

Stewardship Sunday

September 10, 2017



BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Joel F. Kluender

www.bethanylutherangibsonia.com

Office: 724-443-3890/Cell: (724) 810-1813

5155 N. Pioneer Rd., Gibsonia (Hampton Twp.), PA 15044

HYMN— #481—O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made

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: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

OH, TASTE AND SEE

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

M: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BE SEATED

THE WORD

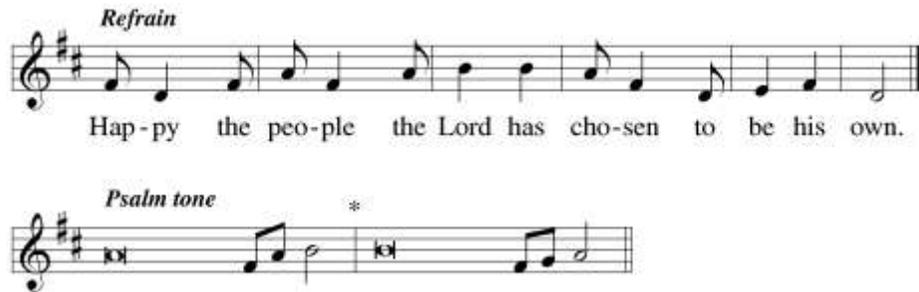
FIRST LESSON

Proverbs 3:5-10 (NIV)

⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. ⁷Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. ⁸This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. ⁹Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; ¹⁰then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

PSALM

Psalm 34



Refrain

Taste and see that the LORD is good;*
blessed are they who take refuge in him.
The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous*
and his ears are attentive to their cry.
The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him,*
and he delivers them.

Refrain

The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them;*
he delivers them from all their troubles.
The LORD is close to the brokenhearted*
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.
The LORD redeems his servants;*
no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.
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

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

¹² **This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.** ¹³ Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴ And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia! Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Alleluia. (1 Timothy 1:10b)

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

Mark 14:3-9 (NIV)

³ While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

⁴ Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume?” ⁵ It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages and the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly.

⁶ “Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ⁷ The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. ⁸ She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. ⁹ Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY— #486—*Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us*

SERMON (*sermon text 2 Corinthians 8:1-12*)

“The Grace of Giving”

¹And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ²In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴**they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people.** ⁵And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. ⁶So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. ⁷But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

⁸I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. ⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

¹⁰And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. ¹¹Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. ¹²For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.

STAND

APOSTLES’ CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

BE SEATED

OFFERING

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

M: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.

M: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.

M: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. 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.

BE SEATED

HYMN #488—*Savior, Thy Dying Love*

STAND

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, 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 #484—*Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly*

Service of the Word © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Excel
IN THE
GRACE OF GIVING

News And Notes

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. Thank you especially to Rev. John Kenyon for guest preaching this morning, and for his presentation after worship (see below).

CHRISTIAN ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR AFTER WORSHIP TODAY

You are invited to attend the Christian Estate Planning Seminar that will be after our worship hour this morning. A light lunch will be served to accompany the presentation. Rev. John Kenyon, who is a Christian Giving Counselor from the WELS Ministry of Christian Giving, will present.

"STICKERPALOOZA" AFTER WORSHIP TODAY

Also after our worship, for our parents with children, your children will have the opportunity to go CRAZY putting stickers on construction paper since we have discovered MANY surplus stickers in our cleaning/organizing in the last couple of weeks. This could be a nice diversion for children of parents attending the estate planning luncheon. Please speak with Vicki Fronk who can direct you to the proper location for this activity.

FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS NEEDED TO HOST TRUNKS FOR OCTOBER 21st "TRUNK OR TREAT"

PLEASE SIGN UP TODAY IF YOU CAN DETERMINE IF THIS IS A "GO" OR NOT — THANKS :)

On Saturday, October 21st, Bethany hopes to host a "Trunk or Treat" event in Bethany's parking lots. The idea is that individual members and families of Bethany operate a game & treat station out of the trunk of their vehicle, including an activity/game and candy. Children from our congregation and the community will be invited to visit each trunk. Pastor and others will also be "working" the event to bring a gospel message and invitation to worship to those who attend. How many trunks can we get? The more the merrier. PLEASE consider sponsoring a trunk!

LAST WEEK'S WORSHIP

In last Sunday's worship, 42 people were fed and strengthened by the Word of God and 32 received communion.

Our Walk For God

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY...

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|--|--------------------------------|-----|--|-----|-----|---|
| 11 | 12 <i>7:00p Bible Study</i> | 13 | 14 <i>Happy birthday Chuck Stadler!</i> | 15 | 16 | 17 <i>9:00a Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 10:30a Worship</i> |
| <i>Serving next Sunday: Altar: Kluender; Greeter: Schult; Ushers: Team D/F</i> | | | | | | |