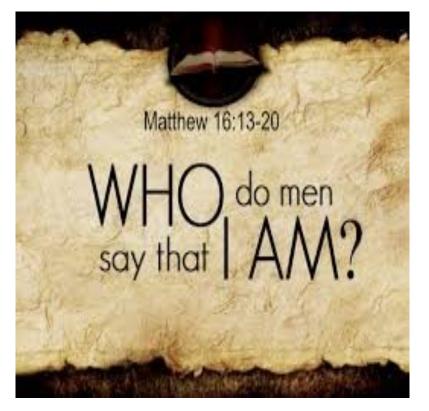
Welcome to Bethania Lutheran Kirko



Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 3, 2023 9:30 a.m. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License #SAS003687

Order of Worship for Sunday September 3, 2023

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

GATHERING

(Please rise and face the back of the church)

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We gather as a community of compassion and hope. C: Jesus calls us to care for each other tenderly and willingly. L: By this caring and sharing we will be known as followers of Jesus.

C: By our example others may be led to lives of peace.

L: Lord, open our hearts and minds this day to your word.

C: Teach us to serve you with all our gifts and talents. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL AND GATHERING HYMN- (TFF#237)



Text: Thomas Shepherd, 1665–1739 Music: MAITLAND, George N. Allen, 1812–1877

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us Pray,

C: God of love and mercy, be with us this day. We have faltered in our service to you. We create divisions between various people; we judge before we listen; we condemn before we make any attempt to understand. Our lives are in turmoil and we confess that we have turned away from you. It is fear and anger that too often surrounds us and our actions become based on those fears and anger. Slow us down, Lord. Give us hearts overflowing with grace and compassion. Help us to mirror Jesus who loved and healed others who were rejected by "polite" society. Remind us that we are called to be strong voices of hope for those who feel alienated and lost; we are called to be a home to strangers; to quench thirst and to give nourishment; to welcome and bring words of hope. Forgive us when we have forgotten these things. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

SALUTATION

P : 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.

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord

C: Amen

WORD

OUR FIRST READING is from the book of Jeremiah chapter 15, verses 15 through 21.

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

¹⁵O LORD, you know;

remember me and visit me,

and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;

know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them,

and your words became to me a joy

and the delight of my heart;

for I am called by your name,

O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice;

under the weight of your hand I sat alone,

for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing,

my wound incurable,

refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD:

- If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me.
- If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. ²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD. ²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PLEASE READ RESPONSIVELY Psalm 26 verses 1 through 8.

¹Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

²Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.

³For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.

⁵I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, that I may go in procession round your altar,

⁷singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸LORD, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.

OUR SECOND READING is from the book of Romans, Chapter 12, verses 9 through 21.

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

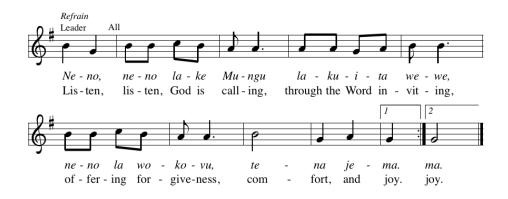
¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

L: This is the Spirit speaking to the church.

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(ELW #513)



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 16th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you O Christ.

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY -

(ELW#798)

Will You Come and Follow Me The Summons



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949 Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional Text © 1987 Jona Community, GIA Publications. Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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WORDS OF ASSURANCE

P: Christ calls each of us into lives of service and hope. He equips us for these ministries and places us on the pathways of peace. Rejoice! You are called by God's Son and blessed by him.

C: AMEN.



PRAYER SONG

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

P: God of life, your words are the joy at the heart of your church. Draw the seeker to you, place messages of hope and healing in the mouths of your witnesses, and open your children to your truth when we stumble. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God of steadfast love, renew the earth by your Spirit, that lands and oceans reveal the beauty of your creation. Challenge us to live humbly and peaceably as part of your world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God of patience, lead those who govern to hold fast to what is good. Guide them to show honor to the people in their care. Overcome evil in all nations and grant peace to peoples and places mired in conflict. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God of deliverance, remember all who are suffering, lonely, and in pain especially Dan , Ann Marie, Pat & Pete , Jeff & Sue O., Austin , Kevin, Ryan, Anita, Grete, Glenn, Bonnie, Heather, Brad, Missy, Illiana, Junior, Jeff L., Kim, Jackie, Kevin & Shelly, and all those we name in our hearts.

Liberate your people being insulted, persecuted, or in the grasp of the ruthless. Give endurance to workers who persevere on this Labor Day and insure fair wages and safe working environments. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God of justice, equip this congregation to boldly follow you in uncertain times and to remain faithful in prayer when facing challenges. Show us how best to love and care for one another and our communities. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God of glory, we give thanks for the saints who now dwell with you in splendor. Nurture us in faith until the day we join their heavenly song. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: 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.**

= 105 et. Peace ful the ence com · mun-ion Re - flect God's Own May Our Prayer-ful Joinwith sweet Si - lence. 12 See Him Shine through All Days!

PRAYER SONG

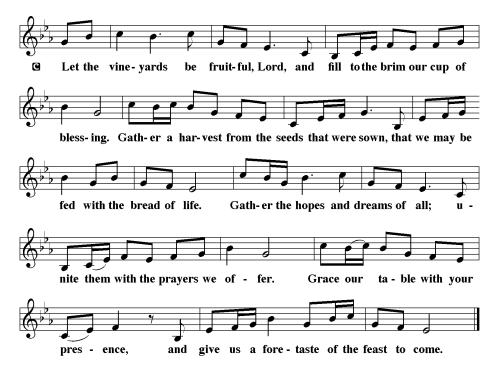
SHARING OF THE PEACE

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



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**

P: Let us join together in saying the prayer or Lord taught us to pray.

(You are invited to hold hands with our neighbor)

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.

BLESSING

P: The God of glory,
I Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever.
C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN -

"Bind Us Together " # 748 (With One Voice -Blue Hymnal)

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



The Altar Flowers TODAY are given to the Glory of God and In Celebration of our grandchildren Arden and Soren on their birthdays by Ed & Jacci Young



BETHANIA HOSTS COMMUNITY MEAL ON SUNDAY September 10, 2022

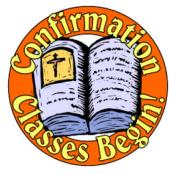
We need your help in supplying a meal for Community meal with donations of a fruit cups, vegetable cups, prepackaged snack cakes or monetary donation towards the entrée/meat.

Please see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside the hearth room.



Please join us on September 24th for our clothing changeover from summer to fall. It's been a beautiful summer, we hope everyone has had a chance to enjoy some warmth and sunshine. Our families that visit us for their clothing needs will soon need warmer clothing items so this is the time when we ask for your assistance. We will once again have pizza and great conversation following, so please consider heading up to the second floor after service to unpack boxes and totes. Pick up some coffee in the Hearth Room and join us. The sign up is on the board outside the Hearth Room.





September 17, 2023—

after worship In the Pastors office with Pastor Kelly Taylor-Schaus.

TODAYS WORSHIP LEADERS:

Guest Pastor:	Lector: Anne Woodward
Communion Assistants: Jeff & Calaway Alderson	
Acolyte: Dominic Shawhan	Offering: Jeff Alderson
Altar Flowers: Ed & Jacci Young	Building Host: Jeff Alderson
Coffee Hour: Anita Nielsen	
WORSHIP LEADERS FOR NEXT WEEK 9/10:	
Guest Pastor: Rev. Grant Quever	Lector: John Barnes
Communion Assistants: John & Robin Barnes	
Acolyte: Eli Imhoff	Offering: John Barnes
Altar Flowers: TBD	Building Host : John Barnes
Coffee Hour: Altar Guild	



This Week at Bethania....

Sunday, September 3, 2023 -

9:30a.m. – Worship In Person & on Facebook Live 10:30 a.m. –COFFEE HOUR Monday, September 4, 2023 - Labor Day Church Office CLOSED Tuesday, September 5, 2023 - Racine Unified Starts school 7:00 to 9:00 a.m.—Office Open Wednesday, September 6, 2023 7:00 to 9:00 a.m.—Office Open 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 P.m.—Thread By Thread OPEN 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.—Bible Study, Hearth Room Thursday, September 7, 2023 7:00 to 9:00 a.m.—Office Open Friday, September 8, 2023 7:00 to 9:00 a.m.—Office Open 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.—RUSD Transition Class 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.—Private Party set up Saturday, September 9, 2023 Noon to 5:00 p.m.-Private Party, fell. Hall & Kitchen Sunday, September 10, 2023 -

9:30a.m. – Worship In Person & on Facebook Live 10:30 a.m. – COFFEE HOUR