



# RALLY SUNDAY

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
12 September 2021

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Today is Rally Sunday! It's a time to celebrate the beginning of a new year of education here at Bethel. We will be blessing the new Sunday School students, the new Confirmation students, giving Bibles to the Kindergartners and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, installing the Sunday School teachers and blessing the school children's backpacks. The liturgy has been specially written today to be extra-understandable (is that a word?) and the readings are from the Contemporary English Version of the Bible. If you are here with a young person, please encourage them to read and sing along and help them join in our worship.

## † GATHERING †

OPENING HYMN	<i>Earth and All Stars</i> (v. 1, 4, 5, 6)	#558 (grn)
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS		on screen
GREETING		on screen

### HYMN OF PRAISE *Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord!*

Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!  
Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!  
Praise God's holy name. Alleluia! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!  
Praise God's holy name. Alleluia! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus here to save us. Help us to follow His example and love other people, help them, and tell everyone about how He died for the whole world. In Jesus' name we pray.

C. Amen.

### BLESSING FOR THOSE JUST STARTING SUNDAY SCHOOL

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## † WORD †

### FIRST READING: **Isaiah 50:4–9a**

*The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.*

The LORD God gives me  
the right words to encourage the weary.  
Each morning He awakens me  
eager to learn His teaching;  
<sup>5</sup> He made me willing to listen  
and not rebel or run away.  
<sup>6</sup> I let them beat my back  
and pull out my beard.  
I didn't turn aside  
when they insulted me  
and spit in my face.  
<sup>7</sup> But the LORD God keeps me  
from being disgraced.  
So I refuse to give up,  
because I know  
God will never let me down.  
<sup>8</sup> My protector is nearby;  
no one can stand here  
to accuse me of wrong.  
<sup>9</sup> The LORD God will help me  
and prove I am innocent.

L. The Word of the Lord. C. Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM 116:1-8

I love you, LORD!  
You answered my prayers.  
<sup>2</sup> You paid attention to me,  
and so I will pray to You as long as I live.  
<sup>3</sup> Death attacked from all sides,  
and I was captured by its painful chains.  
**But when I was really hurting,**  
<sup>4</sup> I prayed and said, "LORD, please don't let me die!"  
<sup>5</sup> You are kind, LORD,  
so good and merciful.  
<sup>6</sup> You protect ordinary people,  
and when I was helpless, You saved me  
<sup>7</sup> and treated me so kindly  
that I don't need to worry anymore.  
<sup>8</sup> You, LORD, have saved  
my life from death, my eyes from tears,  
my feet from stumbling.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung twice)

The B-I-B-L-E

Yes, that's the book for me

I stand alone on the Word of God

The B-I-B-L-E

HOLY GOSPEL: St. Mark 8:27-38

*This story provides the turning point in the Markan gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer.*

*Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.*

C. Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus and His disciples went to the villages near the town of Caesarea Philippi. As they were walking along, He asked them, "What do people say about Me?"

<sup>28</sup> The disciples answered, "Some say You are John the Baptist or maybe Elijah. Others say You are one of the prophets."

<sup>29</sup> Then Jesus asked them, "But who do you say I am?"

"You are the Messiah!" Peter replied.

<sup>30</sup> Jesus warned the disciples not to tell anyone about Him.

<sup>31</sup> Jesus began telling His disciples what would happen to Him. He said, "The nation's leaders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law of Moses will make the Son of Man suffer terribly. He will be rejected and killed, but three days later He will rise to life."

<sup>32</sup> Then Jesus explained clearly what He meant.

Peter took Jesus aside and told him to stop talking like that. <sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and saw the disciples, He corrected Peter. He said to him, "Satan, get away from me! You are thinking like everyone else and not like God."

<sup>34</sup> Jesus then told the crowd and the disciples to come closer, and He said:

"If any of you want to be My followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross and follow Me. <sup>35</sup> If you want to save your life, you will destroy it. But if you give up your life for Me and for the good news, you will save it. <sup>36</sup> What will you gain, if you own the whole world but destroy yourself? <sup>37</sup> What could you give to get back your soul?"

<sup>38</sup> Don't be ashamed of Me and My message among these unfaithful and sinful people! If you are, the Son of Man will be ashamed of you when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

#649 (blu)

## WHAT WE BELIEVE *(based on the Apostles' Creed)*

I believe that God the Father created everything there is.

I believe that Jesus Christ is God's only Son and my Lord.

By the power of God through the Holy Spirit,

He was born of the virgin Mary.

Jesus lived on earth, was nailed to a cross, died and was buried.

Three days later He rose from the dead.

Jesus went up into heaven and is sitting at the side of

God the Father.

Jesus will come back to earth again to judge all people,

living and dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church,

the unity of the people of God throughout the world,

living and dead,

that God will forgive my sins, and

that God will raise up the faithful after they have died

and give them new life with Him forever

## INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

### PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

### BLESSING FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING CONFIRMATION

### SHARING THE PEACE/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OFFERING/ OFFERTORY

Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so;

Little ones to Him belong, They are weak but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

The Bible tells me so.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

P. Dear God,

C. thank You for all the things that You give us – a beautiful world to live in, food, clothes, homes and people who love us. Help us to share what we have with others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P. Certain of God's love, let us pray for ourselves and for others.

P. ... Lord, in Your mercy, C. hear our prayer

✠ MEAL ✠

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. Holy God ... as bread for the world.

C. Amen.

P. In the night in ... share with us the everlasting feast.

C. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P. By Your Holy Spirit ... both now and forever.

C. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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POST-COMMUNION SONG

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P. Gracious God, in Holy Communion You show us how much You love us, and You give us strength and courage by giving us food and drink, the body and blood of Christ.

Now send us, Your children, out into the world to tell everyone about how wonderful You are. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen

✠ SENDING ✠

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

BENEDICTION

P. May you always remember that Jesus loves you and that He is with you every day.

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C. Amen

CLOSING HYMN

*Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

#221 (grn)

DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

**WELCOME BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**THOSE WHO SERVE:**

<b>Ministers:</b> All the People of God	<b>Presider:</b> Pastor Ellen Munter
<b>Musician:</b> Terry Dybsetter	<b>Reader:</b> Lillie Wollum
<b>Camera:</b> Josh Sumption	<b>Projection:</b> James Kamrath/Kendon Knutson Katie Munter/Sara Wollum
<b>Sound Room:</b> Ken Jeremiason and Jerome Bruns	

**How to reach us:**

Church Office: 507-296-4658	Pastor's House: 507-296-4558
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Bethel email: <a href="mailto:bethel@bethelofporter.com">bethel@bethelofporter.com</a>	Bethel web page: <a href="http://www.bethelofporter.com">www.bethelofporter.com</a>



Emily Morton, Angie Denelsbeck Anderson, Shirlee Gabbert, Bill & Karen Pohlen, Curt & Carol Moon, Gail Sumption

Curt & Carol Moon are Dawn Gawerecki's aunt & uncle, who live in Arkansas. Carol is now in ICU and Curt has Parkinson's disease. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

September 5, 2021

General: \$2,556.50 (\$779.50 received through eGiving)

Includes: \$1,000.00 from Hemnes Lutheran Church. \$240.00 startup cash reimbursement.

Savings: \$537.00 Ice Cream Social revenue.

## Who Are You?

“Who do people say that I am? . . . But who do *you* say that I am?” (Mark 8:27, 29). Jesus’ questions to the disciples highlight a distinction between what society at large recognizes about Him, and what those closest to Him know. From the outside, Jesus looks to many people like an important prophet or great moral teacher at best; at worst, He is an irrelevant rule-giver.

To those who know Him, though, the answer is different. We who have been baptized into His family and nourished with His body and blood, we who hear His voice in the words of absolution and the promises of scripture, we who have felt His healing power through the gift of the Holy Spirit know just a bit more. This Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah. Like Peter, even we who know the story may wish to reject the necessity of Christ’s death. The words of the beloved Holy Week hymn echo deeply, “Oh, who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?” (ELW 343).

Who are you? You are a sinner in need of redemption, the one for whom Christ has died, a beloved child of God, and a sibling of your Messiah. Jesus rebukes Peter not for Peter’s compassion or desire for Jesus to avoid suffering, but because the compassion and desire are misplaced. We need a Messiah—and we have one—precisely because we don’t need any more prophets, moral teachers, or irrelevant rule-givers. We are sinners who need forgiveness. We are broken people in need of healing. And we have found what we need in Jesus, the Messiah. The world will always set its mind on human things; may the Holy Spirit set your mind on divine things and continue to confirm in you the truth of Jesus Christ, Who was crucified, died, and raised on the third day for you.

## Upcoming Commemorations

### **Monday, September 13 John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407**

John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth"). Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court. As a result, he was exiled by the empress.

### **Tuesday, September 14 Holy Cross Day**

Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and found what may be the actual site of Jesus' crucifixion. Her son built two churches there, and the dedication of one of them gave rise to this celebration of our Lord's victory on the cross.

### **Thursday, September 16 Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258**

Cyprian served as a bishop during a time of great persecution of Christians. He insisted on receiving back those who had left the faith under duress. He also provided medical care during a severe epidemic.

### **Friday, September 17 Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179**

A mystic who was widely influential within the church, Hildegard advised and reprovved kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. She was also a musician and artist.

### **Saturday, September 18 Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961**

A Swedish diplomat, Hammarskjöld served as the second Secretary General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash while trying to negotiate peace in present-day Zambia. His journal, published as *Markings*, revealed the depth of his Christian faith.