

15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2024

Bethany & East Lemonweir 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

God has given us this day for praise!

Praise be to God for this most generous gift!

God has given his Son to us that we might learn ways of peace and mercy.

Let the words of God's own Son, Jesus, enter our hearts and transform our lives!

Come, let us worship this great God of abundant mercy and love!

Let our songs, our words, and our thoughts reflect God's healing and restoring love. AMEN.

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 and come to God for healing.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

**The cravings at war within us
cause conflicts and disputes.**

**In our desire to be first
we make distinctions among ourselves.**

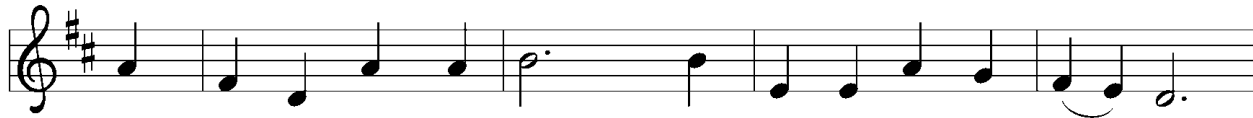
We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.

In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.

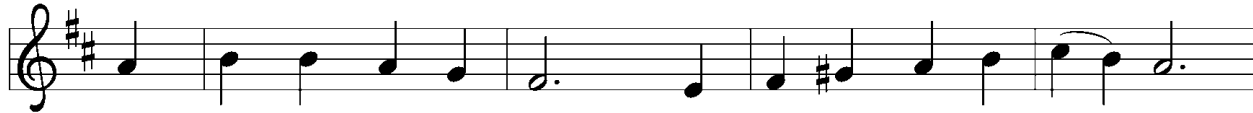
**Draw near to us with grace in time of need,
and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *O God, My Faithful God (ELW 806)*



1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing
3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;
4 When dan-gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;



with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—
guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;
help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;



give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless
but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,
help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,



a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.
what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.
then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.
and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.


Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT, Ahasuerus Fritsch, 1629–1701

GREETING

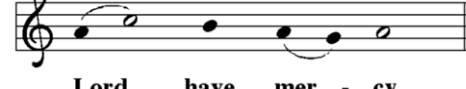
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

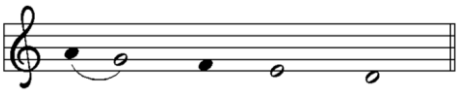
The Kyrie (pronounced *KEER-ee-ay*) is a prayer for God's mercy to fill the church and the world while acknowledging that mercy comes from the Triune God alone.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. 


Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. 

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. 

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and pray, let us pray to the Lord. 


Lord, have mer - cy.


Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. 

A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 148)

L: This is the feast of victory for our God, Alleluia.

^{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.

^{Refrain}

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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our strength, **without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 4L1-2, 6-9

A reading from Deuteronomy.

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you. ⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? ⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

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

SECOND READING: James 1:17-27

A reading from James.

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. ¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. ²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. ²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze

kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; ⁷in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ ⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.” ¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.” ²¹“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways (ELW 772)*



- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his statutes still!
- 2 Or - der my foot-steps by your word and make my heart sincere;
- 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
- 4 Make me to walk in your com-mands, 'tis a de-light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no dominion, Lord, but keep my conscience clear.
and should I e'er forget your way, re - store your wand'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

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 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 AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT (ELW 465)

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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OFFERING PRAYER

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG *O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts (LBW 356)*



1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of
2 Your truth un - changed has ev - er stood; you plead with
3 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to
4 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our
5 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our



life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -
all to call on you; to those who seek you, you are
feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -
chang - ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you
mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -



parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.
good; to those who find you, life is new.
head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.
turn, blest, when by faith we hold you fast.
way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you. **Thanks be to God.**

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

Announcements

- A luncheon will be served after worship today, please stay and join us, in the Bethany Fellowship Hall. This lunch is provided by the Bethany Council.
 - Tuesday, September 3rd, 4 pm, Bethany's Rachael Circle meeting in Bethany's Conference Room.
 - The youth and young adults who went to the National Youth/Young Adult Gathering in New Orleans will help with worship and present about their experience on September 8th at both Bethany and East Lemonweir
 - Thursday, September 12th 9 am...Bible Study resumes.
 - Throughout September and October, we will be watching the first season of The Chosen (a multi-season TV show about the ministry of Jesus) and spend time in discussion after.
 - Sunday, September 15th, Bethany BINGO following worship-Fellowship Sunday!
 - Sunday, October 6th, Bethany Auction will be held immediately following worship.
 - Donations of new and excellent used items would be appreciated. Items need to be at church by October 5th. Thank you.
 - October 27th – Bethany Baby Care Kits.
 - We will be gathering, the following items, through October 27th:
 - Sizes 6 months to 24 months, t-shirts, gowns, sleepers, receiving blankets, cloth diapers, jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts with hoods, socks, dark hand towels, bath-size gentle soap, diapers pins. Thank you.
 - AA meets at 6:30 PM – Tuesday @ East Lemonweir and Thursday @ Bethany.
 - Quilting – 9 am Wednesday @ Bethany. Please join us for fun, friend making and fellowship. No experience is required
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Prayers

Prayers for those who cannot worship with us today.

Prayers for those who have lost family and friends.

Prayers for Kalie Lingl Gietner, Sandy (Gayle Hempel's Daughter), Kurt Lauden, Jon Preston (Nephew in Law of Frank and Judy Zobel), Kathy Haske, Tim & Barb Parker's Nephew serving in Guatemala, Henry & Margarete Hummelbeck, Wyatt, Collette Schultz, Garry Olson, Yvonne Olson, Jacob Sorenson, Elwood Syverson, Dennis Stark, Mickie(Ron/Patty Thompson), Fran Benson, Landon LaBerge, Marilyn Wetley, Jack Krotzman, Inger Kirkwood and others we silently name.

Prayers for those who serve our world, country, and communities.

Bethany/East Lemonweir Parish – www.bethanyeast.com

bethanyeast@mwt.net Follow Us on Facebook!

Pastor, Rev. Lucy Hardie

Parish Secretary, Betty Krotzman

Organist, Michaela Pedersen for Bethany Organist, Marlene Pelton for East Lemonweir