

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church
15th Sunday after Pentecost, Year C
September 21, 2025



Pastor Kim Swenson

Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister: Kay Zastrow

Reader: Michael Zastrow

Altar Guild: Linda Wery

Communion Assistant: Pat Petzel

Ushers: Linda Grunewald & Kay Smith

Video Tech: Rick Johnson

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 *God, We Gather as your People*



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we
that they nev - er have a rea - son to
May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.



Refrain
Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

Text: David Lohman, b. 1961

Music: WELCOME BE OUR SONG, David Lohman

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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.**

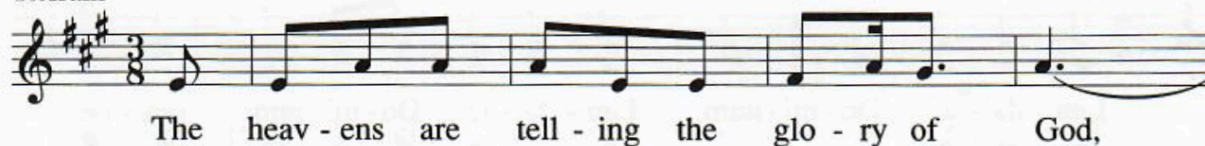
Hymn of Praise

Canticle of the Sun (Ps 19)

HS 829

Sing Refrain & Vs 3

Refrain



Vs 3

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

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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,

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

WORD

First Lesson Amos 8:4-7

⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

⁵ saying, "When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath,

so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier
and practice deceit with false balances,

⁶ buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

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

Psalm 113 (read responsively by verse)

¹ Praise the LORD!

Praise, O servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.

² **Blessed be the name of the LORD**
from this time on and forevermore.

³ From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the LORD is to be praised.

⁴ **The LORD is high above all nations**
and his glory above the heavens.

⁵ Who is like the LORD our God,
who is seated on high,

⁶ **who looks far down**
on the heavens and the earth?

⁷ He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

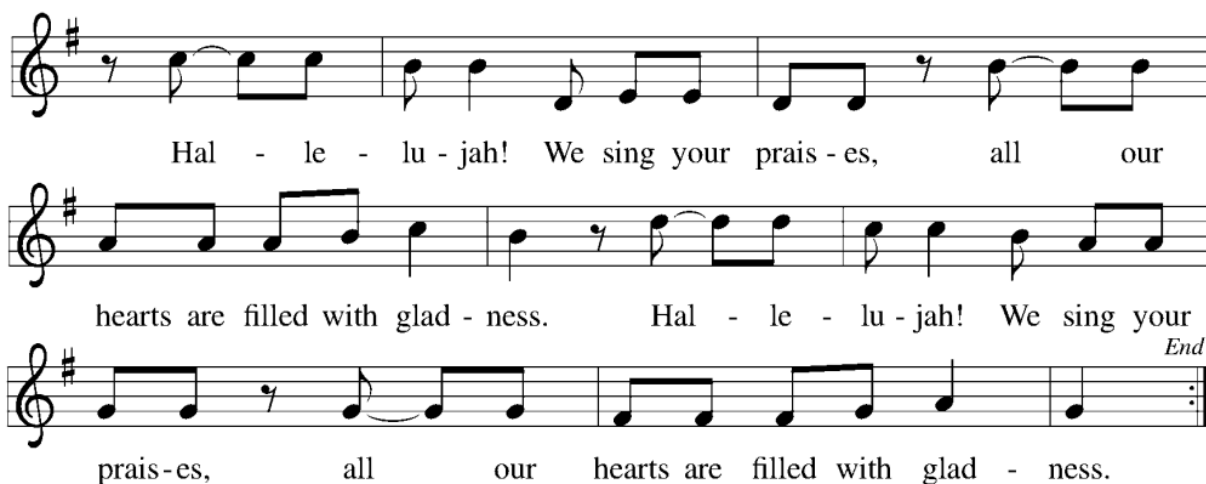
⁸ **to make them sit with princes,**
with the princes of his people.

⁹ He gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother of children.

Praise the LORD!

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 16:1-13

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

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.'
³ Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.'
⁵ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.'
⁷ Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.'
⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending



- 1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less store:
- 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
- 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con - ferred;



na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door,
all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the church made one.
ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the gos - pel word.



gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of - f'ring up our - selves in praise;
Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone;
O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call,



thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
heal - ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006

Music: RUSTINGTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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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

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 a song of thanksgiving to

God the creator triumphantly raise,

The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the

Deeps 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!"**

... Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, everlasting God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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 Hymn

By Your Hand You Feed Your People



- 1 By your hand you feed your peo - ple, food of an - gels, heav-en's bread.
- 2 In this meal we taste your sweet-ness, bread for hun - ger, wine of peace.
- 3 Send us now with faith and cour - age to the hun - gry, lost, be - reaved.



For these gifts we did not la - bor, by your grace have we been fed:
Ho - ly word and ho - ly wis - dom sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.
In our liv - ing and our dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:



Christ's own bod - y, blessed and bro - ken, cup o'er - flow - ing, life out - poured,



giv - en as a liv - ing to - ken of your world re - deemed, re - stored.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

Music: CAMROSE, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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

SENDING

Announcements

Benediction

God all mighty, God most merciful

✠ bless you, keep you

And give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn *Rise Up, O Saints of God!* **Cranberry 669**



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
- 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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Dismissal

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

Thanks be to God.

The Bethel Weekly

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.

EPH Events On Thur, Sept 25th EPH will be hosting an **Open House** 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.

Ecumenical Partnership for Housing (EPH) will hold its second annual **Grace & Gratitude Gathering** on Thursday, November 20th from 5:00pm-8:00pm at Stadium View Traditions Event Hall. This event is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and enjoy a casual evening out while making a difference for families facing homelessness in Brown County. There is more information about these events in the hallway.

John Kelley & Friends Benefit Concert: Mark your calendars for Friday, September 26th!!! John Kelley and Friends is an eclectic blend and intense fusion combining the musical genres of Classical, Rock, Christian, Jazz and Musical Theater. They will be performing a benefit concert at St Matthews Catholic Community Church at 130 St Matthews Street in Allouez. This will be a free will offering performance, benefitting our Feed My Starving Children Green Bay MobilePack. Doors open at 5:30, pizza and concessions will be available starting at 6:00 p.m. Concert will begin at **6:30 pm. Please note this is a time change from the Bethel Herald.**

Culver's Share Night: is coming up October 7th . We still need volunteers to help out, please see the bulletin board to sign up. Remember 15% of all sales, including gift cards, comes back to Bethel.

Outdoor Worship & Pet Blessing: Bring your pet, your favorite stuffed animals, your plant, and/or a picture of your animal friend and join us for a special Blessing for St Francis. We will worship outside on Sunday, October 5th at 9am so that all 4 legged friends can be comfortable! Please bring a lawn chair to sit on (we will also have folding chairs available at church.) Or if you prefer, run home and bring your pet after worship. Dog treats will be provided.

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