15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 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 148

1 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD
from the heavens; praise him in the
heights! 2 Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!
3 Praise him, sun and moon; praise
him, all you shining stars! 4 Praise him,
you highest heavens and you waters
above the heavens!
5 Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they were
created. 6 He established them forever
and ever; he fixed their bounds, which
cannot be passed.
7 Praise the LORD from the earth, you
sea monsters and all deeps,
8 fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy
wind fulfilling his command!
9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and
all cedars! 10 Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!
11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
12 Young men and women alike, old and
young together! 13 Let them praise the
name of the LORD, for his name alone is
exalted; his glory is above earth and
heaven.
14 He has raised up a horn for his
people, praise for all his faithful, for the
people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the LORD!

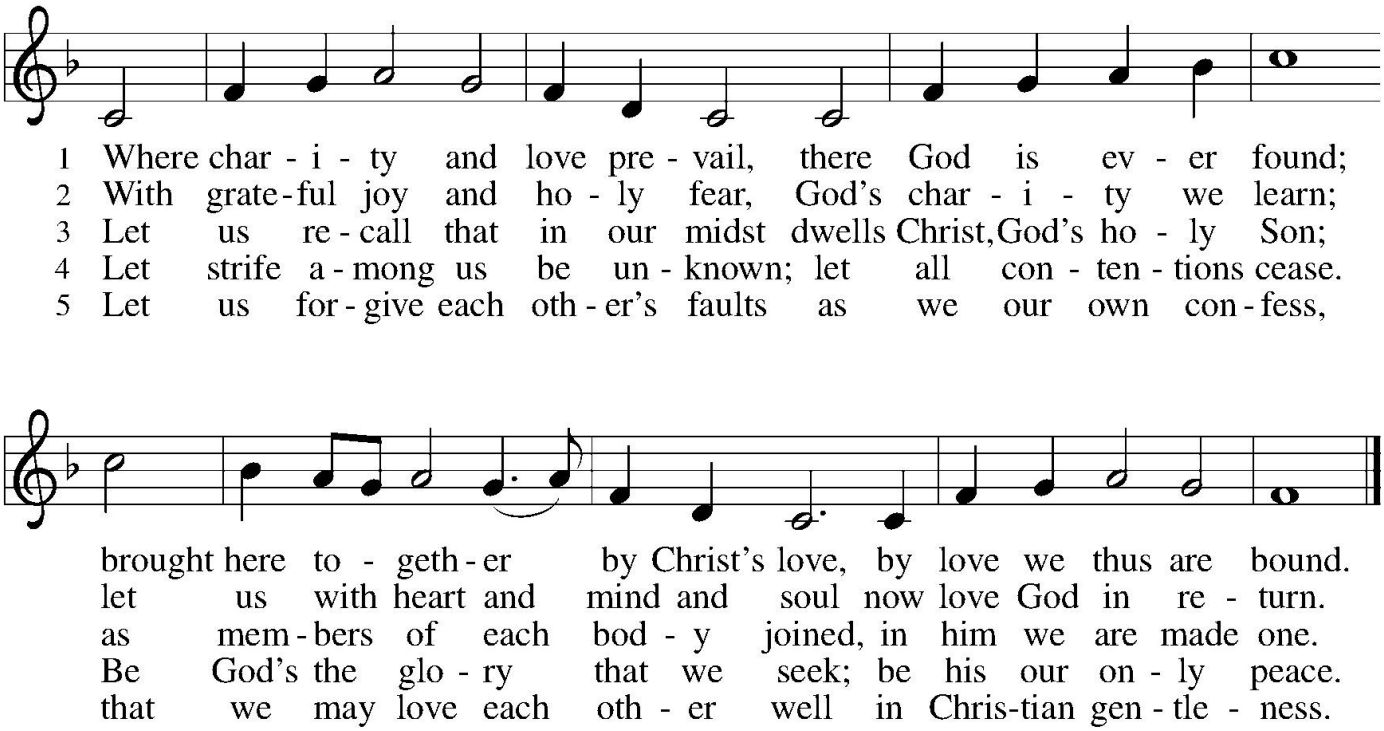
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God,
the one who forms us, ☩ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.
Amen.
Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Steadfast and faithful God,
you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed
by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have
for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you
and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In ✢ Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *Where Charity and Love Prevail* (ELW 359)



Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.
Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842
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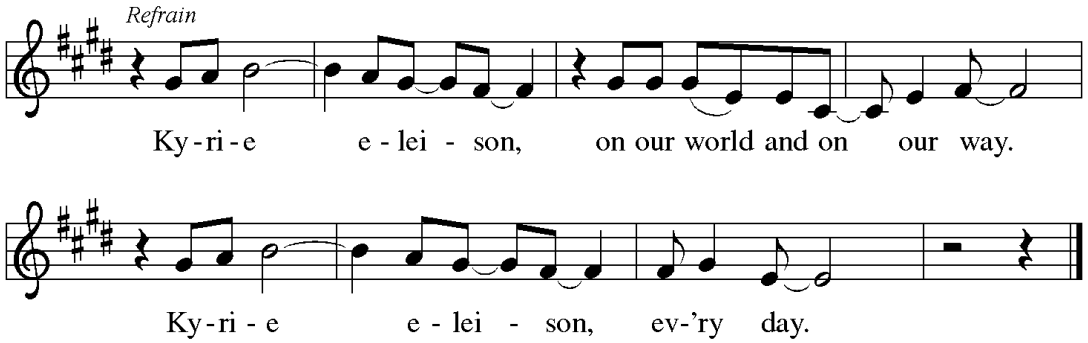
GREETING

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.**

KYRIE (ELW P. 184)

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. ***The congregation sings the refrain, the song leader (cantor) sings the verses.***

Refrain:



V1) For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord (*Refrain*)

V2) That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord (*Refrain)*

V3) For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord (*Refrain)*

V4) For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord (*Refrain)*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, **enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

A reading from Ezekiel.

7 So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a
word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. 8 If I say to the wicked,
"O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn
from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your
hand. 9 But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from
their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

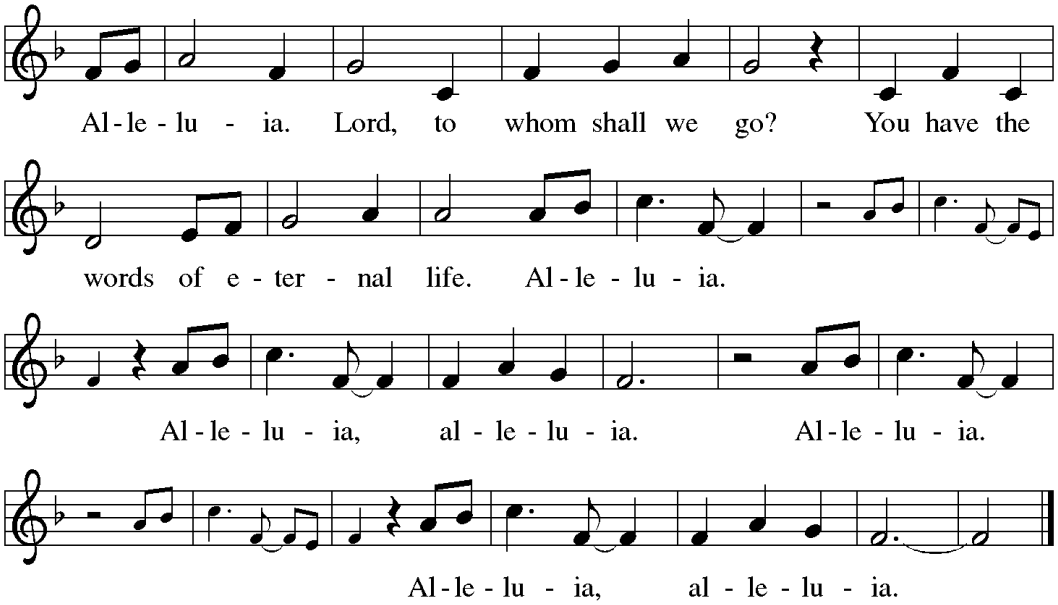
10 Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our
transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how
then can we live?” 11 Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in
the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back,
turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

A reading from Romans.

8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has
fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not
murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are
summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 10 Love does no
wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.
11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to
wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;
12 the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and
put on the armor of light; 13 let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and
drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.
14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify
its desires. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 15 “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point
out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained
that one. 16 But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that
every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If that
person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen

even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. [18] Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. [19] Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. [20] For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *God, When Human Bonds Are Broken* (ELW 603)

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929
Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each prayer petition ends: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

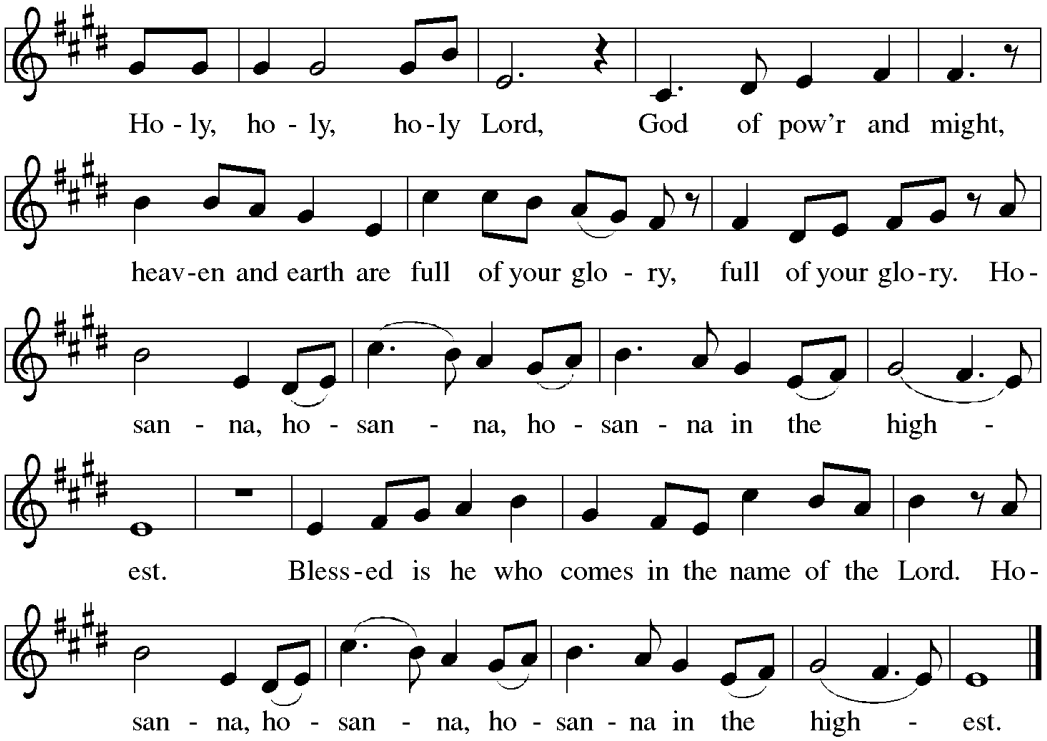
GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering … to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

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 *This Is My Father's World* (ELW 824)

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858–1901
Music: TERRA PATRIS, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852–1930, adapt.

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

- 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 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 – 23rd Pastor is Off.
- September 22nd – October Beacon Articles 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.
- Wednesday 9 am - Quilting
- Tuesday AA meetings 6:30 pm @ East Lemonweir/ Thursday 6:30 pm @ Bethany

Prayers of Concern:

Prayers for those who cannot worship with us today.

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: