

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

July 30, 2017



BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Joel F. Kluender

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

HYMN— #221—*Blessed Jesus, at Your Word*

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.

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy and to bring forth fruits in faith and hope and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BE SEATED

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 55:10-13 (CSB)

¹⁰ For just as rain and snow fall from heaven and do not return there without saturating the earth and making it germinate and sprout, and providing seed to sow and food to eat,

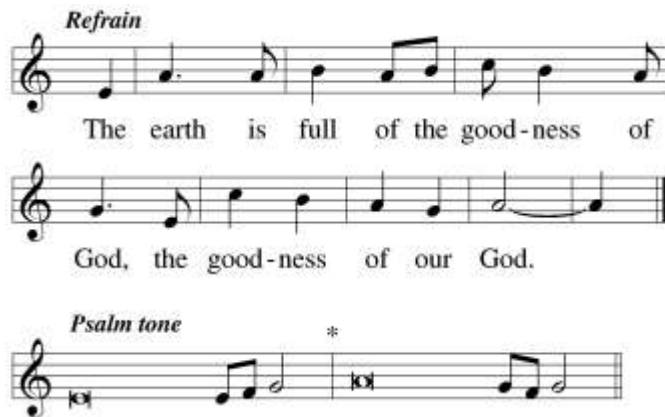
¹¹ so my word that comes from my mouth will not return to me empty, **but it will accomplish what I please and will prosper in what I send it to do.**"

¹² You will indeed go out with joy and be peacefully guided; the mountains and the hills will break into singing before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thornbush, a cypress will come up, and instead of the brier, a myrtle will come up; this will stand as a monument for the LORD, an everlasting sign that will not be destroyed.

PSALM

Psalm 65



Refrain

Praise awaits you, O God,*

you call forth songs of joy.

You care for the land and water it;*

you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

The streams of God are filled with water*

to provide the people with grain.

Refrain

You crown the year with your bounty,*

and your carts overflow with abundance.

The grasslands of the desert overflow;*

the hills are clothed with gladness.

The meadows are covered with flocks

and the valleys are mantled with grain;*

they shout for joy and sing.

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

Romans 8:18-25 (EHV)

¹⁸For I conclude that our sufferings at the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. ¹⁹In fact, creation is waiting with eager longing for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰For creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in the hope ²¹that even creation itself will be set free from slavery to corruption, in order to share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

²²For we know that all of creation is groaning with birth pains right up to the present time. ²³And not only creation, but also we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we eagerly await our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. ²⁴Indeed, it was for this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he already sees? ²⁵But if we hope for something we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patient endurance.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia! My Word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. Alleluia. (*Isaiah 55:11b*)

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

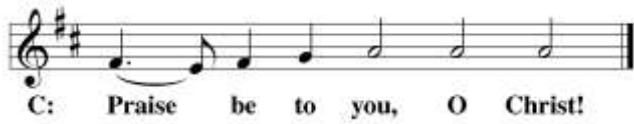
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (EHV)

¹That same day Jesus left the house and was sitting by the sea. ²A large crowd gathered around him. So he stepped into a boat and sat down, while all the people stood on the shore. ³He told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen, a sower went out to sow. ⁴As he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it. ⁵Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil. Immediately the seed sprang up, because the soil was not deep. ⁶But when the sun rose, the seed was scorched. Because it had no root, it withered away. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up and choked it. ⁸But some seed fell on good ground and produced grain: some one hundred times, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear.

¹⁸"So listen carefully to the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the Evil One comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the seed that was sown along the path. ²⁰The seed that was sown on rocky ground is the person who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he is not deeply rooted and does not endure. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. ²²The seed that was sown among the thorns is the one who hears the word, but the worry of this world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it produces no fruit. ²³But the seed that was

sown on the good ground is the one who continues to hear and understand the word. Indeed he continues to produce fruit: some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown.”

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY— #324—*Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast*

SERMON (sermon text *Isaiah 55:10-13*)

“Why In the World Are the Trees Clapping?”

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 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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

BE SEATED

HYMN #203—*Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (Please note that this is a hymn of Dr. Martin Luther)*

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 #322—*On What Has Now Been Sown*

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News And Notes

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.

WEST DEER COMMUNITY DAYS — THIS FRIDAY/SATURDAY AUGUST 4th & 5th

If you are able to assist your congregation in reaching out with the Water of Life as we sell bottled water at West Deer Community Days, please sign up on the board in the narthex. We are also looking for a large dorm refrigerator, or a small standard refrigerator, to keep the water cold at the event. We also are in need of an additional 10x10 canopy.

BETHANY CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC — SUNDAY, AUGUST 13th AFTER WORSHIP

Brothers and sisters of Bethany!!! Please plan to join your fellow members at our congregational picnic, following worship at Bethany on Sunday, August 13. Details of what we are asking people to bring will be available in the coming weeks but please do set the date aside on your calendar. Thank you!

PRESCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER(S) NEEDED FOR FALL SEMESTER

Bethany's chairman of education, Stuart Fronk, says that we are in need of a preschool teacher for this coming fall semester. We do have several students we expect to be participating in the class, and the basement committee is planning to prepare a dedicated classroom for this group. Any Bethany member would be able to teach this class, including a teen, if they feel so led and are willing to dedicate themselves to the task. Please consider helping us with this need. Educating our children in the truths of God's Word is at the heart of what we do out of thankfulness to Jesus! Please note: if multiple people want to "tag team" on this, that would also be fine. THANKS

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

On Saturday, October 21st, Bethany's evangelism committee is hosting 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!

Our Walk For God

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY...

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
31	August 1	2	3	4	5	6
9-11:30a VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	9-11:30a VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 7:00p Bible Study	9-11:30a VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	9-11:30a VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WEST DEER DAYS SETUP 6-9 PM	9-11:30a VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WEST DEER COMMUNITY DAYS 6-11 PM	WEST DEER COMMUNITY DAYS Noon—11 PM	9:00a Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 10:30a Worship
Serving next Sunday: Altar: Stadler; Greeter: Kluender Family; Ushers: Team C/F						