

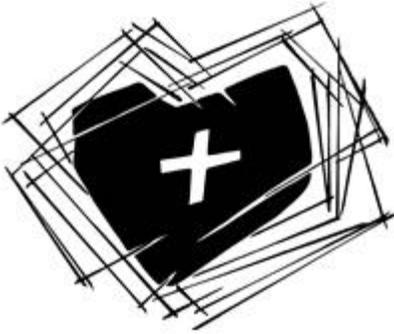


15th Sunday After Pentecost

Worship with Holy Communion

September 1, 2024

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

Go the Distance
By Alan Menken



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,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

**Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world.**

Amen.

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy:

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.



Gathering Song of Praise

My Life Flows On in Endless Song



- 1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
- 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
- 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
- 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together:

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

A reading from Deuteronomy.

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

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

Scripture Reading

James 1:17-27

A reading from James.

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the God of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, our parent, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;

⁷in vain do they worship me,

teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

²¹"For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

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

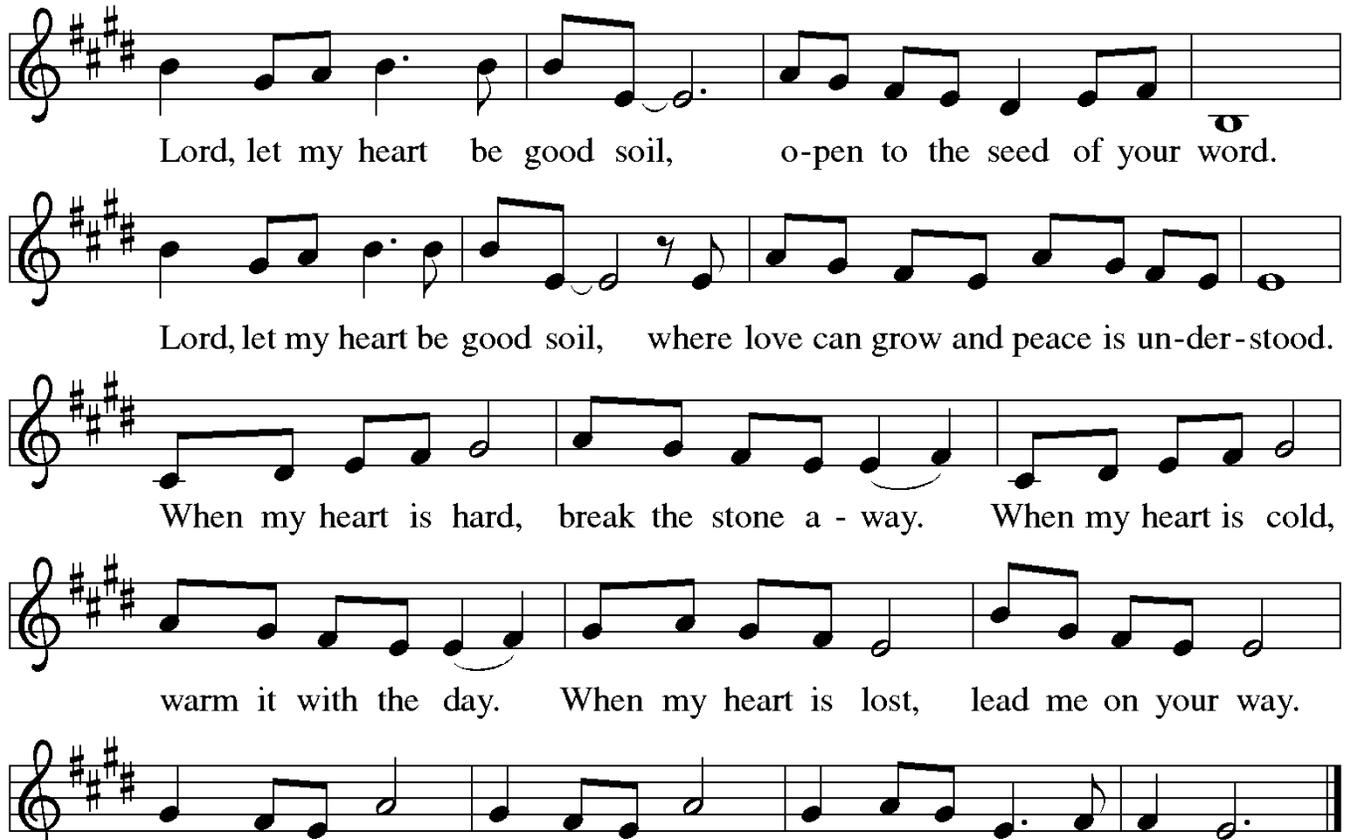
Please be seated

Children's Time

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

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Please stand in body or spirit

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*

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: Venmo @BethelLutheran-Church phone # digits 6064, Paypal, see our website bethelpdx.org for link, online at: <http://bethelpdx.org/donate> Additionally you may donate by mail or, if worshipping in-person, use the offering plate in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for supporting the many ministries of Bethel!

Offering Prayer

Jesus, Bread of life,
you have set this table with your very self,
and called us to the feast of plenty.
Gather what has been sown among us,
and strengthen us in this meal.
Make us to be what we receive here,
your body for the life of the world.
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

Please stand in body or spirit

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

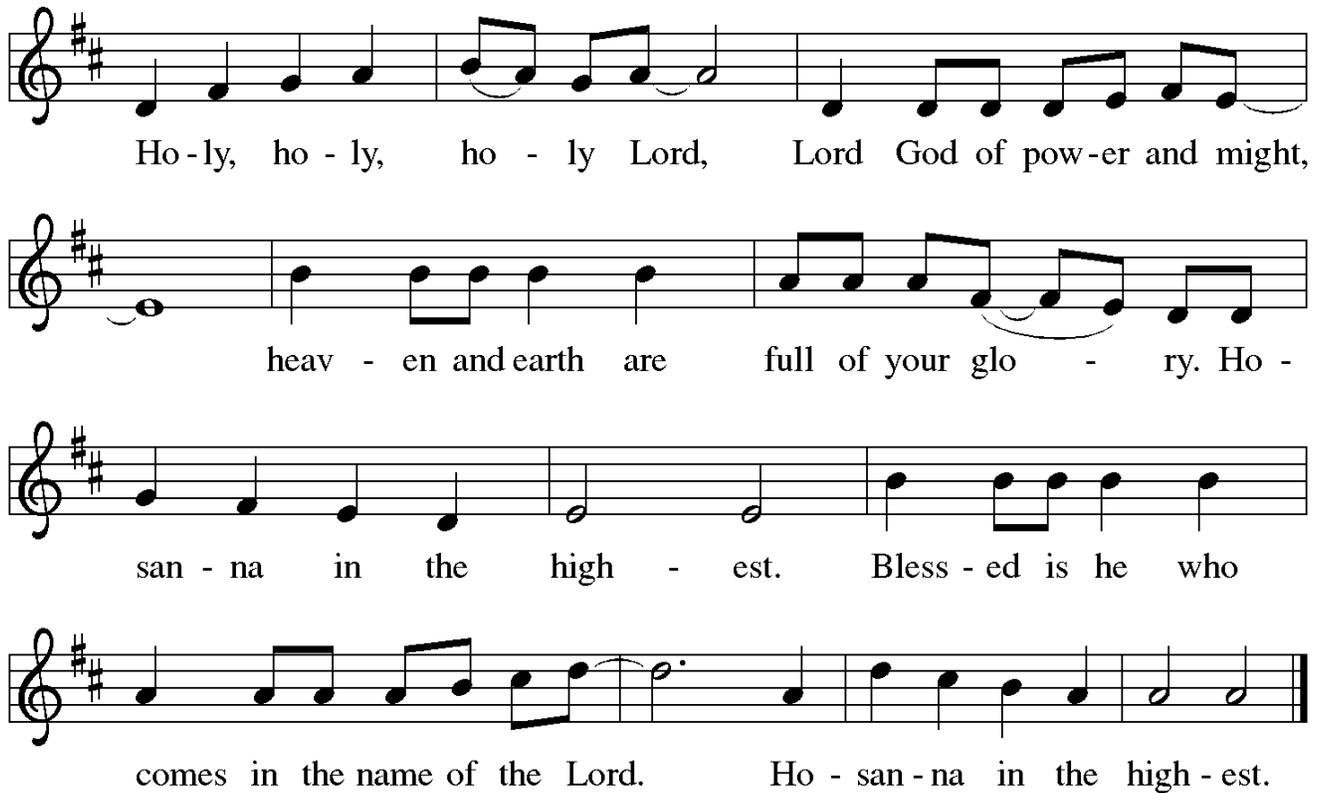
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.



The Thanksgiving continues with the preface for the season.



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.

Please be seated

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

Can't Fight This Feeling
By REO Speedwagon

SENDING

Announcements

Blessing

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Song

In the Real Early Morning
By Jacob Collier

Blessing of the Backpacks

The Sending.

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.



Stewardship of Service	This week – Sept. 1, 2024	Next week – Sept. 8, 2024
Ministers	All Baptized Members of Bethel	All Baptized Members of Bethel
Preacher	Pastor Leon LaCross	Pastor Leon LaCross
Musical Director	Shlomo Farber	Shlomo Farber
Reader	TBA	TBA
Zoom Host	Joann Noll	Volunteer needed!

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Pray For:

Pray for the people in Israel, Palestine, and all of the Middle East as they suffer war, violence, terror, and retribution. Show the world a path to peace and justice.

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

Pray for peace and justice in Ukraine, Holy Land, and Yemen.

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 2024 Church Council members, and for all the members and friends of Bethel Lutheran Church.

Pray for the Bethel Youth Drop-In Center Board as we now look to a new year. Continue to pray in thanksgiving for our excellent staff and for our Director, Marie Houk, and for the families as they begin the school year.

Pray for Shlomo Farber, that his family and friends in Israel may be safe.

Pray for Julia Rankin, as she enters seminary.

Pray for Sean Fitzgerald, Kim Bucholz's son-in-law who has been deployed to Iraq.

Pray for our children, as they get ready for the school year to begin.

Pray for the teachers, school staff, parents, guardians, and grandparents who teach our children and keep them safe.

Pray for the following:

- **Mark Sjostrom**, Svea's uncle, as he recovers from cancer treatments and health complications
- **Faith Moser** (mother of Joann Noll) and her daughters as Faith moves into assisted living.
- **David Gyles** for his improved lung health.
- **Leo Lawrence** for recovery from 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.
- **Chuck Huntley**, brother of Marjorie Strieff, for his ongoing health.
- **Glenn Chase**, in thanks for his continued good health.
- **Jackie Calder**, in thanks for healing and health that allows her to travel and to accomplish loving volunteer work.
- **Lorraine Griffey** for health, stamina, and joy.
- **Rhonda Pederson**, after a liver cancer diagnosis
- **Denny Hepp**, Family of Tana & Scott & Jared & Steph, for healing of medical issues.
- **Rick Van Dyke**, Jim Van Dyke's brother, as he lives with the uncertainty of his illness and prepares for treatment.
- **Steve Cleveland** as he recovers from a stroke
- **Deb Gingrich, RN**, Mary Rix's friend, in thanksgiving for a miraculous recovery.
- **Pray for Lee Climan** that he finds a way to get back on his feet again.
- **Pat Greene**, friend of Lisa Siems, who is in hospital due to a bike accident.
- **Darin Schmidt**, a former Bethelite, was recently hospitalized for several tests, waiting for results.

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

Neil Marshall, friend and family of Nash Ababu, passed away in his sleep on Saturday, August 17. Pray for Neil's family and Nash as they mourn the loss of a great & generous person.

Cheryl Prochaska and family on the loss of her dad.

Wally Gustav, brother of Laura Spurrell who died recently that Laura and family find peace as they grieve.

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

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

Pray for Bethel Lutheran Church.

Mark Your Calendar....Here's What's Happening at Bethel this Week

09/01 9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Hour on Zoom

09/01 10:00 AM Sunday Worship: in person or on Zoom – Blessing of the Backpacks during Sunday worship.

09/04 7:00 PM Read through of Play @ Bethel

09/05 4:30-5:30 PM Happy Hour on Zoom

09/08 9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Hour on Zoom

09/08 10:00 AM Sunday Worship: in person or on Zoom

09/08 11:15 AM Crafternoon with Pr. Leon





Crafternoon with Pr. Leon

September 8 at 11:15

in the Library

Do you have a project that's been sitting around or maybe you want to start a new craft but haven't had the time to start? Come and join Pr. Leon on September 8 after service for crafting. Bring whatever craft is sitting around and let's work on it!



Calling Women at Bethel

You are invited to gather in prayer. We are planning on meeting for conversation, contemplation, prayer, and to draw us closer.

The plan so far is to meet beginning in October, every other Saturday morning at 8:30 AM at Carol Knight's home.

We would love a number of who are interest so please contact Bethel (503) 285-4919 OR email at bethellutheran@bethelpdx.org. Thank you!

Community Block Party



and

Rummage SALE!

September 14th

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

At

Bethel Lutheran Church

5658 N. Denver

Portland, OR 97217



Bethel's Annual Campout at Champoeg State Park September 20-22

Details: Cost is \$10 per person for the weekend. Although some food will be provided please plan on bringing some of your own, think potluck. Beverages are Bring Your Own plus some to share, Games to bring and share are encouraged! There is a group site building with cooking facilities and indoor bathrooms. Even enough space for RVs to park! Check out the Champoeg State Park website for other details on what fun there is awaiting!

Contact Scott Burris or Tana Bishop for more information

