# 21st Sunday after Pentecost
# October 18th, 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.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 96:1-6

1 Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.
2 **Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**
3 Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.
4 **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**
5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.
6 **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

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.**

## GATHERING SONG *You Servants of God* (ELW 825)

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: LYONS, attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737–1806

## 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.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE *(ELW P.185)*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## WORD

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

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

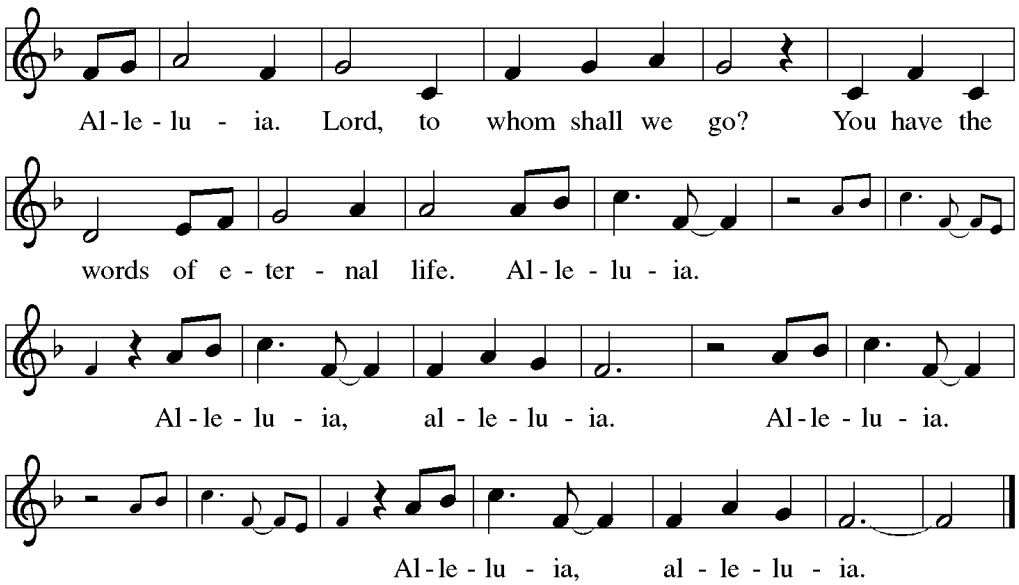
[1] Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to
subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed: [2] I will go before you and level the mountains; I will
break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; [3] I will give you the
treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it
is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. [4] For the sake of my
servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though
you do not know me. [5] I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no
god. I arm you, though you do not know me, [6] so that they may know, from the rising of
the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is
no other. [7] I form light and create darkness; I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do
all these things.

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

## SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

[1] Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.
[2] We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers,
constantly [3] remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of
love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. [4] For we know, brothers and
sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, [5] because our message of the gospel
came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full
conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your
sake. [6] And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you
received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, [7] so that you became an example to all
the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. [8] For the word of the Lord has sounded forth
from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has
become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. [9] For they report about us
what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to
serve a living and true God [10] and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised
from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION




## GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**
[15] The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. [16] So they sent
their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you
are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to
no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. [17] Tell us, then, what you think. Is it
lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” [18] But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why
are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? [19] Show me the coin used for the tax.”
And they brought him a denarius. [20] Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and
whose title?” [21] They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to

Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." [22] When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY *Lift Every Voice and Sing* (ELW 841)

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871–1938
Music: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING, J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873–1954

## LWR QUILT AND KIT BLESSING

God, you call us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Send forth your Spirit today as we call upon you…reach our most weary neighbors and surround them with your grace and peace. **Jesus, open our hearts to love our neighbors.**

God, we give you thanks for the pieces of fabric, thread, sewing machines…may these quilts wrap our neighbors in unending love, and may these kits offer dignity and healing. **Jesus, open our hearts to love our neighbors.**

God, we give thanks for all those who have taken part in creating these quilts and kits…May these quilts and kits provide comfort and relief to those who are downtrodden around the world. **Jesus, open our hearts to love our neighbors.**

God, be with those who will receive these…light and hope to those who are desolate and hopeless and fill them with the peace that is only found in you. **Jesus, open our hearts to love our neighbors.**

We thank you for this ministry of service, for the opportunity to comfort those in their darkest hours, to remind our neighbors in Christ of your loving presence. Bring us ever closer to your heart and our neighbors in need throughout the world. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the one who is our hope. **Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each prayer petition ends: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
…Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

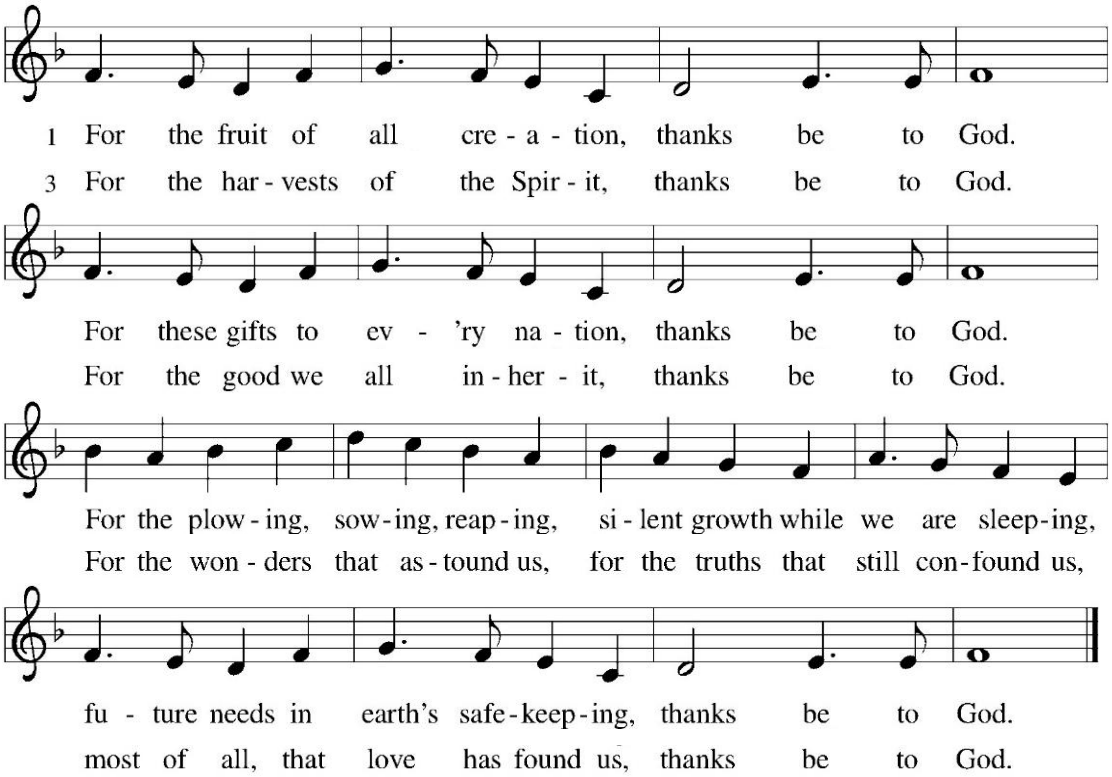
## PEACE

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

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERING *For the Fruit of All Creation* (ELW 679)




Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
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## 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.**

## 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 *God of Grace and God of Glory* (ELW 705)

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

## 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

- October Food Pantry Theme is "'Meat' the Need" – canned meats, tuna, stew, hamburger/tuna helper
- Quarterly statements are in your mailboxes.
- October 20th – Beacon Articles Due
- October 22nd – Pastor Off
- October 24th – East Lemonweir Fall Luncheon
- Quilters could use full or queen flat sheets. Thank you.
- No Bible Study this Thursday
- 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 the family and friends who have lost loved ones, especially the family of Anna Kirkwood.

**Prayers** for those who serve to protect others.

**Prayers** for Dawn VanMeter, Ken Adams, Sonja Haske, Shirley Wehman, Mike Schultz, 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, Jordan Wehman, Tommy Paulson (Vanessa Lucas's Brother), John Preston, Garry Olson, Yvonne Olson, Jacob Sorenson, Mickie (Ron & Patti Thompson), Fran Benson, Marilyn Wetley,

and others we silently name.

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