

Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

(ACS) *All Creation Sings* Setting 12

September 8, 2024

10:00 AM

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Sextet, Op. 81b, arr. 4-hands L. van Beethoven
Drs. Matt Chiu and Eron Smith

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who looks upon us in compassion,
forgives our sin,
and heals our lives.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Have mercy, O God,
**against you, you alone,
we have sinned.**

**In your compassion,
cleanse us from our sin
and take away our guilt.**

**Create in us a new heart
and give us a steadfast spirit.**

**Do not cast us away,
but fill us with your Holy Spirit
and restore your joy within us. Amen.**

As tender as parent to child,
so deep is God's compassion for you.

As high as heaven is above earth,
so vast is God's love for you.
As far as east is from west,
so far God removes your sin from you,
renewing your life through Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.
Blessed be God forever.

***GATHERING SONG** The Church's One Foundation ELW 654

***GREETING**

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.

***KYRIE**

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.
Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

*GLORIA

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune Ralph Vaughan Williams

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:4-7a

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
^{7a} the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

The reading may be concluded: Word of God. Word of Life.

The assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 146

¹ Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

² **I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³ Put not your trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there is no help.

⁴ **When they breathe their last, they return to earth,**

and in that day their thoughts perish.

⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,

whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;**

who keeps promises forever;

⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸ **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;**

the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹ The LORD cares for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰ **The LORD shall reign forever,**

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

¹ My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ² For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³ and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷ Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸ You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹ But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by

the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [¹¹ For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹² So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³ For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The reading may be concluded: Word of God. Word of Life.

The assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



*GOSPEL

Mark 7:24-37

The gospel is announced The holy gospel according to St. Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴ [Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁸ But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” ²⁹ Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

The gospel concludes: The gospel of the Lord.

The assembly responds: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Healer of Our Every Ill

ELW 612

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A: Awaken in our communities of faith a spirit of radical hospitality. Encourage our churches to celebrate and embrace people of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and abilities. Deepen our commitment to ecumenical and interreligious partnerships (*local partners may be named*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

A: Bring forth water to nourish plants and animals in places suffering from drought. Renew our commitments to protect rivers, lakes, and streams, and make us good stewards of water in our homes and communities. Preserve wetland habitats and the creatures that make their homes there. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

A: Inspire leaders of cities, nations, and tribes to lead with wisdom and humility. Bring peace among peoples in conflict (*especially*) and strengthen global commitments to nonviolent solutions. Guide all who seek refuge from war to a safe haven. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

A: Comfort all who live with chronic illness. Surround them in your tender embrace and sustain all who provide ongoing care and support. Bring hope and healing to people struggling with addiction and nourish the spirits of all who are in recovery. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

A: Nurture in all people the gift of your creating Spirit. Inspire artists and musicians, woodworkers and quilters, poets and dancers. Revive those whose artistic wells have run dry and enliven all who doubt their creative talents. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

A: We give you thanks for all who have died and now find their rest in you. May their faithful witness guide us in our daily life with you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Greet one another as you are comfortable sharing God's peace.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERING SONG

As the offering is brought forward to the altar, the congregation sings.

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

God of goodness and growth,

all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure.

**Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs
of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring,**

**and nourish us to proclaim your abiding
love in our communities and in the world,**

through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

The Lord be 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.

*PREFACE

The presiding minister continues.

It is our duty and delight...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY HOLY HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

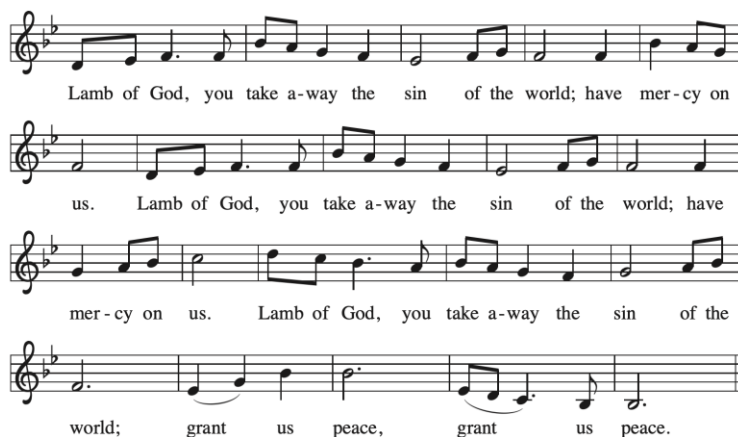
Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.

Come!

You are invited to either come forward to the altar or remain in your seats today to receive communion. You can decide your own comfort level. Pre-filled elements are available at the usher stand where you came in.

If you come forward, you are invited to stand or kneel at the altar railing. The pastor and assisting ministers will come to you and serve you the sacraments. If you need gluten free, indicate to the pastor.

*LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Seed That In Earth Is Dying

ELW 330

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Living God,
as the disciples ate and drank with their risen Lord,
we have been nourished with the very presence of Christ.
Through this meal may we be strengthened to keep
your word and to proclaim the power of your love in Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***BLESSING**

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

The peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding,
keep your hearts and your minds
in + Christ Jesus.
Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

Thine the Amen

ELW 826

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Sextet, Op. 81b, arr. 4-hands L. van Beethoven
Drs. Matt Chiu and Eron Smith

Leading Worship Today

The Rev. Elizabeth Dilley	Supply Pastor
Eric Richardson	Minister of Music
Dr. Matt Chiu	Organist
Laura English	Assisting Minister
John Menzies	Lector
Lizzy Schmidt	Acolyte(s)
John Menzies, Scott Wilkinson, Mike Lieske	Ushers
Ellen Menzies	Altar Guild
Chris Kiel & Scott Pohlkamp	Tech Team

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Next week’s readings: First Reading: **Isaiah 50:4-9a**; Psalm: **Psalm 116:1-9**; Second Reading: **James 3:1-12**; Gospel: **Mark 8:27-38**.



BETHESDA ON THE BAY LUTHERAN
CHURCH & CHILDCARE CENTER

bethesdaonthebay.org

(440) 871-2276

info@bethesdaonthebay.org



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Purpose Statement

Bethesda on the Bay is:

Growing in community to share the love of Christ.

Guiding Principles

In our community, we...

1. welcome all,
2. serve our neighbors,
3. love one another,
4. witness to the gospel of Jesus, and
5. spread the light of Christ in the world.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God by Lisa Hanson in celebration of the wedding anniversary of Elmer and Eloise Butts, parents of Lisa Hanson, in early September 1940.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO NEED THEM. SPEAK WITH AN USHER OR PASTOR FOR ASSISTANCE.

CONNECT CARD – There are new summer connect cards in the pew pockets. If you are a guest, have a prayer intention or anything else to share, please fill out a card and drop it in the collection basket. There are also opportunities listed for ways to get involved!

NAME TAGS are available for all worshipers as desired. Thank you for wearing your nametag and helping us build community and fellowship. If you do not see your nametag hanging in the Narthex or you simply need a new one printed, please contact the church office. There are also guest name tags for any guest attending worship.

WELCOME

Welcome back to The Rev. Elizabeth Dilley to the pulpit here at Bethesda. Rev. Elizabeth Dilley serves as Minister and Team Leader for the Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization (MESA) ministry team in the national setting of the United Church of Christ. The MESA team works to ensure that all ministry settings in the UCC have gifted, supported, and accountable pastoral leadership. Prior to serving in Cleveland, Elizabeth served a small, theologically progressive congregation in Red Oak, Iowa for nearly a decade, and she is now a member at South Haven UCC in Bedford. She lives in Cleveland with her spouse Paul, a hospital chaplain, their teenage daughter Meredith, and a delightfully rowdy French bulldog named Blue.

RALLY DAY IS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 AT 9:00AM

All adults and children are invited to come to the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 29 for the kick-off of faith formation activities for the fall. We will be celebrating everyone's birthdays—not just September, but all 12 months—and talking about the new life we have in Christ. There will be the opportunity to decorate cupcakes, so if anyone has special dietary needs (we can decorate just about anything) please email Deacon Marla at deaconessmarla@gmail.com. Please RSVP via email so we know how many cupcakes to have on hand. If you are an adult without school age children, please come and take the opportunity to get to know our children a little better. Parents are encouraged to stay as well.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS STARTING IN OCTOBER. LEADERS ARE NEEDED!

Starting in October, planning is underway to begin Sunday School on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 9:00am. We are using a curriculum from Illustrated Ministry called Mini Revolutions. It is designed to be easy to plan and to be used as a “one-room” schoolhouse. We need leaders and helpers! If you can help with one or two of these Sunday sessions, please contact Deacon Marla at deaconessmarla@gmail.com or call or text at 330-608-7923. Please prayerfully consider helping our children to grow in their faith in Jesus.

SIGNS INSTALLED

The new signs are in! There will still be landscaping and other finishing touches. Thank you for your generous contributions to the fundraising campaign that will help fund this project and provide for other needed facility updates.

PRESCHOOL READING FUN

A new opportunity is being offered this fall to members of Bethesda! Sign up to read a children's book of your choice on Wednesday in the Bethesda Childcare Center preschool classroom! You will be bringing some joy and certainly will receive lots of joy and smiles from our children! Help support our teachers and learn more about our school programming too! Sign up by calling the church office or on the sign-up genius in the e-news! Need help finding a book to share? Contact Pastor Angela and you can borrow one from her library!

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS SUNDAY

Sunday, September 22nd

After morning worship, the congregation is invited to participate in a variety of service projects that will be available that afternoon both in-house and in the community! Please sign up for your project of choice on the enclosed form or on the Sign up Genius! If you don't have a GWOH Golden rod T-shirt, they are available in the Narthex for \$8 apiece.

BLESSING BAGS

One of the projects for God's Work Our Hands is "Blessing Bags." What are blessing bags? They are Ziploc bags containing self-care items that can be kept in one's vehicle to be given to individuals in need who are soliciting donations at intersections. The blessing bags will also include information about community resources and a message of hope. You can help by donating items needed (travel size only, please). Also appreciated: financial donations to buy any supplies needed. A collection box will be in the Narthex for donations starting August 11 through September 15. Any questions about the project may be directed to Jerry Kiel (kielsathome@gmail.com).

Travel size only!
pairs tube socks
separately packaged toothbrushes
travel-size toothpastes
travel-size deodorants
travel-size shampoo
razors
travel-size shaving creams

combs
mall bottles of water
travel-size lotions
travel-size hand sanitizer
gum/mints
travel-size wet wipes
travel-size soap
travel-size tissues
Small snacks (granola bars, cracker packs)

BIRTHDAY BAG COLLECTION

We're bringing back a fun project to spread a little birthday cheer with those in need - Birthday Bags! During God's Work Our Hand's Sunday, we will be putting together birthday cake kit bags and sharing them with the Community Cupboard at St. Barnabas in Bay. People can pick up a kit and easily make a cake to celebrate! A little treat that is simple but can mean so much! Thank you for contributing any or all of the items below for the project!

cake mix
can of frosting
box of birthday candles
bag of balloons

clear or colorful cellophane wrapping
ribbon
blank birthday cards with envelope
disposable cake pan

CALLING ALL VOICES!

"I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live."

Please consider sharing your talents in the choir this coming year. We rehearse Thursday evenings for one hour, from 7-8, beginning September 5. There are never auditions, and all are welcome. If you have sung in the past, now is the time to re-commit. If you were in high school or college choir, you are especially welcome. See you then! Eric L. Richardson, 440-935-6293.

PEACEMAKERS CANCER CARE QUILTERS

The Peacemakers is an outside group that meets at Bethesda Thursdays at 9:00 am, now through May 2025. They quilt and donate their quilts to the Moll Cancer Center. New quilters and sewers are welcome anytime. The sewing technique is straight-seam. They also have projects you can do at home! If you are interested in learning more or joining the group, contact the office or show up on Thursday! First meeting is Thursday September 12 at 9:00 am.



You are invited to be a part of bringing the ministry of Bethesda into the future!

**An ambitious fundraising goal of \$25,000 has been set by Bethesda's Church Council.
*\$13,500 of that goal has already been received! Thank you!***

Thank you for giving generously and helping communicate the ministry God has entrusted to us with the wider community outside the church walls with the installation of new outdoor signage. The funds received will also help to offset the expenses for needed updates to building and ground to improve accessibility and safety. Help us build for the future God's is calling us to build together!

Give Today!

You can do so simply by mailing a check to the church office with "Capital Improvement Fund" in the memo.

Give easily and safely through [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) and designate the "Cap Improvement Fund".

Place your gift in the offering plate on Sunday morning indicating the Capital Improvement Fund on your gift.

Thank you!