

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

August 7, 2016

*Faith*

*is the substance  
of things hoped for,  
the evidence of  
things not seen.*

BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Joel F. Kluender

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STAND

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

LORD, HAVE MERCY

*Kyrie*

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O LORD, OUR LORD

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in  
all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,  
you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;  
you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and  
ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,  
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,  
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,  
you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;  
you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the  
King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,  
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the notes. There are several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes) in the first three staves. The score concludes with a double bar line.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 15:1-6 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.”

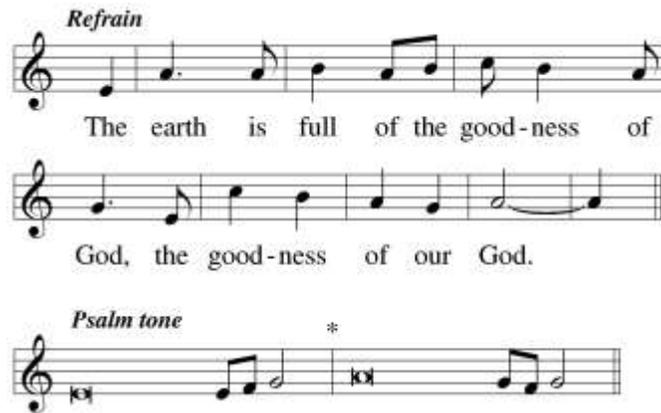
<sup>2</sup> But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

<sup>4</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” <sup>5</sup> He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

<sup>6</sup> Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 33



Refrain

Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous;<sup>\*</sup>  
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.  
For the Word of the LORD is right and true;<sup>\*</sup>  
he is faithful in all he does.  
By the word of the LORD were the heavens made;<sup>\*</sup>  
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.  
For he spoke, and it came to be;<sup>\*</sup>  
he commanded, and it stood firm.

Refrain

The LORD foils the plans of the nations;\*  
 he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.  
 But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever,\*  
 the purposes of his heart through all generations.  
 The LORD loves righteousness and justice;\*  
 the earth is full of his unfailing love.  
 Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
 and to the Holy Spirit,  
 as it was in the beginning,\*  
 is now, and will be forever. Amen.

*Refrain*

SECOND LESSON

*Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 (NIV)*

<sup>1</sup> Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. <sup>2</sup> This is what the ancients were commended for.

<sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise.

<sup>12</sup> And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

<sup>13</sup> All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. <sup>14</sup> People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see Alleluia. (*Hebrews 11:1*)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

STAND

GOSPEL

Luke 12:32-40 (NIV)

<sup>32</sup> "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup> "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, <sup>36</sup> like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. <sup>37</sup> It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. <sup>38</sup> It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. <sup>39</sup> But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.

<sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY — #442—*Have No Fear, Little Flock*

SERMON (sermon text Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16)

*"Faith's Eternal Foundations"*

STAND

NICENE CREED

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and became fully human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

BE SEATED

OFFERING

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, for fellowship with believers in our congregation and in our synod.

C: Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.

M: Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

C: Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love.

M: Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

C: Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, an acquaintance, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

*Silent prayer.*

M: Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care, and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

C: Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M: Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

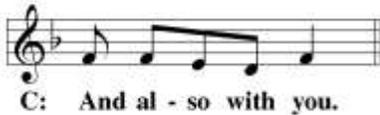
C: Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

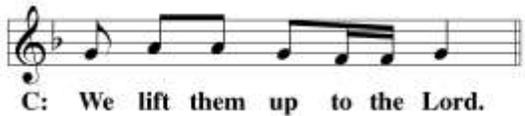
C: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from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

## THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



M: Lift up your hearts.



M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.

I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -

va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: A - men.

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN —#311—*Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness*

THANKSGIVING

STAND

THANK THE LORD

C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud - ly bear his name. He re - news his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



HYMN — #417—*I'm But a Stranger Here*

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# News And Notes

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BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

## WELCOME!

Welcome to worship! We consider it a privilege to have you worship with us today. Guests, if there is anything we can do to make your worship more meaningful, please do not hesitate to ask us. Pastor, the ushers, and all members of our Bethany family stand ready to serve you. May the Lord bless your worship!

## THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE

A special "thank you" to those who served their Lord by serving us this morning, our violinists, our organist, and our ushers. Thank you for edifying and beautifying our worship with your service.

## BETHANY CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC NEXT SUNDAY (8/14)

Bethany will be holding it's annual congregational picnic on Sunday, 8/14, following worship. This year we will be holding the picnic at Bethany, outside if weather permits, and inside if weather requires it. Please plan on joining us for an enjoyable time of fun, food and fellowship. Bethany will be providing the meats and drinks, while members are asked to bring side dishes. A space has been placed on the signup board for you to indicate your plans to attend and what you will bring. THANK YOU :)

## LAST WEEK'S WORSHIP

In Sunday's worship, 47 people were fed and strengthened by the Word of God.

# Our Walk For God

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THIS WEEK AT BETHANY...

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
8	9 <i>7:00p Bible Study</i>  <i>Happy Birthday Gabrielle Cunningham!</i>	10	11  <i>Happy Birthday David Stadler!</i>	12	13	14  <i>9:00a Sunday School and Bible Study</i> <i>10:30a Worship</i>

Serving next Sunday: Altar: Kluender; Greeter: \_\_\_\_\_; Ushers: Team E