Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 2026

Bethany Lutheran Church
2515 Madison Ave., Burlington, IA
Phone: (319) 752-3621
www.bethanyburlington.org

Bethany's Mission Statement: Reaching out in Worship, Fellowship, Learning and Love – we are God's people.

We are so glad you chose to worship with us this morning. We hope everyone
feels welcome as we strive to serve and strengthen each other in faith toward God and in love toward all. Now, as you wait for the service to begin, please relax, enjoy the music, and quiet your heart before God.

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

ELW indicates that hymns or liturgy are taken from Evangelical Lutheran Worship–red hymnal

PRELUDE

Welcome, Birthday/Anniversary Bank
(money given to Bethany's Human Concerns Fund)

We Gather to Acknowledge God's Presence

BLESSING FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

P: Let us pray for all who are beginning a new school year,
that both students and teachers
will be blessed in their academic endeavors.
Almighty God, you give wisdom and knowledge.
Grant teachers the gift of joy and insight,
and students the gift of diligence and openness,
that all may grow in what is good and honest and true.
Support all who teach and all who learn,
that together we may know and follow your ways;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please Stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

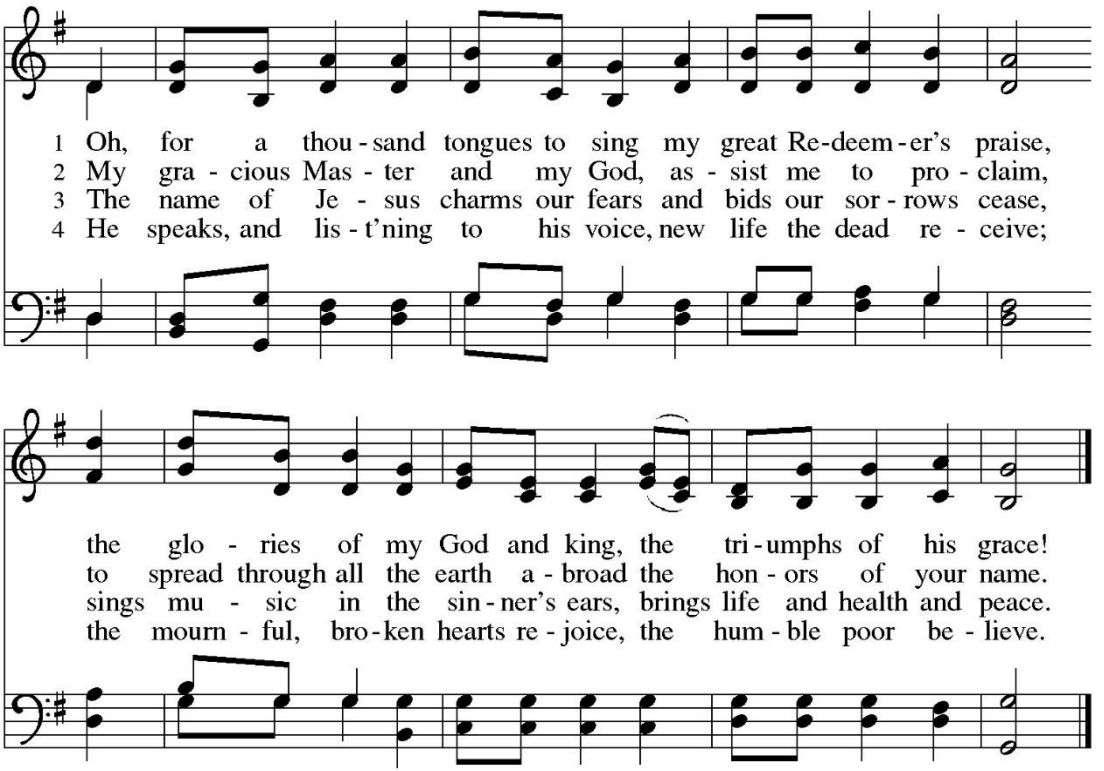
P: Compassionate God,

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" **ELW Hymn 886**

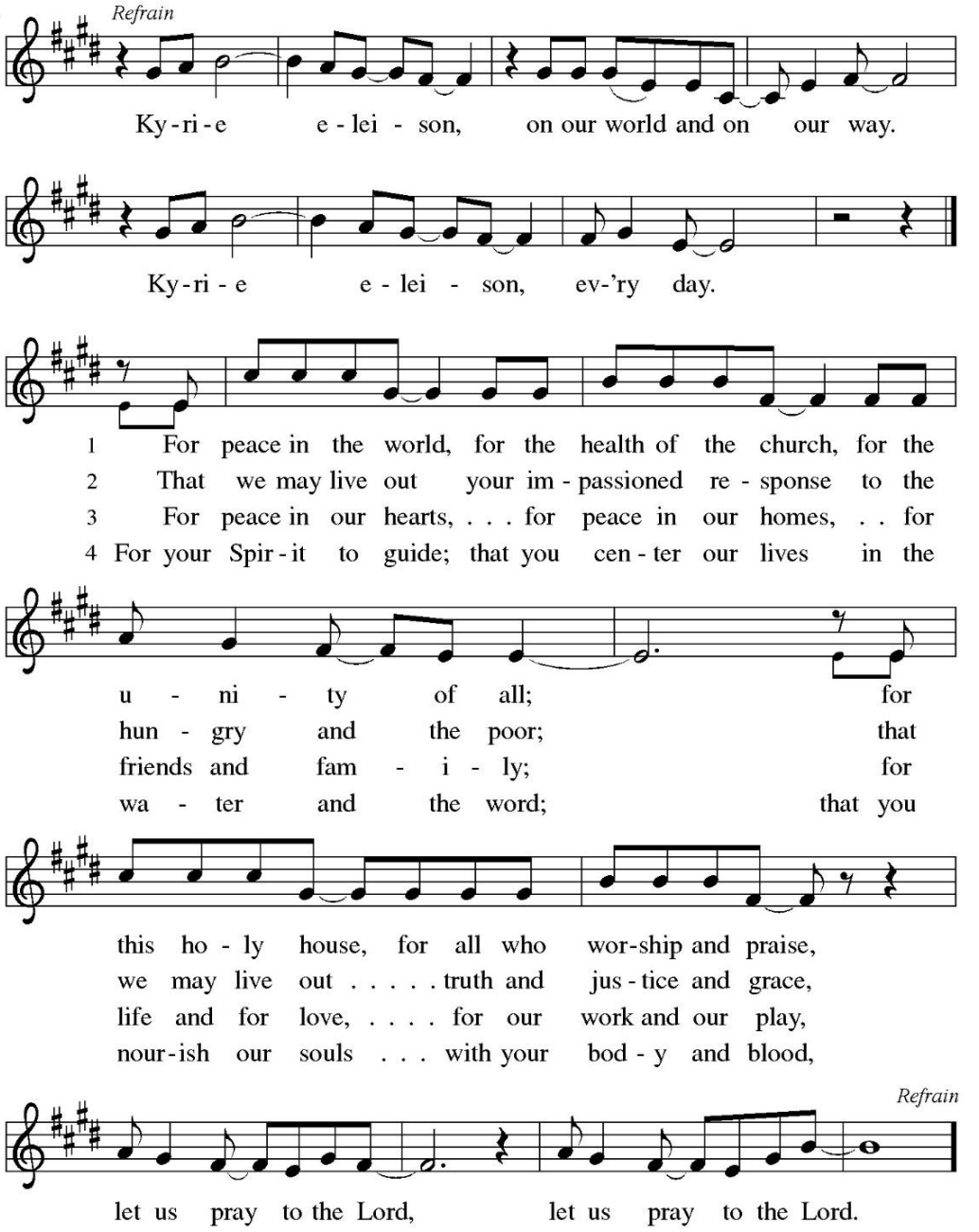


GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

KYRIE



HYMN OF PRAISE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: 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.

We Listen to God's Word

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING **Isaiah 56:1, 6-8**

1 Thus says the LORD:
Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

6 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—
7 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.
8 Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

L: Word of God, word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *(read responsively)* **Psalm 67**

L: May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.
C: Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.
L: Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
C: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.
L: Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
C: The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.
L: May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

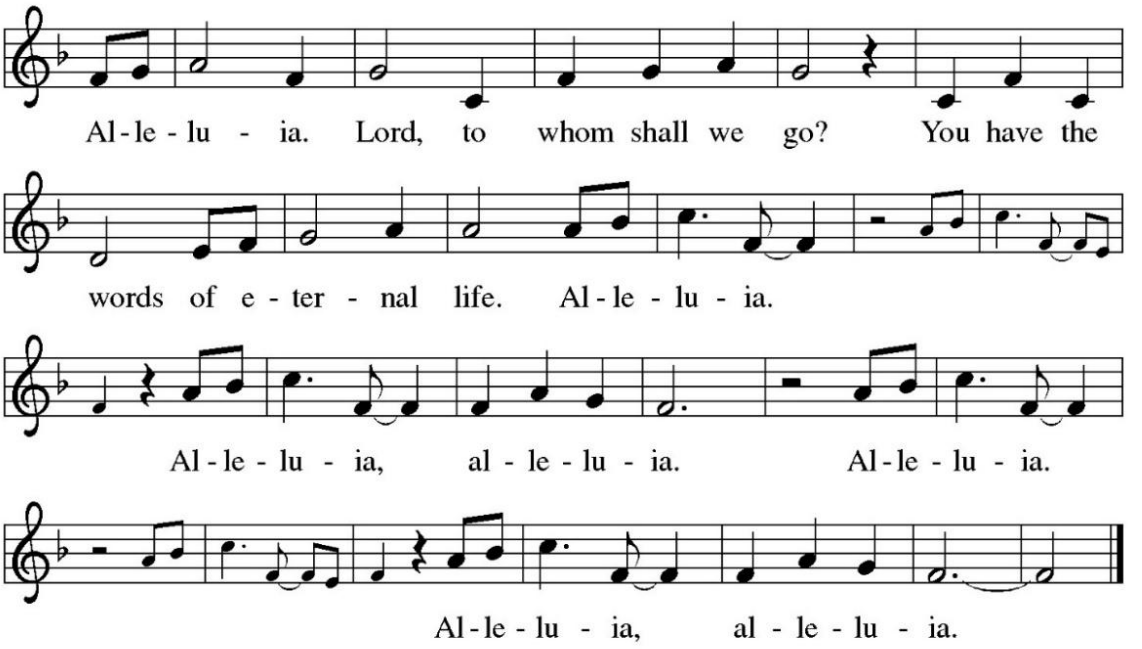
SECOND READING **Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32**

[Paul writes:] [1] 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. [2a] God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

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

L: Word of God, word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 15th chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL **Matthew 15:10-28**

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

21 Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. 22 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.” 23 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.” 24 He answered, “I was sent only to the lost
sheep of the house of Israel.” 25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord,
help me.” 26 He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to
the dogs.” 27 She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from
their masters’ table.” 28 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.

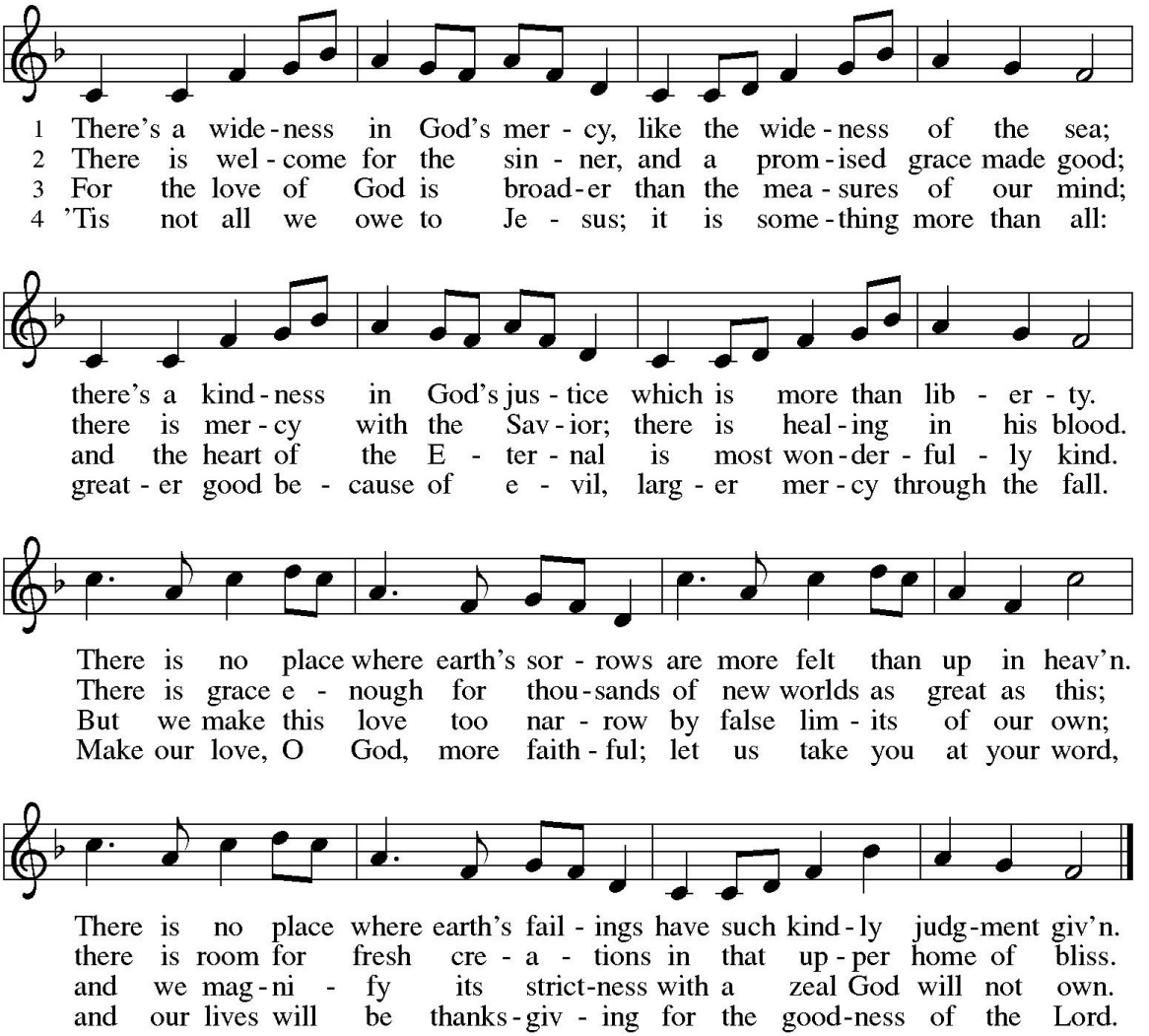
P: The Gospel of our Lord
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON ***Pastor Misha McFarland-Pollock***

(Please Stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY *"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"* **ELW Hymn 588**



We Respond to God's Word

APOSTLES' CREED ***(unison)***

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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.

(*Please be seated)*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition concludes:
P: Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

We Share in the Holy Meal

(Please Stand)

DIALOGUE

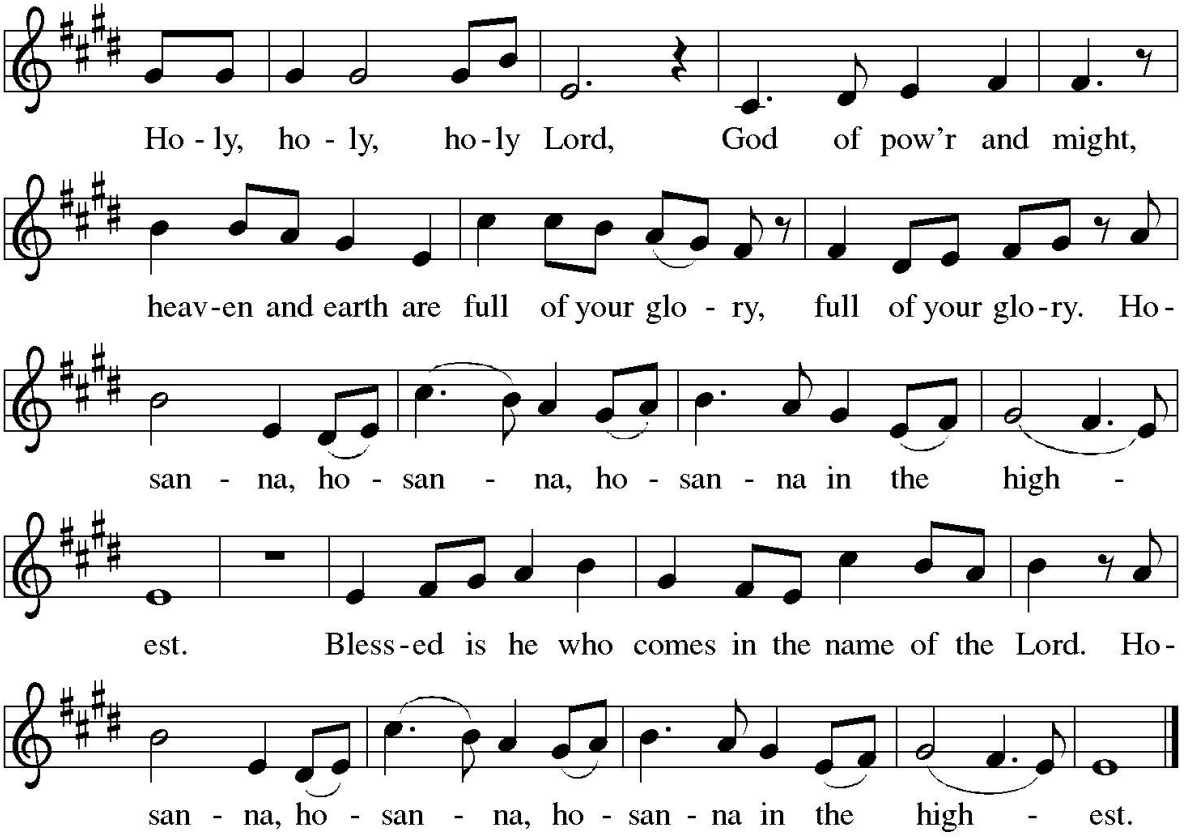
P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy….

…we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER ***(unison)***

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

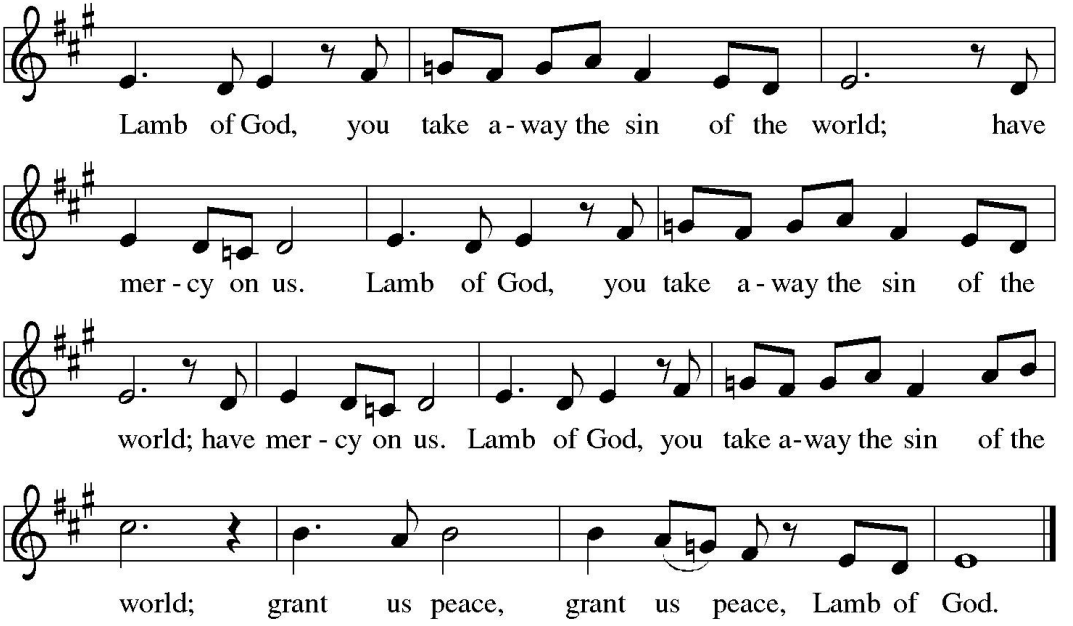
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

(Please be seated)

LAMB OF GOD

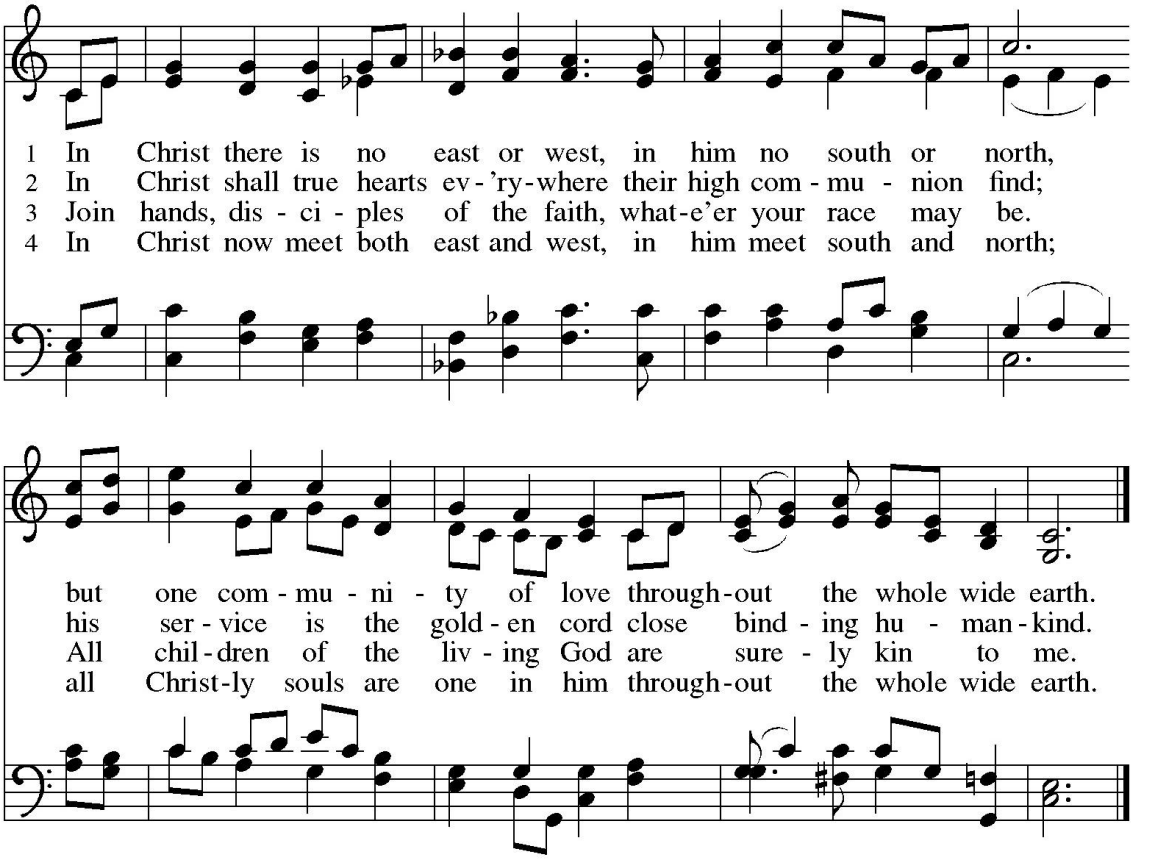


DISTRIBUTION BY INDIVIDUAL GLASSES

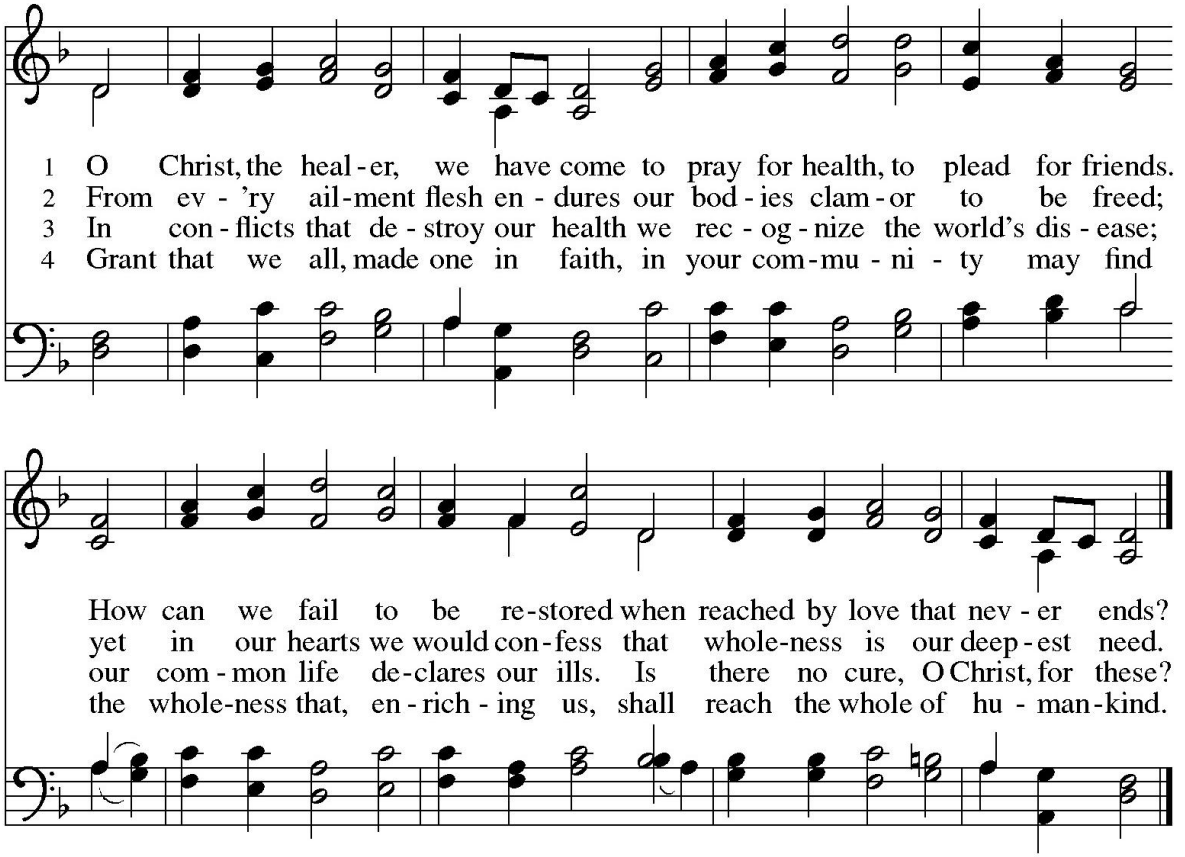
(Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.)

All who believe in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament are invited to commune. Children who do not commune are welcome to come for a blessing. You will be given a wafer. The glasses of dark liquid are wine; the middle ring is juice. There is a bowl of water if you would like to remember your baptism.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *"In Christ There is No East or West"* ELW Hymn 650



DISTRIBUTION HYMN *"O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come"* **ELW Hymn 610**



(Please Stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: 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.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

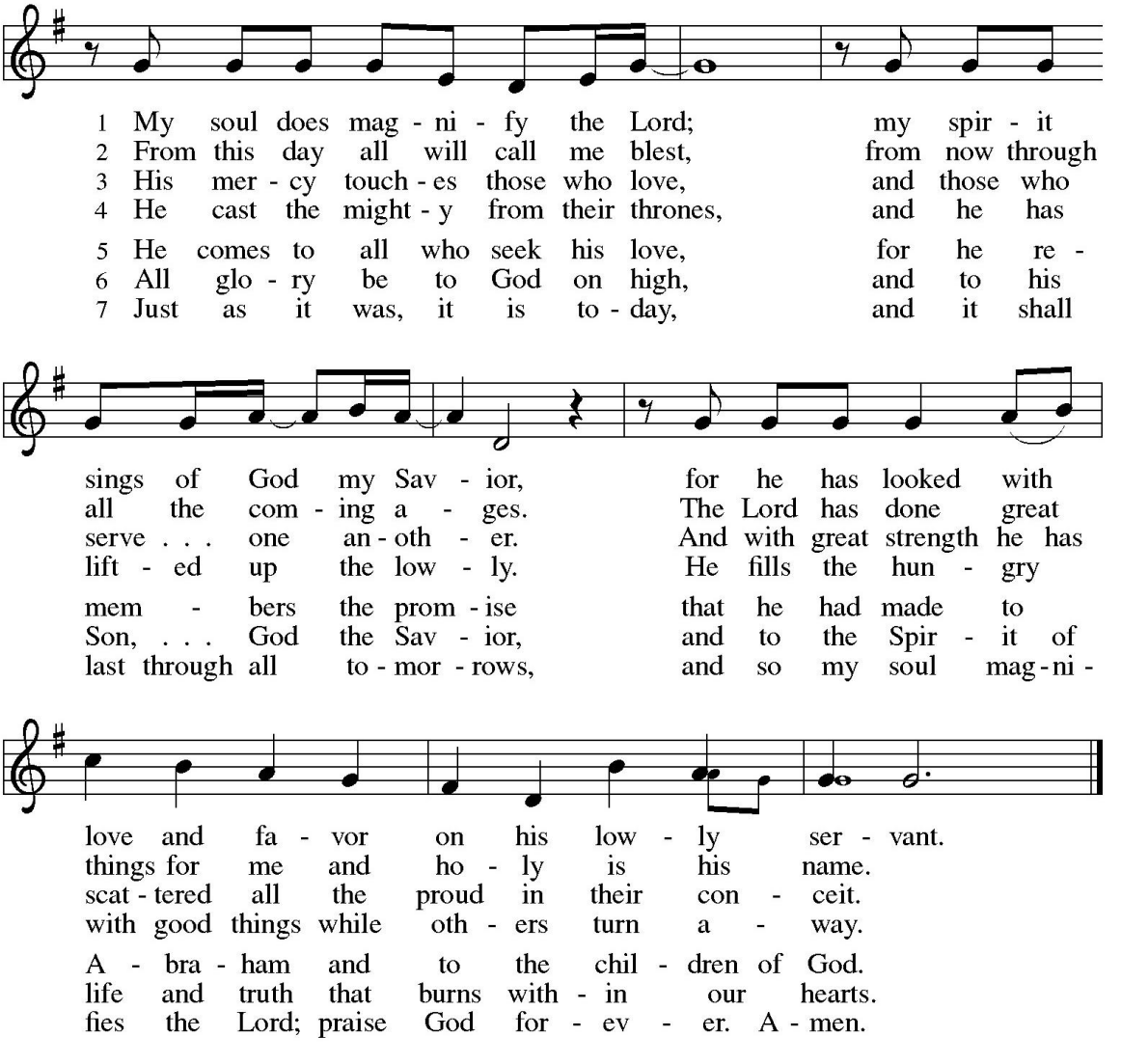
P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The God of all grace ✢ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN *"My Soul Does Magnify the Lord"* **ELW Hymn 882**



DISMISSAL

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

****
Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress SundaysandSeasononline.com license #25124
Reprinted from *Sundays and Seasons* copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector:	Michelle Huppenbauer
Usher:	Susan Swanson
Communion:	Mike Hopp; Julie Wischmeier
Greeters:	Mark & Bonnie Rosenberg
Missionary Support:	Open
Altar Flowers:	Jan & Scott Creighton
Remember in prayer:	Kerri Hermann; Patty Chacey; Julie Chubb

~ ~

A Cry Room for infants is available up the stairs and to the right. There are Kids Celebrate children's bulletins available for youngsters who'd like to have their own reference to the lessons for this week. Ask our usher for help.

Please join us for coffee and donuts in the fellowship hall following the worship service. We would like to get to know you and offer our friendship.

~ ~

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Today:	**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**	
	9:00 a.m.	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	10:55 a.m.	Lutheran Church of Hope Service
Monday:	**2:00 p.m.**	**Funeral for Melvin Craven @ Bethany**
Wednesday:	**6:30 p.m.**	**Council mtg.**
Thursday:	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study @ Messiah
Next Sunday:	**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**	
	9:00 a.m.	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	10:55 a.m.	Lutheran Church of Hope Service

FUNERAL FOR MELVIN "MEL" CRAVEN

The Funeral for Mel Craven will take place on Monday, August 17 at 2:00pm, here at Bethany. A luncheon will follow the service.

WEEKLY FINANCE REPORT

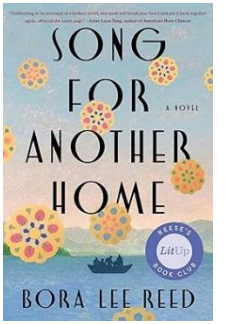
These are the numbers for where we are financially for the dates of August 2 – August 8:

August 2-August 8
Income: $3,493.00
Expense: $0

If you have any questions about these numbers, please contact a member of the Finance Committee.

OUTREACH DONATIONS
Food Pantry Donations from now until the end of the year will be anything non-perishable! Thank you for your generosity!

SEPTEMBER PASTOR'S BOOK CLUB
Our July book club will meet again this Tuesday, September 8 @ 5:00 p.m., here at Bethany. All are invited to join us! For this month, we will be reading "Song For Another Home " By Bora Lee Reed.



~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Bethany Lutheran Church
2515 Madison Ave., Burlington, IA Phone: (319) 752-3621
www.bethanyburlington.org

Office Hours
Monday-Wednesday-Friday – 9:00am-1:00pm
Tuesday & Thursday – 1:30pm-4:30pm

Pastor Misha's Office Hours
Bethany: Monday & Tuesday
Messiah: Wednesday & Thursday
**** Pastor Misha's hours vary in the office from week to week as she may be out of office on visits or other Pastor duties. Please call or text her to make an appointment or to see if she is in the office. ****

Pastor Misha's contact info: 412-628-6382; damisha.mcfarlandpollock@gmail.com

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Our Staff

Rev. Misha McFarland-Pollock	Pastor
Cory Byrne	Organist/Choir Director
Wendy Bell	Office Administrator
Michelle Huppenbauer	Financial Secretary
Pam Crable	Custodian