favorite foods are...



Oh God, thanks for loving me.
Help me do what I believe. Amen.

This week

What does your family believe? What is important to you?
Create a family creed together.

Kids Celebrate copyright © 2004 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced for local use.



gather

Welcome to worship. In today's gospel reading people ask Jesus questions. Listen for questions today. **Each time you hear a question in the reading make a ? inside this big ?.**



My question for Jesus: _____

What question would Jesus ask you? _____

hear & celebrate

I believe

Matthew 21:23-32

What do you believe about God and Jesus? Christians in many places say what they believe each week in the creed. Listen for the words *I believe* during worship—that's the creed!

What kinds of things show what you believe about God and Jesus? Search the picture and mark any God-Jesus reminders with a cross [there are at least 11], then quietly tell someone else why you marked what you did. Look for people, places, and things.

