

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church
23rd Sunday after Pentecost, Year C
November 16, 2025



Pastor Kim Swenson
Musician Michelle Oakland
Worship Assistants
Assisting Minister: Kay Zastrow
Reader: Gayle Peot
Altar Guild: Linda Wery
Communion Assistant: Gayle Peot
Ushers: Kay Smith & Julie Juranitch
Video Tech: Yvonne Pamperin

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

GATHERING

Welcome

Opening Hymn *If You But Trust in God to Guide You*



1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621–1681; tr. composite
Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark
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Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.
Faithful God,

you have shown us the ways of your heart,
 yet we stray from your paths.
 We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression
 and do not embrace the freedom
 of your faithful promises.
 We ignore our neighbors.
 We exploit the earth.
 We reject your abundance,
 trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love.
 Repair our relationships,
 restore what we have broken,
 renew our hearts,
 and bring us to new life. **Amen.**

Hear the good news:
 God the Faithful One loves you,
 ☩ in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven,
 and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free. **Amen.**

This is the Feast Setting 4

Refrain
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray,

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Malachi 4:1-2a

¹ See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ^{2a} But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings

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

Psalm 98

¹ O sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.

**²The LORD has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.

**⁴Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

⁵ Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

**⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.**

⁷ Let the sea roar and all that fills it,
the world and those who live in it.

**⁸Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy**

⁹ at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming
to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

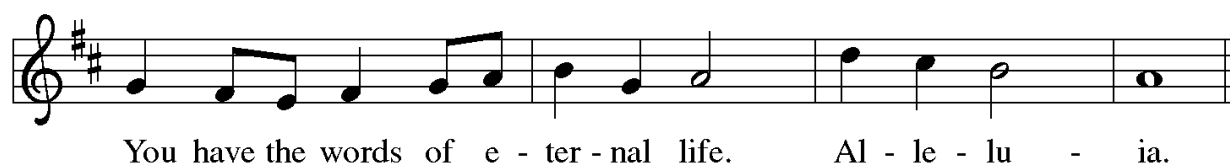
Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

⁶ Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, ⁸ and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹ This was not because we do not have that

right but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right

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

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

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

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, ⁶ "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

⁷ They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" ⁸ And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

⁹ "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹² "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵ for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your souls."

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*



- 1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
- 2 Whendark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;
- 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;
- 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,



no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
in ev-'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.
when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.
clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.

Music: THE SOLID ROCK, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

Apostle's 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

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of roots and branches, defend the leaders of your church as they proclaim the gospel using discernment, wisdom, and brave testimony. Keep all the baptized on righteous paths in response to Christ's call. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of roaring seas, in a world of earthquake, famine, and plague, use your mighty power to nurture the land and all that lives upon it. Restore peoples and places experiencing natural disasters. Strengthen organizations who provide aid to any in crisis. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of victory, among quests for power, guide those in government, courts, law enforcement agencies, and the military. Turn them from war and violence to actions of care that build up the common good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of healing, where injustice and exploitation result in populations that are marginalized or underserved, accompany those abandoned by friends, hurt by family, and harmed by violence or oppression. Care for all who are ill, anxious, or in pain of any kind. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of new songs, in a congregation of faithful believers, energize us for compassionate service and delight us through worship and inspired prayer. Encourage your people in building equitable community where all are valued. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For what else do the people of God pray?

God of every generation, we remember the saints with steadfast love and faithfulness. Confident in Christ's victory over death, may we be inspired by the example of the faithful. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always,
And also with you.

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MEAL

Offering

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray, God of healing and hope,
you bless those who are hungry,
promising to fill them with good things.
Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts.
Nourish us with the abundance of your feast
and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior,
now and forever. 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.

Holy God, our loving Creator, as close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith in every generation who have given themselves to your will, especially for Jesus Christ, whom you have sent from your own being as our Savior. We praise you for Christ's birth, life, death and resurrection, and for the calling forth of your church for its mission in the world.

Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n 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.

... Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God,
 through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit,
 in your church, without end. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in 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**

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

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

SENDING

Announcements

Benediction

The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you,
God the Son save you,
and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead.

The holy Trinity bless you ☩
and grant you a faithful and courageous heart
now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

When Peace Like a River



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888
Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876

Dismissal

Go in peace.

Be a blessing in the world.

Thanks be to God.

Funding for Mission & Budget

Monthly Receipts through 11/10/25	\$10,419.14
Monthly Budget Expenses:	\$20,033.00
YTD Receipts through 10/31/25:	\$187,255.00

Bethel Weekly

Salvation Army Senior Meal: is tomorrow morning November 17th. Please see the sign-up sheet in the hallway for the items that are still needed.

EPH Grace & Gratitude Gathering: will be Thursday November 20th from 5:00-8:00pm at Stadium View. **Baked goods are needed for the bake sale.** If you'd like to make something for the sale please drop it off at church by 10am Wednesday November 19th. Tim or Nancy Moran would also be available to pick up from you. Please use disposable pans for your items as they will be repackaged prior to the sale. If you have questions or to arrange a pick up please contact Nancy Moran at (920) 246-0448.

Thank You Card Collection: to thank Diane Meinel for her years as music director. Please drop off any thank you cards in the basket in the lounge so that we can get them to her.

Poinsettia Order Forms: are now available in the lounge and the office. Please return them as soon as possible. **All orders have to be received by November 23rd.**

Advent Event: On Saturday December 6th starting at 9am Joy and BBB's Bible study groups are combining forces to present a morning full of food, friendship, gifts, and laughter. Plan to bring family and friends. See the sign up sheet in the hallway and list the number of people who will be attending with you. If you would like, you can bring 2 dozen cookies to share. Also don't forget to bring a wrapped gift for the Holiday Gift Auction. The proceeds go toward the Haiti Christmas Party.

Fellowship Hour: Please see the sign up sheet to volunteer to host a fellowship hour after worship in November or December.

Handbags for Hope: In conjunction with the Resurrection Food Pantry, we are filling purses with hygiene items. We are specifically in need of donations of travel size hygiene items such as toothbrushes, shampoo, lip balm, etc. to fill the purses prior to distribution. Suggestions can be found on the front of the bin in the lounge.

Digital Bulletins: We have been using iPads for the large print bulletins but anyone who wants to bring a tablet can scan the QR code in the lounge to get access to the bulletin. Eventually we could save a lot of paper this way.

Fill the Wagon: Bethel dropped off 173 pounds of food for the Resurrection Food Pantry this week. Way to go! Look for another shopping list for December.

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