



2nd Sunday After Pentecost

Worship with Holy Communion

June 22, 2025

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

Melody
By Caleb Simper



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

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
**you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.
Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ✝ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.
Amen.



Gathering Song of Praise

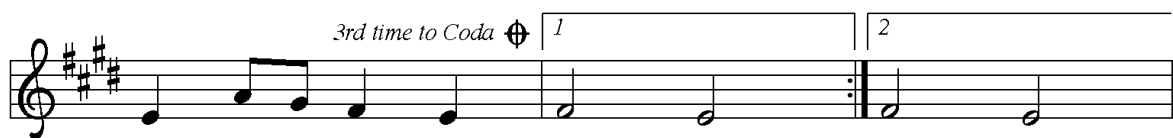
Praise to You O God of Mercy



1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -
 2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -
 3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -



ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:
 ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:
 ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:



thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for -



Strong is your faith - ful - ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.

⌘ Coda



ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

Text and music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together:

O Lord God, we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 65:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

¹ I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask,
to be found by those who did not seek me.
I said, "Here I am, here I am,"
to a nation that did not call on my name.
² I held out my hands all day long
to a rebellious people,
who walk in a way that is not good,
following their own devices;
³ a people who provoke me
to my face continually,
sacrificing in gardens
and offering incense on bricks;
⁴ who sit inside tombs,
and spend the night in secret places;
who eat swine's flesh,
with broth of abominable things in their vessels;
⁵ who say, "Keep to yourself,
do not come near me, for I am too holy for you."
These are a smoke in my nostrils,
a fire that burns all day long.
⁶ See, it is written before me:
I will not keep silent, but I will repay;
I will indeed repay into their laps
⁷ their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities together,
says the Lord;
because they offered incense on the mountains
and reviled me on the hills,
I will measure into their laps
full payment for their actions.

⁸Thus says the Lord:

As the wine is found in the cluster,
and they say, "Do not destroy it,
for there is a blessing in it,"

so I will do for my servants' sake,
and not destroy them all.

⁹I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,
and from Judah inheritors of my mountains;
my chosen shall inherit it,
and my servants shall settle there.

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

Scripture Reading

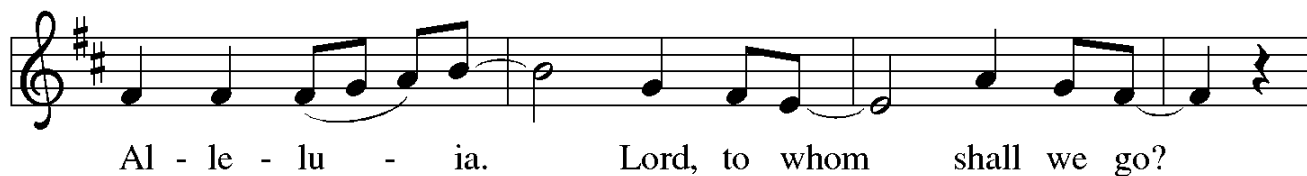
Galatians 3:23-29

A reading from Galatians.

²³ Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Reading

Luke 8:26-39

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

²⁶ Then Jesus and his disciples arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me"—²⁹ for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰ Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. ³¹ They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

³² Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴ When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. ³⁶ Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷ Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

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

Children's Time

Sermon



Hymn of the Day

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

Prayers of Intercession

The response to each prayer is: God of grace, here our prayer.

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

Share Peace.



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

Creator God,
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
and our labor,
that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

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

The Lord be with you.

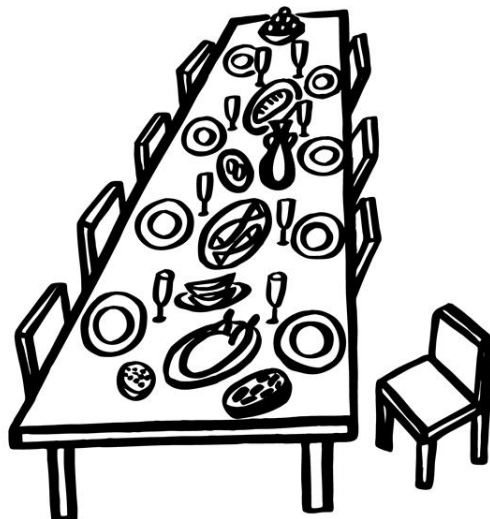
And also with you.

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 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.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

French Suite No. 4: Courante



SENDING

Announcements

Blessing

The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
bless you and give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Song

Wake Me Up

By Avicci

The Sending.

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God!



Stewardship of Service	This week – June 22, 2025	Next week – June 29, 2025
Ministers	All Baptized Members of Bethel	All Baptized Members of Bethel
Pastor	Pastor Leon LaCross	Pastor Leon LaCross
Musician	Shlomo Farber	Shlomo Farber
Zoom Host	Joann Noll	Volunteer needed!

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Pray For:

Pray for the people in all of the Middle East, Ukraine, Kashmir, 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 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 2025 Church Council members, and for all the members and friends of Bethel Lutheran Church.

Pray for the Bethel Youth Drop-In Center Board and our new co-directors Savanna Ford and Keymora Goldsby as they ready for kids to enter the doors of the Summer Drop-In Program. Also prayers for the staff as they too get ready for a great summer program and for the kids that they have a fun time.

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

Pray for Julia Rankin as she continues her education at seminary.

Pray for Sean Fitzgerald (Nikki Bucholz), Kim Bucholz's son-in-law who has been deployed to the Middle East.

Pray for our children, that they blossom where ever they find themselves planted.

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

Pray for the following:

- **Faith Moser** (mother of Joann Noll) and her daughters as Faith's health diminishes.
- **David Giles** as he discontinues treatment for lung cancer.
- **Leo Lawrence** for recovery from neuropathy surgery.
- **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.
- **Rick Van Dyke**, brother to Jim Van Dyke, as Rick lives with the uncertainty of his illness and works with his medical team to prepare for treatment.
- **Darin Schmidt**, a former Bethelite, and his wife Jessica, as they navigate a diagnosis of liver cancer.
- **Bob Enke**, cousin of JulieAnn Edman, for continued health and safety.
- **Miles Bard** for health and stamina.
- **Pam Coffman** as she navigates treatment for lung cancer.
- **Marlo Edman** who is recovering after surgery.
- **JulieAnn Edman** for continued healing of her back.
- **Dean Peterson** for conditions related to cerebral amyloid angiopathy.
- **Jon Roschke and family (Svea's brother-in-law)** as he undergoes cancer treatments.
- **Nash Ababu**, as he continues to heal and faces some new medical realities.

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

Prayers for Natalie Peterson and her family as they mourn the loss of Laura Day, Natalie's Mom.

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.

What's Happening This Week:

06/22 11:15 AM Parking Lot Parlay

06/22 4:00 PM Jazz Concert

06/23-06/27 Summer Program Training for Staff

06/22-06/27 Pr. Leon at a conference

06/25 6:30 PM New Horizons Band Practice

06/26 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM Prep and Service for Renaissance Dinner

06/26 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Bethel Happy Hour: Zoom

06/29 10:00 AM Sunday Worship: in person or on Zoom

06/29 11:15 AM Parking Lot Parlay (Sign-up)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090D4CABAC2CA4F49-56774407-parking>



A poster for a jazz concert. It features a stylized saxophone and a piano keyboard. The text reads: "JUNE 22, 2025 4:00 PM JAZZ WITH NORTHWEST TEMPO AT BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH 5658 N. DENVER AVE. bethelpdx.org Donations accepted".



A poster for a BBQ event at Bethel. It features a circular logo with a fork and knife and the text "BBQ". The text reads: "AT BETHEL JULY 9 AUG. 13 JOIN US IN THE PARKING LOT HOT DOGS/VEGGIE DOGS PROVIDED BRING SIDES TO SHARE 5:30 PM TO 7:00 PM SET UP 5:00 PM TO 5:30 PM TAKE DOWN 7:00 PM TO 7:30 PM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!".