

Sunday, September 27, 2020

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome!

Serving today (THANK YOU) : Lisa Lundgren

Serving Next Sunday : Doris Molchanow

Statement of Welcome:

We are an Open and Affirming - Reconciling in Christ Congregation

This Means:

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addiction, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, differently-abled or anything that too often divides us. **Our Unity is in Christ.**



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



**Bethany
Lutheran
Church**

What you will need for Communion (optional & on Zoom):

- Candle (light at beginning of the service)
- Bread/Cracker
- Wine/Grape Juice (Juice/Water)

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/912755962>

Or call 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 912 755 962

MUTED for all except for those assisting in today's worship **(ALL Please respond in the bold)**

(Pastor Danny)

Making the sign of the cross...

We begin... in the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We are Bethany Lutheran Church and it is our Mission: To be a welcoming community in faith, empowered by God within the life of Jesus Christ: to love God and our neighbor, as ourselves.

Opening Words

The God of love is with us. **The Spirit of love is in us.**

Blessed is the Holy Spirit, the breath of God. **Let the winds and all creation praise you.**

The Lighting of the Three Lights

We will light a light in the name of the Maker - **God who breathed life into all creation.**

We will light a light in the name of Christ - **Jesus who taught of the love that flows in all.**

We will light a light in the name of the Spirit - **The Holy One embracing us like the wind.**

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF LOVE (Pastor Danny)

Creator God, when it seemed there was no hope - **I have seen your light in the eyes of a child**

When it seemed there was no joy - **I have heard your delight in the voice of a friend.**

When it seemed that life was stale - **I have smelled the freshness of sunlight on my skin.**

When all seemed emptiness - **I have touched your presence in the hand of a neighbor.**

When we have failed to love another, as you have asked us to love -

Thanks be to you, O God for your embodied love.

Open our senses to your presence - **That I may love you and care for you in all things.**

Hear God's words to all of us now:

I know your heart; I love you as you are, and I forgive you when you fail.

Making the sign of the cross...

In the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

It was you, O God, who made my inmost self, you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. (Psalm 139:13-14) Amen.

Opening Prayer *(Assisting Minister)*

The Lord of the four winds is with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Holy Spirit, giver of life, creative breath of God through whom this world was breathed into existence and is sustained; blow with power and wisdom through our lives and infuse us with your indwelling, that we may be empowered and open to bring your kingdom to earth; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Hymn of Praise *(Assisting Minister)*

God breathes life into creation. Let us praise the God of all breath, of all creation!

O God, our Strength, **We praise you for your power.**

O God, our Shield, **We praise you for your protection.**

O God, our Comfort, **We praise you for your solace.**

O God, our Inspiration, **We praise you for your renewal.**

O God, our Life, **We praise you for your grace.**

O God of all, **We praise you for your love.**

Glory to the God of all! Glory forever! Amen.

SILENT GATHERING MEDITATION - Be still and aware of God's presence within and all around

GATHERING

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

(Pastor Danny Phelps)

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.**

(Assisting Minister)

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Assisting Minister)

Jesus said, “The Spirit will guide you into all truth.” (John 16:13) Holy Spirit open our very being to receive your words of life and love.

You desire truth in the inward being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart. (Psalm 51:6)

(Assisting Minister)

Good morning everyone! A reading from Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32 CEB

“The LORD’s word came to me: What do you mean by this proverb of yours about the land of Israel: “When parents eat unripe grapes, the children’s teeth suffer”? As surely as I live, says the LORD God, no longer will you use this proverb in Israel! All lives are mine; the life of the parent and the life of the child belong to me. Only the one who sins will die.

But you say, “My Lord’s way doesn’t measure up.” Listen, house of Israel, is it my ways that don’t measure up? Isn’t it your ways that don’t measure up? When those who do the right thing turn from their responsible ways and act maliciously, they will die because of it. For their malicious acts they will die. And when the wicked turn from their wicked deeds and act justly and responsibly, they will preserve their lives. When they become alarmed and turn away from all their sins, they will surely live; they won’t die. Yet the house of Israel says, “My Lord’s way doesn’t measure up.” Is it my ways that don’t measure up? Isn’t it your ways that don’t measure up, house of Israel? Therefore, I will judge each of you according to your ways, house of Israel. This is what the LORD God says. Turn, turn away from all your sins. Don’t let them be sinful obstacles for you. Abandon all of your repeated sins. Make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. Why should you die, house of Israel? I most certainly don’t want anyone to die! This is what the LORD God says. Change your ways, and live!”

The word of God, for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

WORD

(Pastor Danny)

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.

(Common English Bible)

Glory to you, O Lord.

“When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and elders of the people came to him as he was teaching. They asked, “What kind of authority do you have for doing these things? Who gave you this authority?”

Jesus replied, “I have a question for you. If you tell me the answer, I’ll tell you what kind of authority I have to do these things.

Where did John get his authority to baptize? Did he get it from heaven or from humans?”

They argued among themselves, “If we say ‘from heaven,’ he’ll say to us, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ But we can’t say ‘from humans’ because we’re afraid of the crowd, since everyone thinks John was a prophet.”

Then they replied, “We don’t know.”

Jesus also said to them, “Neither will I tell you what kind of authority I have to do these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons. Now he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’

(Pastor Danny)

“No, I don’t want to,’ he replied. But later he changed his mind and went.

“The father said the same thing to the other son, who replied, ‘Yes, sir.’ But he didn’t go.

“Which one of these two did his father’s will?”

They said, “The first one.”

Jesus said to them, “I assure you that tax collectors and prostitutes are entering God’s kingdom ahead of you. For John came to you on the righteous road, and you didn’t believe him. But tax collectors and prostitutes believed him. Yet even after you saw this, you didn’t change your hearts and lives and you didn’t believe him.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon by Pastor Danny

Music Meditation



(Pastor Danny)

An Affirmation of Faith

Let us join in affirming our faith in God.

**We believe in God for us, present in all things in heaven and earth and seas,
inspires all things, brings life to all things, is over all things and supports all things.
Maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of all humanity.
We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ,
God from God, Light from Light, true God and true human,
One with the Creator. Jesus is the Word made flesh and died to set all of creation free!
We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit, Breath of God
One with the Creator and one with Christ,
our guide and the mentor of all creation! Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Assisting Minister)

We now pray for the needs of all people throughout the world, remembering that we are God's people and the hand of love on earth. **(Pause)**

Let us pray. *Lifting arms/hands in Orans position:*

Blessed are you, O God, for your breath at the heart of creation from which the winds of joy and gladness come forth; **For the gentle breezes that bring coolness and refreshment.**

As we give thanks for the gift of life and for the comfort we receive in your holy presence, we pray for those places in our world and our lives where there is no joy or comfort;
For communities in ruins and war-torn people and nations; for those held captive physically or emotionally; - especially for those dealing with the west coast fires.

For those who are weary or weakened by troubles **And those who are dying and frightened;**

For the sick and the suffering, especially those we now name.

For our homebound, we also pray for: Betty Jane, Valerie, Ruth, Amelia Grace, Charles, David, Frank, Vickie, Jay, Jackie, Marcos, *Maria, *Michele, *Rob/Mother, *Fatima, *Sharon, *Judah, Templeton/Gilley Family and Sammie. For all Families Grieving, especially Krum/McMaster, Harris/Pillar Community, *Gallagher, and *Mixon/McCrickard.

**prayers requested through our website or personally through pastor.*

(pause for other prayers, said out loud or in our hearts)

We ask your comfort and your holy presence, Lord, **For all people, for our loved ones and for ourselves.**

We pray to you, O God, asking that we may know your breath of love within us and that our lives may be a witness to that love and to your glory.

May God guide us with wisdom, help us with mercy, bless us with grace, and empower us with love; for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE GIVING OF OURSELVES

(The giving of our offerings to God, is an act of worship. The giving of time (volunteer), talents (help others with what you like to do) and treasures (financial and/ or material support), are some of the ways we express our generosity and hospitality towards each other, and the surrounding community.) **If you have the means to give, please do so by sending checks to Bethany Lutheran or electronically through our website at the top of the page.**

DIALOGUE OF THE DISCIPLES (Pastor Danny)

God is 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.**

We offer you praise and hearts lifted high, O God. You breathe into us your Spirit, and by the blowing of the gentle breeze, you remind us of the constancy of your loving presence. Your glory is in the breath of each created thing, and through your creation we see the holiness and wonder of your being. And so with all the hosts of heaven and earth, with the wind that howls and the gentle breeze that soothes, we join in the praises of your unending greatness:

The Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might. Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.

Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US (learning together the modern as well as hold on to the traditional version)

(Pastor Danny)

Let us pray as Jesus taught us,

Lifting arms/hands in Orans position:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

For those joining us on Facebook, thank you for sharing this time together as the body of Christ.

May God bless you and protect you. May God smile on you and be gracious to you.

May God show you favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Please join us again. Amen. God is with you!

Music Meditation

COMMUNION PRAYER

(Pastor Danny)

On the night Jesus was betrayed, he gathered with his disciples, his friends, and yes, his mother, around the table, then He took bread, **(all lifting the bread)** gave thanks and blessed it +, he broke it and gave it his disciples saying; Take and eat, this is my body broken for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

Come Holy Spirit, bless this bread and open us to receive the body of Jesus Christ.

This IS the body of Christ, given and broken for you. **All partake of the bread.**

In the same way he took the cup **(all lifting the cup)**

He gave thanks and blessed it +, Giving it to his disciples saying; Take and drink, this is the new covenant in my blood Shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sins,

Do this in remembrance of me.

Come Holy Spirit, bless this fruit of the vine and open us to receive the blood of Jesus Christ.

This IS the blood of Christ shed for you. **All partake of the cup.**

AFTER COMMUNION BLESSING & AFTER COMMUNION PRAYER

(Pastor Danny)

The body and blood of Jesus, strengthen you and fill you always with his grace.

(Assisting Minister)

O God, in love you have called us to be your people and in love you have given us this bread and wine; may this holy meal refresh us as a gentle and steady breeze, that renewed in your Holy Spirit, we may go forth into the world to serve your people; in the name of God, who is Love. **Amen.**

BLESSING FOR OUR JOURNEY – Turn to one another and say...(Numbers 6:24-26 NLT)

May God bless you and protect you.

May God smile on you and be gracious to you.

May God show you favor and give you peace.

Lifting arms/hands in Orans position:

Dear God, give us

For every storm, a rainbow,

For every tear, a smile,

For every care, a promise,

And a blessing in each trial.

For every problem life sends,

A faithful friend to share,

For every sigh, a sweet song,

And an answer for our prayers.

God's blessings are within you...

Making the sign of the cross...

In the name of the Father, and of the Son +, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING

SENDING HYMN ELW ELW 834 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

- 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!
- 3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

SENDING INTO COMMUNITY TO ANNOUNCE GOD'S LOVE FOR ALL

(Assisting Minister)

Lord of all light, as we go forth into the world, we extinguish the lights that represent the presence of the Holy in our midst,

But we will carry the light in our hearts, and we pray that as we go about our work in the world, we will shine with the love of God. Amen.

Check-in

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SENDING