

**Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**14th Sunday after Pentecost, Year C**  
**September 14, 2025**



Parable of the Lost Sheep by Sieger Köder (1925-2015)

Pastor Kim Swenson

**Worship Assistants**

**Assisting Minister:** Doug Hanson

**Reader:** Sandi Tibbets

**Altar Guild:** Marilyn Meister

**Communion Assistant:** Charlie Hilla

**Ushers:** Carol Wehunt & Gayle Peot

**Video Tech:** Doug Scholes

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*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**GATHERING**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

The earth is the Lords, and everything in it;  
The world and all who live in it.

**Let us rejoice and be glad!**

## Gathering Hymn

### *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*



1 Sav - ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.  
2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;  
3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;  
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.  
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.  
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
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Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847  
Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

## **Confession & Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
who pours love into our hearts  
and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,  
let us confess our sin.

Compassionate God,

**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness  
in the world and in our own hearts.**

**Creation groans from overuse.**

**Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.**

**Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.**

**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.**

**Turn our hearts back to you.**

**Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.**

**Renew us to live as your holy people,  
following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ,  
in whom there is no condemnation,  
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.  
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

**Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise**

*Canticle of the Sun (Ps 19)*

**HS 829**

***Sing Refrain and VS 2***

Refrain



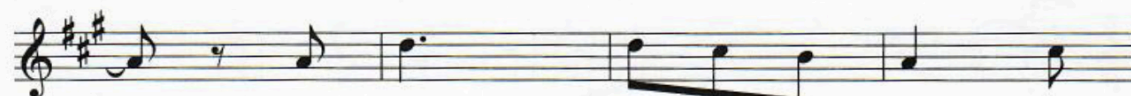
The heav - ens are tell - ing the glo - ry of God,



and all cre - a - tion is shout - ing for joy.



Come, dance in the for - est, come, play in the field,



and sing, sing to the glo - ry



*Last time to coda* ⊕

of the Lord.

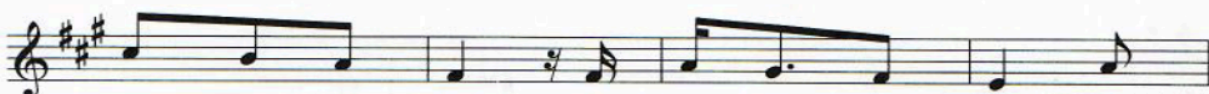
# Verses



1. Sing to the sun, the bring - er of day, He
2. Praise to the wind that blows through the trees, The
3. Praise to the rain that wa - ters our fields, And
4. Praise to the fire who gives us his light, The
5. Sing to the earth who makes life to grow, The
6. Praise to our death that makes our life real, The



car - ries the light of the Lord in his rays; The  
 seas might - y storms, the gen - tl - est breeze; They  
bless - es our crops so all the earth yields; From  
 warmth of the sun to bright - en our night; He  
 crea - tures you made to let your life show; The  
 knowl - edge of loss that helps us to feel; The



moon and the stars who light up the way Un -  
 blow where they will, they blow where they please To  
death un - to life her mys - t'ry re - vealed Springs  
 danc - es with joy, his spir - it so bright, He  
 flow - ers and trees that help us to know The  
 gift of your - self, your pres - ence re - vealed To



to your throne.  
 please the Lord.  
forth in joy.  
 sings of you.  
 heart of love.  
 lead us home.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 © 1980, GIA Publications, Inc.

## Prayer of the Day

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
 the love of Christ that guards our hearts and minds,  
 and the joy of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray,

**O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

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*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**WORD**

### **First Lesson Exodus 32:7-14**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup>they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " <sup>9</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup>Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

<sup>11</sup>But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup>Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup>Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " <sup>14</sup>And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalms 51:1-10** (read responsively by verse)

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy,  
blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup> **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup> **Against you, you alone, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass judgment.**

<sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

<sup>6</sup> **You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup> **Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.

<sup>10</sup> **Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.**

**Word for All Ages**

## Gospel Acclamation

Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our  
hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your  
prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness. *End*

## Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

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

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup> "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' <sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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



## Sermon

### Hymn of the Day *Once a Sheep Was in a Pasture*

Once a sheep was in a pasture with the other ninety-nine.  
Their good shepherd loved those hundred, and he told them, "You are mine!"  
As the hundred grazed together, for some reason yet untold,  
one found she was separated from the shepherd, from the fold.

Shepherd, sometimes we face trouble, far from others, far from you.  
There are different ways we struggle, different things that we can do.  
There are times we're prone to wander; there are times we're pushed away.  
Shepherd, by your love you find us — then in joy you celebrate!

Like a shepherd, Lord, you know us and the songs our spirits sing.  
You accept us and you love us — and you know the gifts we bring.  
With our signing, with our voices, with our hearts, may we express:  
Shepherd, by your love you find us — we are yours, and we are blessed!

Shepherd, by your love you find us, then you send us out in turn  
to seek out all your beloved and to bring the wounded home.  
As we lead and help each other, as we advocate and pray,  
may we shepherd one another on your faithful, loving Way.

Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824 ("Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee")

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## **Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayers of the People**

... God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

## **Peace**

Peace with yourself.

Peace with Creation.

Peace with one another.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

**And also with you.**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MEAL

## Offering

### Offertory Song *We Plow the Fields and Scatter*



A - ra - mos nues-tros cam-pos, y lue - goel sem - bra - dor  
1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,  
2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far.  
3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



en e - llos la si - mien - te es - par - ce con a - mor.  
but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,  
You paint the way-side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.  
the seed-time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.



Mas es de Dios la ma - no que laha - ce ger - mi - nar,  
who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,  
The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;  
No gifts have we to of - fer for what your love im - parts



ca - lor y llu - via dan - do a to - dos por i - gual.  
the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.  
much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.  
but what you most would trea - sure— our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740-1815; English tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817-1878, alt.;

Spanish tr. Ernesto Baricio, 1866-1948

Music: Luis Olivieri, b. 1937

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## Offering Prayer

Let us pray,  
**Lord of the harvest,**  
**we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.**  
**Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,**  
**but on you, who richly provides for us.**  
**Multiply what we have gathered**  
**to bless all who are suffering and in need,**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Great Thanksgiving**

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.**

... And so we give you thanks, rejoicing with all of Creation,  
as we join the saints and angels in their unending hymn:

*Let All Things Now Living* (combined vs 1 & 2)

**Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to**  
**God the creator triumphantly raise,**  
**The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the**  
**Deepes of the ocean proclaim God divine.**  
**We too should be voicing our love and re-**  
**Rejoicing; with glad adoration a song let us raise**  
**Til all things now living unite in thanksgiving: "To**  
**God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

We will say the Lord's prayer as a call and response.

**Our Father in heaven**

You are also at home in the air, soil, forests and oceans

**Hallowed be your name**

By the care we take of your Creation

**Your kingdom come**

All that you see is good

**Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven**

Your will to till and care

**Give us this day our daily bread**

That all may have enough to live life in fullness

**Forgive us our sins**

Our greed, our exploitation, our lack of concern  
for other species and for future generations

**As we forgive those who sin against us**

By reconciliation with justice and peace.

**Save us from the time of trial**

The temptation to equate dominion with exploitation

**And deliver us from evil**

The evil of destroying your gift of creation

**For yours is the kingdom**

Yours, Lord, not ours

**The power and the glory**

In the cross and resurrection

**Forever and ever**

You are the beginning and you are the end. **Amen.**

**Communion Hymns**

## Let Us Break Bread Together



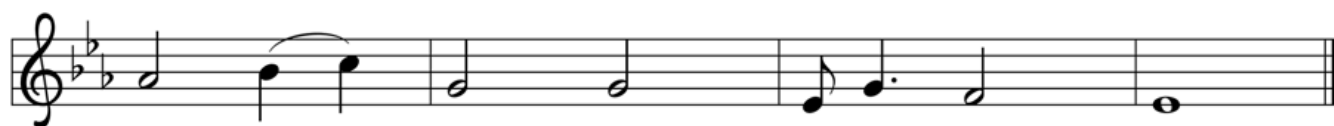
1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

## I Received the Living God



- 1 Je - sus said: I am the bread, knead - ed long to give you life;
- 2 Je - sus said: I am the way, and my Fa - ther longs for you;
- 3 Je - sus said: I am the truth; come and fol - low close to me.
- 4 Je - sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,



you who will par - take of me need not ev - er fear to die.  
so I come to bring you home to be one with us a - new.  
You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.  
but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know.

Text: Anonymous  
Music: LIVING GOD, Anonymous

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*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**SENDING**

**Announcements**

**Benediction**

**Sending Hymn**     *Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing*



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -  
2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,  
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!  
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;  
lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -  
by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,  
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.  
firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.  
ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902–1983, alt.

Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.

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**Dismissal**

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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## **The Bethel Weekly**

**Special Congregational Meeting:** will be after worship today to vote on the parsonage sewer pipe repairs that are needed.

**Benefit Concert:** Greg Pagel and Becky Markvart are performing today at 3pm at Resurrection Lutheran. More information is on the bulletin board in the hallway.

**Money Counter Needed:** for Team A that meets Sept & Oct and Mar & Apr. If you have any questions contact Dawn Schroeder.

**Giving Statements:** are available for you in the lounge.

**God's Work Our Hands:** There are still some items on teachers wish lists that can be purchased. Please give any monetary donations to Pastor Kim, Cindy Michalski, or the office.

**EPH events:** On Thur, Sept 25<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Partnership for Housing (EPH) will be hosting an Open House event from 3pm-7pm. Stop by and see how your support is making a difference for families with children facing homelessness in our community. They are located at 1021 Edgewood Drive, Green Bay. Please contact the EPH office with any questions at 920-544-0258.

**iPads/Tablets for worship:** We have been testing using iPads for the large print bulletin. Each week we make a QR code that anyone can scan to bring up the bulletin. We are also looking to purchase some used iPads if you have extra available, let the office know.

**Culver's Share Night & Outdoor Pet Blessing:** are coming up in October. Please see the bulletin board and newsletter for more information and to sign up for these events.

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