14th Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 2026

Bethany Lutheran Church

Welcome Visitors.

Please sign our visitor book. There activity bags available for small children, located by the entrance of sanctuary.

GATHERING

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

PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8

1 Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.
2 **Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.**
3 For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.
4 **I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.**
5 I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.
6 **I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, that I may go in procession round your altar,**
7 singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.
8 **LORD, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.**

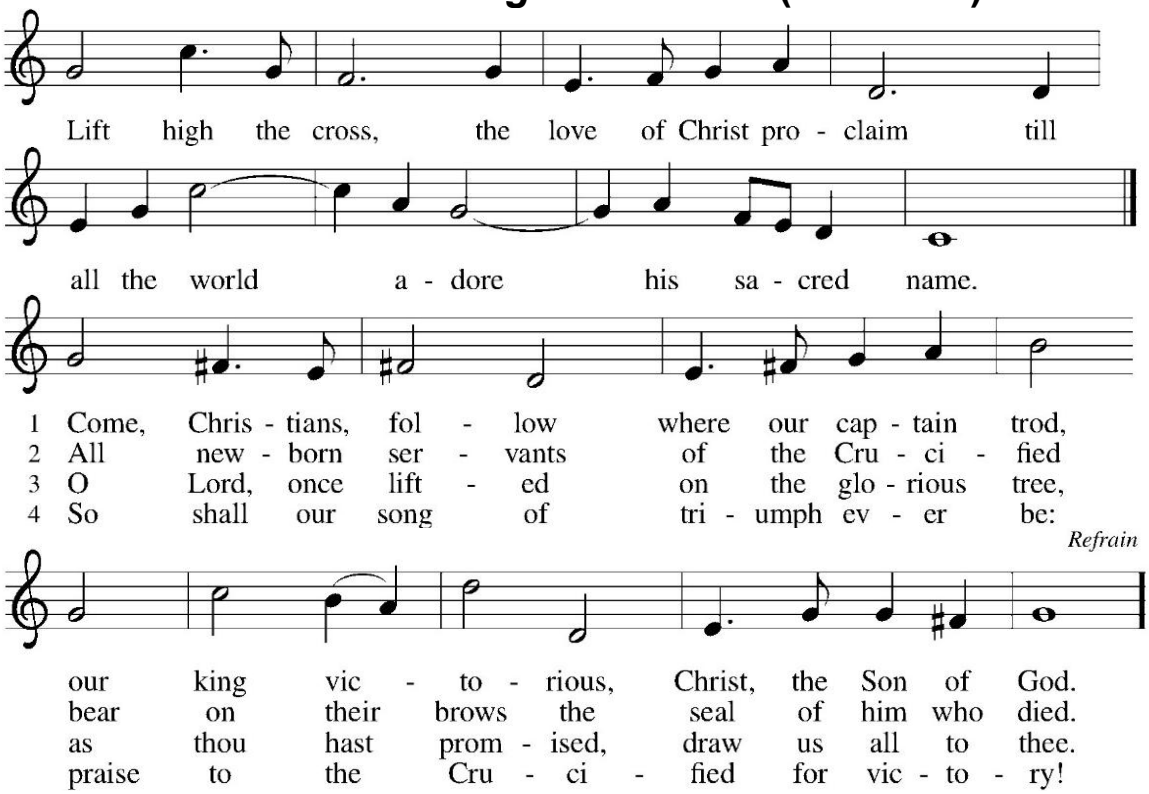
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✢ one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Compassionate God, **we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ✢ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *Lift High the Cross* (ELW 660)

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956
Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947
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GREETING

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

A reading from Jeremiah.

15 O 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. 16 Your 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. 17 I
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. 18 Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail. 19 Therefore 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. 20 And 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. 21 I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

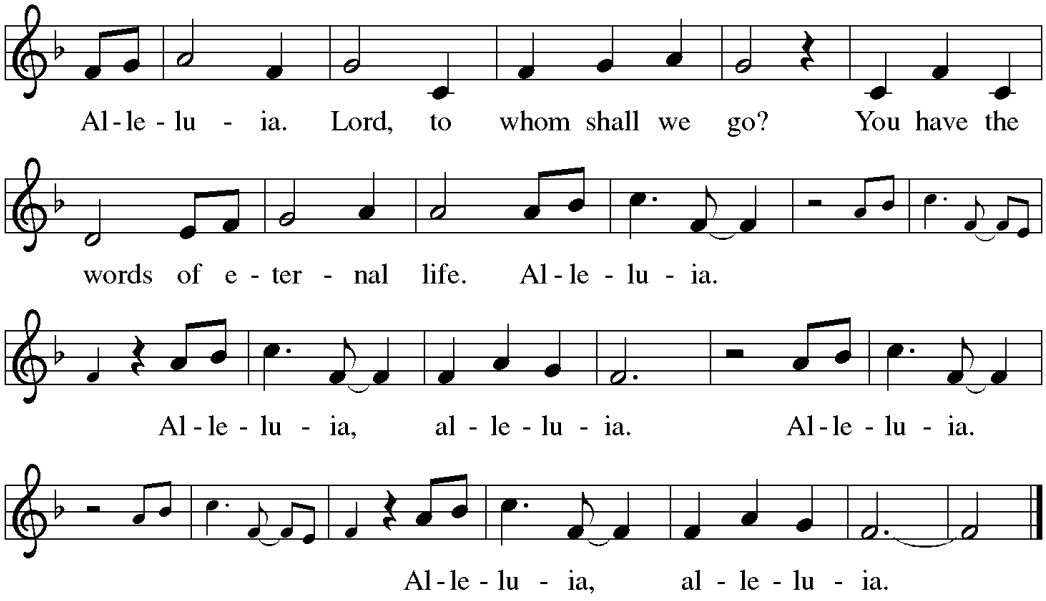
A reading from Romans

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

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. 18 If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.” 20 Instead, “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.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

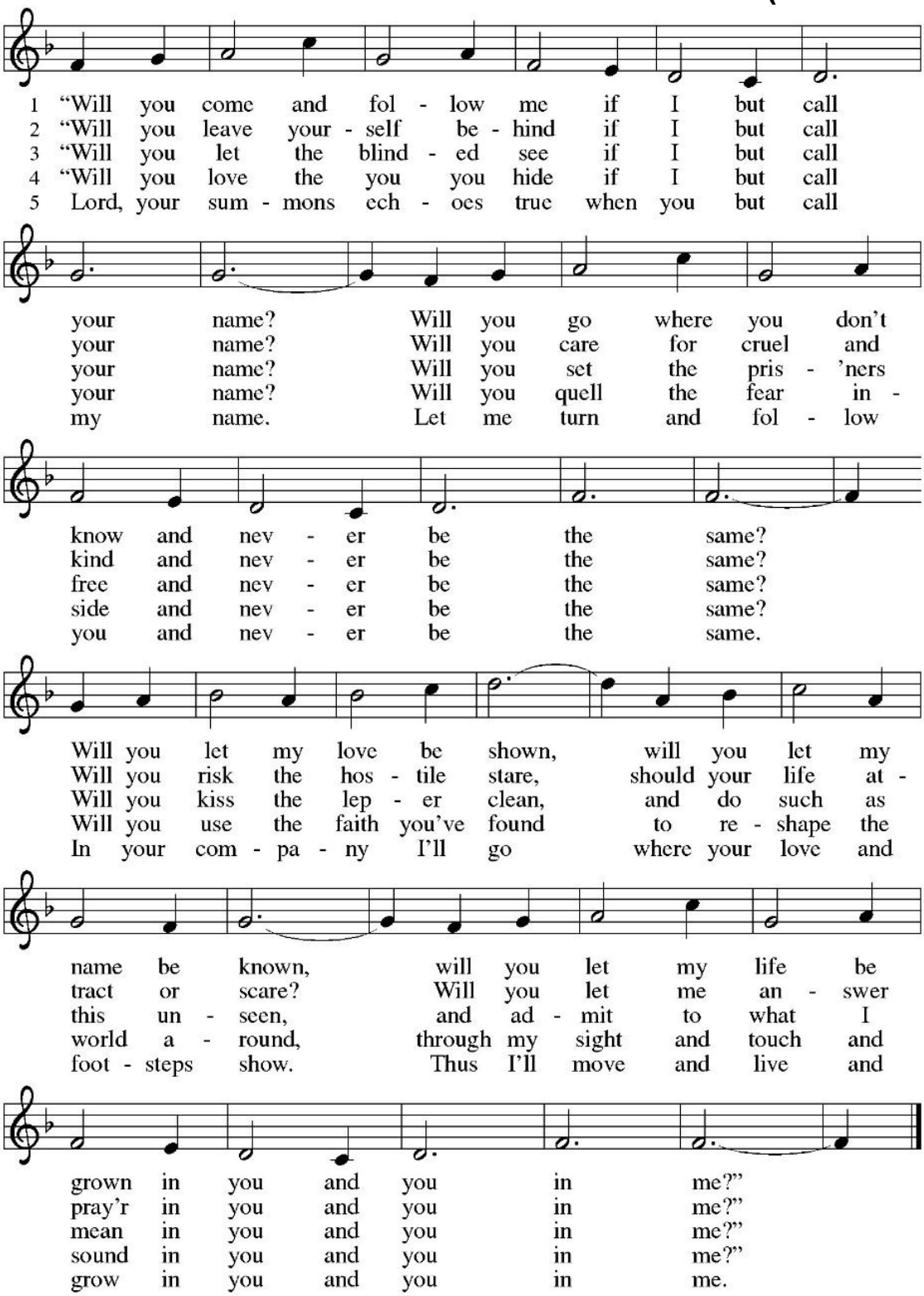
21 From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began
to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the
hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be
raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began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

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny
themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For those who want to save their
life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26 For 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. 28 Truly I tell you, there are some
standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his
kingdom.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Will You Come and Follow Me: The Summons (ELW 798) (vs. 1, 2, 4, 5)

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional
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BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each prayer petition ends: *Merciful God,* ***receive our prayer.***

PEACE

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

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *Now the Feast and Celebration* (ELW 167)

OFFERING PRAYER

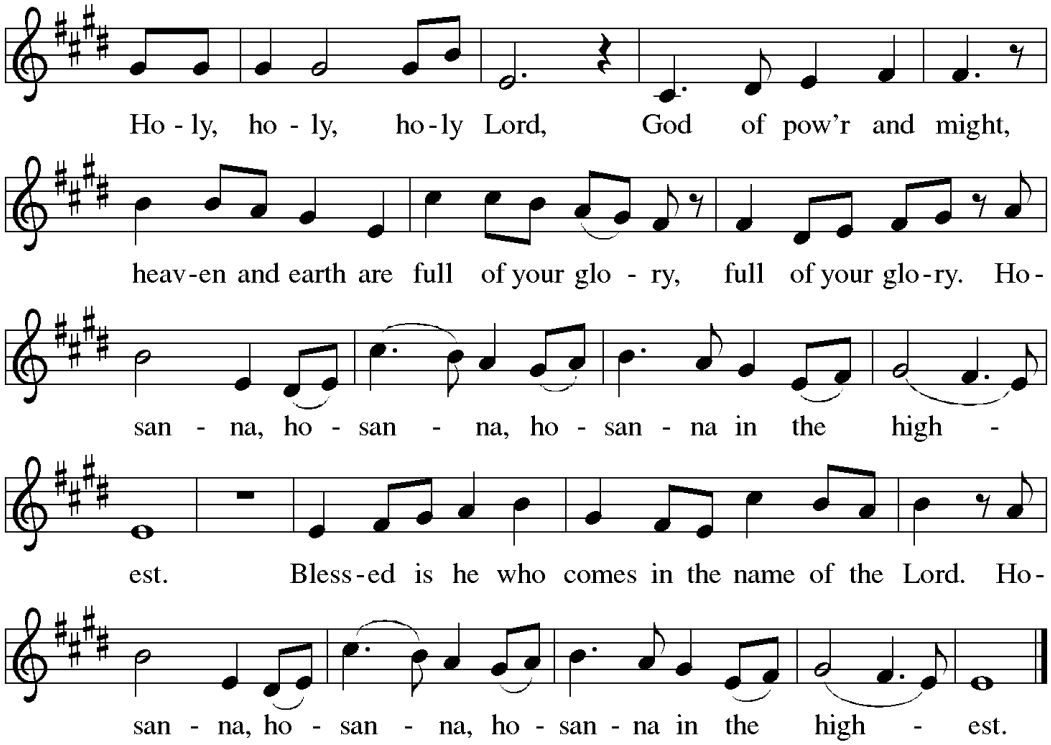
GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

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.**

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

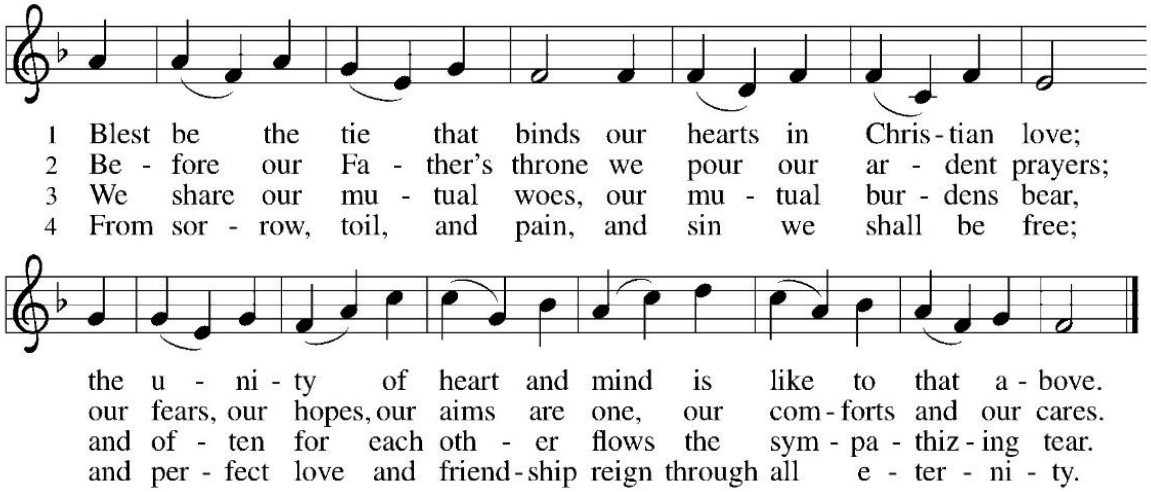
SENDING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* (ELW 656)



Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.
Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

DISMISSAL

We go, renewed and fed to create life-giving relationships **through worship, outreach and service. Thanks be to God.**

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Worship on Sunday morning is recorded on Facebook from the 9AM service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- If you haven't, please complete the updated information form. They are on the table by Offering Plates.
- September's Food Pantry Theme is "Snack Attack" – fruit bars, granola bars, cookies, crackers, trail mix
- September 1 – 4 pm Bethany Rachel Circle Meeting.
- September 6th – 10:30 am Joint Worship @ Bethany. Lunch will follow Worship.
- September 10th – 9 am Bible Study
- September 13th – Grandparents Day Celebration
- September 13th – Bethany Council Meeting
- September 15th – East Conference Pastor/Sams Meeting.
- September 20th – Sunday School after worship.
- September 20th – 23 – Pastor Off.
- September 22nd – October Beacon Due.
- September 27th – WELCA Meeting after worship.
- Ladies, please check out the notice on the W-ELCA bulletin board for an opportunity to attend a contemporary Christian concert in Reedsburg on Sat., Oct 24th @ 7:00 pm.
- Quilters could use full or queen flat sheets. Thank you.
- A Lions Glass box is in the Bethany Narthex for disposal of old eyeglasses.
- Wednesday 9 am – Quilting
- Tuesday AA meetings 6:30 pm @ East Lemonweir/ Thursday 6:30 pm @ Bethany

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Prayers of Concern:

Prayers for those who cannot worship with us today.

Prayers for those who have loss family and friends, especially the family and friends of Marian LaFortune.

Prayers for those who serve to protect others.

Prayers for Sonja Haske, Shirley Wehman, Joel Lingl (Galen's Brother), Mike Schultz, Shawna (Tim Parker's Sister), Sandy Hempel, Amy Andres Peterson (daughter of Tom & Roxanne Andres), Holly Berry, Dean Allard, Kalie Geitner (Galen & Janenne Lingl), Katie & Doug Johnson, Becky Bailey, Fred Wehman, Steve Werth, Ken Adams, Jordan Wehman, Tommy Paulson (Vanessa Lucas's Brother), John Preston, Garry Olson, Yvonne Olson, Jacob Sorenson, Mickie (Ron & Patti Thompson), Fran Benson, Landon LaBerge, Marilyn Wetley, and others we silently name.

Electronic giving is available via Vanco, using this QR Code: