

Welcome to Bethania Lutheran Kirke



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

9:30 a.m.

BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:

<http://www.bethanialutheran.org/bulletins/>

**Order of Worship
for
Sunday, September 17, 2023**

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

GATHERING

(Please rise)

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Sing and rejoice! The Lord reaches out to you with healing love!

C: The Lord is our strength and our power!

L: Dance before the Lord, a dance of joy and hope!

C: The Lord brings us joy and lifts us up in hope.

L: Come, let us worship God who is always with us.

C: Let us celebrate the good news God brings to us each day. AMEN.

PROCESSIONAL & GATHERING HYMN

“Awake O Sleeper ” #745

With One Voice—Blue Hymnal

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Lord, we confess that we don't always turn to you in our troubles. Sometimes we are paralyzed by fear and anxiety. We cannot see "the light at the end of the tunnel". For us, there is only the ongoing darkness and hopelessness. Clear our sight, O Lord. Bind up our wounded spirits!

Fill us with your mercy and love. Forgive us when we stray; when we fear; when we falter. Pick us up and place us on pathways of peace and hope, for we ask this in Jesus' Name.

C: AMEN.

SALUTATION

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

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,

C: O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

(Please be seated)

WORD

OUR FIRST LESSON is from the book of Genesis, chapter 50, verses 15 through 21.

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PLEASE READ RESPONSIVELY - PSALM 103, verses 1 through 13

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

²**Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—**

³who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

⁴**who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

⁵who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶**O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

⁹you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹²**As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

OUR SECOND LESSON is from the book of Romans; chapter 14, verses 1 through 12.

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

L: This is the Spirit speaking to the church.

C: Thanks be to God!

(Please rise)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(LBW #239)

Refrain
Leader All

Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,
Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,
ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma. ma.
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 18th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

²¹Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his

slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'
²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.'
²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'
³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

(Please be seated)

MESSAGE

(Please rise)

HYMN OF THE DAY -

"Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive "

#307

Lutheran Book of Worship –Green Hymnal

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.**

PRAYER SONG

$\text{♩} = 105$

In the Qui - et, Peace ful Pres - ence of this Place

May Our Prayer-ful com - mun-ion Re - flect God's Own Grace!

Join with us in sweet Si - lence, As we pray to end

Vio - lence. See Him Shine through us

All of our Days!

PRAYERS

L: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

L: We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy especially Dan , Ann Marie, Pat & Pete , Jeff & Sue O., Austin , Kevin, Ryan, Anita, Grete, Glenn, Bonnie, Heather, Brad, Missy, Illiana, Junior, Bob & Sue, Suzy and all those we name in our hearts. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

PRAYER SONG (repeated)

$\text{♩} = 105$

In the Qui - et, Peaceful Pres - ence of this Place

May Our Prayer-ful com - mun-ion Re - flect God's Own Grace!

Join with us in sweet Si - lence, As we pray to end

12 Vio - lence. See Him Shine through us

All of our Days!

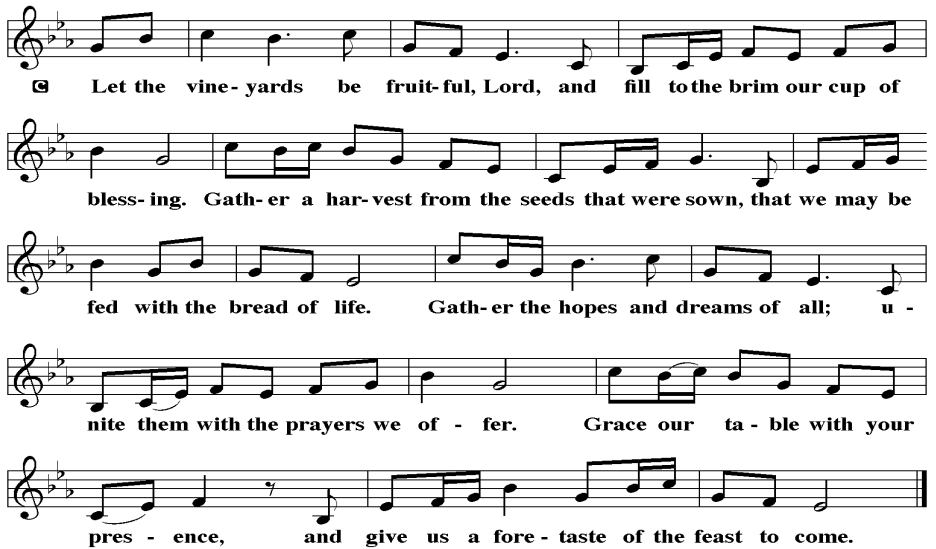
SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

(Shaking of hands and sharing the peace with others around you.)

OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray,

God of power, God of plenty,

all things belong to you.

We bring your gifts to the table,

that all might be fed.

Form us into the body of your Beloved,

Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen

INTRODUCTION TO THE MEAL

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,
Our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks,
Broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
And gave it for all to drink , saying;
This is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you
And for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this in remembrance of me.

P: Let us join together in the prayer that our Lord taught us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L: Jesus invites you to this table.

Come, eat and live.

(Please be seated)

SHARING THE MEAL

For in person, come up the center aisle, receive your communion wafer, carefully dip your wafer into the wine. If grape juice is preferred let the assistant know.

For at home using plain bread/crackers and wine/grape juice.

COMMUNION HYMN - "Baptized and Set Free" #453

Lutheran Book of Worship –Green Hymnal

(Please rise)

COMMUNION BLESSING

L: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Let us Pray,

Blessed be your name, O God,

for we have feasted on your Word,

Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.

Strengthened by this food,

send us to gather the world to your banquet,

where none are left out and all are satisfied.

In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

L: The God of glory,

✝ Jesus Christ, name above all names,
and the Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever.

C: AMEN!

SENDING HYMN -

“Where Charity & Love Prevail”
Lutheran Book of Worship –Green Hymnal

#126

RECESSIONAL

A: We follow the cross of Christ into the world.

(Congregation turns as the cross passes them—so they are facing the back of the church)

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

TODAYS WORSHIP LEADERS:

Worship Leader: Pastor Kelly Taylor Schaus

Lector: Vicki Thiery

Communion Assistants: Julie Hansen and Vicki Thiery

Acolyte: Brooke McIntosh Offering Presenter: Ed Young

Coffee Hour: CHURCH PICNIC

Altar Flowers: Jacque MaJeed

Building Host: Ed Young

WORSHIP LEADERS NEXT WEEK (Sunday 9/24):

Worship Leader: Kelly Imhoff

Lector: Jerod Alderson

Communion Assistants: Kelly Imhoff & Jerod Alderson

Acolyte: Dominic Shawhan Offering Presenter: Kelly I

Coffee Hour: Sharon & Bettie Altar Flowers: TBD

Building Host: Kelly Imhoff



THE ALTAR FLOWERS TODAY ARE TO THE
GLORY OF GOD AND IN HONOR OF OUR
18TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY BY JACQUE
& AMJAD MAJEED

THIS WEEK AT BETHANIA....

Sunday, September 17, 2023 -

9:30 a.m. – Worship In Person & on Facebook Live

10:30 a.m. –CONFIRMATION MEETING

11:00 a.m.—Church PICNIC

Monday, September 18, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

10:00 to 2:00—Thread By Thread

4:30 to 6:00 p.m.—Bible Study

Thursday, September 21, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

Friday, September 22, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

Sunday, September 24, 2023

9:30 a.m. – Worship In Person & on Facebook Live

10:30 a.m. –Coffee Hour

10:45 a.m. - Thread By Thread Change Over