

Welcome to  
**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

*Loving God, Serving Others*  
**Twelfth Sunday in Pentecost**  
**August 16, 2026**



In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

## GATHERING

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

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose compassion endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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.**

## Build a Longer Table



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,  
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;  
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.  
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.  
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.  
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.  
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,  
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,  
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,  
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.  
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.  
Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.  
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc., [gianmusic.com](http://gianmusic.com). All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

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

Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie - dad;      ten pie - dad      de no -  
 Lord, . . have mer - cy on us;      O . . . Lord,      have . . .

so - tros.      Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie -  
 mer - cy.      Lord, . . have mer - cy on

dad;      ten pie - dad      de no - so - tros.  
 us;      O . . . Lord,      have . . mer - cy.

Cris - to, Cris - to, ten pie - dad;      ten pie - dad      de no -  
 Christ, . . have mer - cy on us;      O . . . Christ,      have . .

so - tros.      Cris - to, Cris - to, ten pie -  
 mer - cy.      Christ, . . have mer - cy on

dad;      ten pie - dad      de no - so - tros.  
 us;      O . . . Christ,      have . . mer - cy.

Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie - dad;      ten pie - dad      de no -  
 Lord, . . have mer - cy on us;      O . . . Lord,      have . . .

so - tros.      Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie -  
 mer - cy.      Lord, . . have mer - cy on

dad;      ten pie - dad      de no - so - tros.  
 us;      O . . . Lord,      have . . mer - cy.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

## WORD

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

### **First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8**

*The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.*

<sup>1</sup> Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,  
for soon my salvation will come  
and my deliverance be revealed.

<sup>6</sup> And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,  
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,  
and to be his servants,  
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it  
and hold fast my covenant—

<sup>7</sup> these I will bring to my holy mountain  
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;  
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices  
will be accepted on my altar,  
for my house shall be called a house of prayer  
for all peoples.

<sup>8</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD,  
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:  
I will gather others to them  
besides those already gathered.

**Psalm: Psalm 67**

*Let all the peoples praise you, O God. (Ps. 67:3)*

<sup>1</sup> May God be merciful to us and bless us;  
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

<sup>2</sup> **Let your way be known upon earth,  
your saving health among all nations.**

<sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>4</sup> **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

<sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>6</sup> **The earth has brought forth its increase;  
God, our own God, has blessed us.**

<sup>7</sup> May God give us blessing,  
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

**Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32**

*God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.*

[Paul writes:] <sup>1</sup> I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2a</sup> God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

<sup>29</sup> For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup> Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup> so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. <sup>32</sup> For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!*  
*Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!*

*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!*  
*Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!*

*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya,*  
*Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,*

*a - le - lu - ya! A - le - lu - ya!*  
*al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!*

The gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

### Gospel: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

*Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.*

[<sup>10</sup> [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand:<sup>11</sup> it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” <sup>12</sup> Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” <sup>13</sup> He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. <sup>14</sup> Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” <sup>15</sup> But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” <sup>16</sup> Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? <sup>17</sup> Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? <sup>18</sup> But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. <sup>19</sup> For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. <sup>20</sup> These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]

<sup>21</sup> Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me,

Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.”<sup>23</sup> But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.”<sup>24</sup> He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”<sup>25</sup> But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.”<sup>26</sup> He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”<sup>27</sup> She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”<sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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

MESSAGE

PASTOR BOB HANSEN

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 759

### My Faith Looks Up to Thee



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,  
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,  
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my  
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my  
be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's  
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!  
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!  
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.  
trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887  
Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872



## APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

For believers around the world who stream to your holy mountain, that all be united in faith and harmony in the body of Christ. Let your church on earth be a witness to the beloved community of your heavenly kingdom. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

For your wondrous creation, that it thrives and flourishes as you intend. Raise up wise stewards to defend the natural world against carelessness and destruction. Safeguard endangered species and their habitats. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

For the nations of the world and all in authority, that they heed the cry of the outcast and ensure care for the most vulnerable. Give wisdom to leaders of countries, congregations, and communities, that they lead and serve justly. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

For all who are lonely, grieving, or struggling with chronic pain, that they find comfort, community, and hope. Send relief to all who struggle with illness of any kind. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

For this congregation, for visitors and those new to this faith community, that all may recognize the presence of Christ in each new face. Draw this community together in love and strengthen it in unwavering faith. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

For the saints before us whose work is done, that their faithful example continues to direct your church. May their witness remind us that your gifts and calling are irrevocable, whether in life or death. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, 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 PRAYER**

Loving God,  
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.  
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,  
so that all creation can taste your abundance.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus,  
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn.



San - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,  
Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.  
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.  
San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,  
Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.  
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.  
Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la  
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on  
tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el  
earth. . . . . Blest is he who comes in the  
nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el  
name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -  
high - est, ho - san - na here on earth. . . . .  
di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.  
Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

## *Words of Institution*

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **CONSECRATION OF COMMUNION**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

### **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

Heaven has come near.  
Come, share in the feast!

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so - tros,      ten pie-dad de no - so - tros.  
have . . mer-cy up - on us,      have . . mer-cy up - on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so - tros,      ten pie-dad de no - so - tros.  
have . . mer-cy up - on us,      have . . mer-cy up - on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

da - nos tu paz,      da - nos tu paz.  
grant us your peace,      grant us your peace.

## One Bread, One Body

*Refrain*



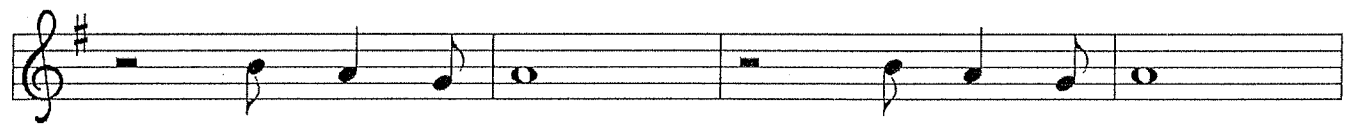
One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



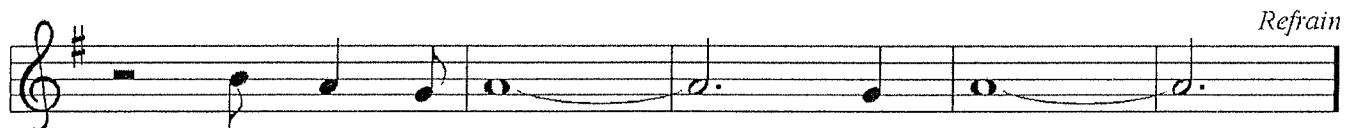
bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,  
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,  
3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,



wom - an or man, no more.  
one in the Lord of all.  
gath - ered to one for all.

*Refrain*

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, SJ

Text and music © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Compassionate God,  
through the gifts of bread and wine  
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.  
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,  
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus,  
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **SENDING**

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

## **BLESSING**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,  
✠ one God,  
bless, heal, and hold you  
today and always.  
**Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN (see page 16)**

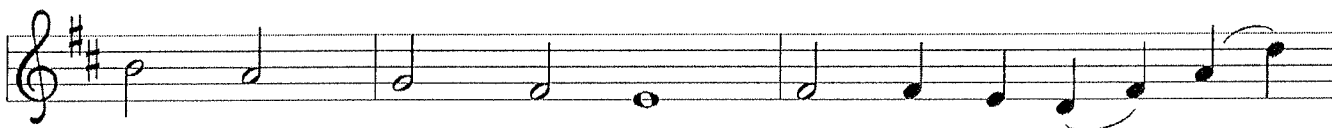
## **DISMISSAL**

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!  
**Thanks be to God.**

# Jesus Shall Reign



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es  
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his  
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners  
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from  
 throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -  
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es  
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -  
 hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.  
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793