

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 4, 2016



BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Joel F. Kluender

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

HYMN— #735—*Speak, O Lord (see insert)*

STAND

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit

C: Amen

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

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.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

Musical notation for the hymn "LORD, HAVE MERCY" in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. The lyrics are: "Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men." The music consists of two lines of notes with lyrics underneath. The first line ends with a double bar line. The second line ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

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

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

You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
 Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re -
 ceive our prayer. Glo - ry to God in the
 high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. For
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the
 Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,
 Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo - ry to God in the
 high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

BE SEATED

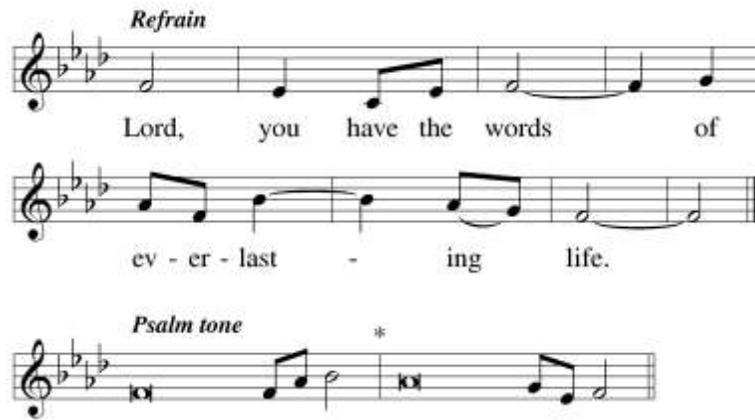
THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Proverbs 9:8-12 (NIV)

⁸ Do not rebuke mockers or they will hate you; rebuke the wise and they will love you. ⁹ Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. ¹¹ For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life. ¹² If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer.

*Refrain*

The heavens declare the glory of God;*
 the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
 Their voice goes out into all the earth,*
 their words to the ends of the world.

Refrain

The law of the LORD is perfect,*
 giving joy to the heart.
 The commands of the LORD are radiant,*
 giving light to the eyes.
 They are more precious than gold;*
 they are sweeter than honey.
 By them is your servant taught;*
 in keeping them there is great reward.

Refrain

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart*
 be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Redeemer.
 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

Philippians 3:4b-11 (NIV)

⁴ If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

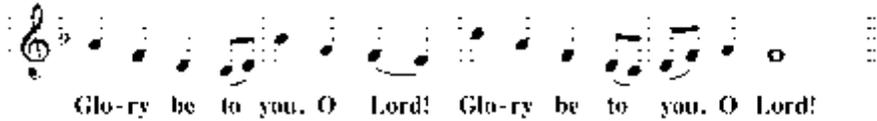
VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Alleluia. (*Philippians 4:4 RSV*)

STAND

GOSPEL

Luke 14:25-33 (NIV)



²⁵ Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: ²⁶ "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

²⁸ "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹ For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, ³⁰ saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'

³¹ "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. ³³ In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



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

HYMN OF THE DAY—#403—I Know My Faith Is Founded

SERMON (*sermon text Proverbs 9:8-12*)

"Wisdom About Wisdom"

STAND

CREATE IN ME

Cre - ate in me a
pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -
in me. Do not cast me a - way from your
pres - ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from
me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

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.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord,, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus

The musical score is written in a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of six lines of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. God of pow - er. God of might: heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

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." The peace of the Lord be with you always.

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

C: Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

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. A - men.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER—HYMN #421—*All Depends on Our Possessing*

Bethany holds to the historical practice of the Church called "close communion," an ancient practice that goes back to the time of the Apostles. This means that members of Bethany are invited to come forward to partake in the Lord's Supper. If you are not a member of Bethany or of a Wisconsin Synod sister congregation,, please speak with Pastor Kluender about how a communing relationship can be established with Bethany before participating in this intimate fellowship meal. Thank you!

STAND

SONG OF SIMEON

Anc. Diatonic



In peace, Lord, you let your
ser - vant now de - part ac - cord - ing to your word. For my
eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for
ev - 'ry peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the
glo - ry, the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el,

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures forever.

M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: 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.

C: Amen.

HYMN — #327—*God Be with You till We Meet Again*

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.

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY 9/11

Please note that next Sunday, 9/11. we will be beginning our fall Sunday School semester. If you have children of Sunday School age, expect to hear from either Pastor Kluender or Stuart Fronk, Chairman of Education, to discuss your child's participation in this ministry to our young people. Thanks!

WELS SCHOOL OF OUTREACH OCT 15th IN STRONGSVILLE, OH — PLEASE CONSIDER PARTICIPATING

As was announced last week in worship, the WELS School of Outreach will be taking place October 15th in Strongsville, Ohio. Pastor Kluender, the elders and the council feel this would be a good opportunity for Bethany, but that it is only truly useful if there is lay participation (not just pastor). Participation is open to men and women members of Bethany who have an interest in learning about outreach/evangelism strategies and to participate in development of a plan for Bethany. Please let Pastor know ASAP if you are willing and able to travel and attend with Pastor Saturday, October 15th.

We need to make s decision on our participation by tomorrow, the registration deadline.

Goals of the first workshop are to help participating congregations develop/enhance a...

1. Workable organization for evangelism
2. Written plan of outreach strategies
3. Managed prospect list for faithful follow-up

CALENDAR CREATION VOLUNTEER

Pastor Kluender is seeking a volunteer to help compose the monthly Bethany calendar each month. If you are interested in this position, please speak to Pastor. THANK YOU :)

LAST WEEK'S WORSHIP

In Sunday's worship, 34 people were fed and strengthened by the Word of God.

Our Walk For God

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY...

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|-----|-------------------------------|---|-----|--|--|---|
| 5 | 6 <i>7:00p Bible Study</i> | 7 <i>First Day of Preschool Fall Semester!</i> | 8 | 9 <i>7:30p Northern Regional Bible Study at Hamilton Home</i> | 10 <i>8:30-10:00a Men's Book & Fellowship Group</i> | 11 <i>9:00a Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 10:30a Worship</i> |

Serving next Sunday: Altar: Kluender; Greeter: Neumann; Ushers: Team C