

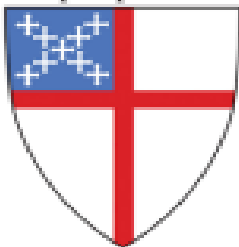


9th Sunday After Pentecost

7/26/26



The Episcopal Church



A Reconciling in Christ Congregation



Bethany
Lutheran Church

6 Leo Moss Drive, Olean, NY 14760

716-372-1914

e-mail address: bethany1706@gmail.com

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Praise!

Share!

Serve!

Welcome to Bethany!

Bethany recognizes that each of us is a unique creation made in the image of God. We celebrate and give thanks for the many diverse gifts that God has bestowed on us. We proclaim ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation to all of God's people; welcoming into our midst persons of every race, culture, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status. We believe that our openness will allow us to grow in our faith through Christ's teaching to love one another as God loves us.

You may place your gifts and offerings in the offering plate as you enter the sanctuary. We will not be passing the plate. Thank you and God Bless

Ring of the Bells

Announcements:

Prelude: Suite in D Major

– L.Vinci

We Gather as God's People

(Please stand as you are able)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,

all you who are weary

and are carrying heavy burdens,

and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit,

your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 793

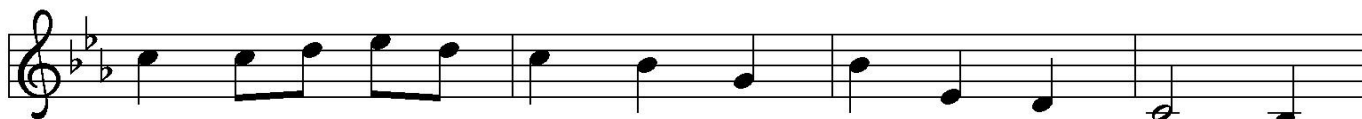
Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise: “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

ELW 884

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with the bass clef providing a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;

praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

Prayer of the Day

P: Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

(Please be seated)

We Hear God’s Word for Us

First Lesson: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and

steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:129-136 (SPOKEN responsively. Organ side starts, piano side is in bold)

¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful;

therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰ **When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant

because I long for your commandments.

¹³² **Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**

¹³³ Order my footsteps in your word;

let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶ **My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

Second Lesson: Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who

is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

. The Word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel Acclamation:

ELW 172

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le - lu - jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le -

- le - lu - jah. Hal-le - lu - jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le -

lu - jah. Hal-le - lu - jah. Hal-le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954
Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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The Gospel according to Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

C: Glory to you O Lord

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds,

but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The Gospel of Our Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ

(Please be seated)

Reflection

(Please stand as you are able)

Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

The Lord Is My Song

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the staff. The first system of music corresponds to the first line of lyrics, and the second system corresponds to the second line of lyrics. The music ends with a double bar line.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
OR *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

Text: Psalm 102:1-2; Taizé Community, adapt.

Music: HEAR MY PRAYER, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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(Please be seated)

Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. *We pray especially for .* **Bethany.** Adam, Joanne Hitchcock, Kay Backhus, Kristen Clemens Keenan, Nancy Rebeyro, Steve, Louise Koenig, Barb Franklin, Marcia Wray, Merrill & Muriel Frable, Robert Keenan, Dorothy Porter, Sylvia Subject, Gail Cross, Heather Miller, Carl Zimmerman, Tim Johnson, Jamie Molyneayx, Fran Wilson, Kevin McClelland and those from **St. Stephens** Audrey Childs, Nancy Consedine, Amanda Piccirillo, Betty Linderman, Linda Giardini, Gail Olson, Gloria Preston, Dick Mulaski, Ethan Johnson, Steven, Colt Matz, Dave and Donna Briggs, Rev. Max Meyers, Millie Piccirillo, Martha Edwards, Jim and Kathy, Priscilla and Nelson Griffith, Carolyn Wolfe, Denise, Helen Stritoff, Kienen Duggan, David Styles, Carol Snyder, Adam Wolfee, Jim Fragle and those we name either silently or aloud.. . God of grace, **hear our prayer.** God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community's part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

(Please stand as you are able)

The Sharing Of the Peace

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

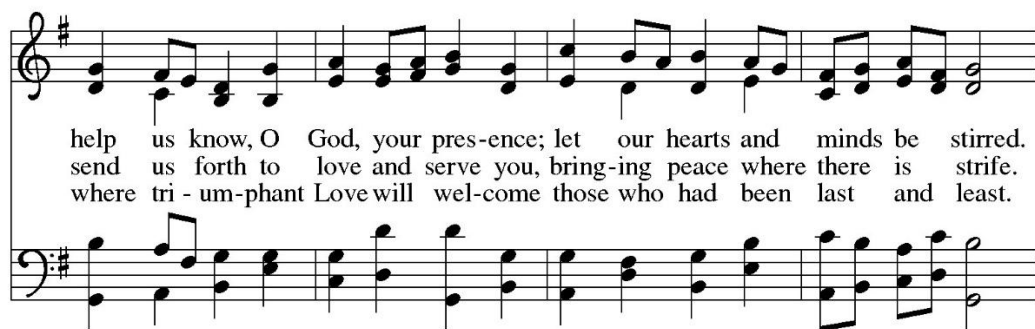
C: And also with you.

P: Please greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

As We Gather at Your Table



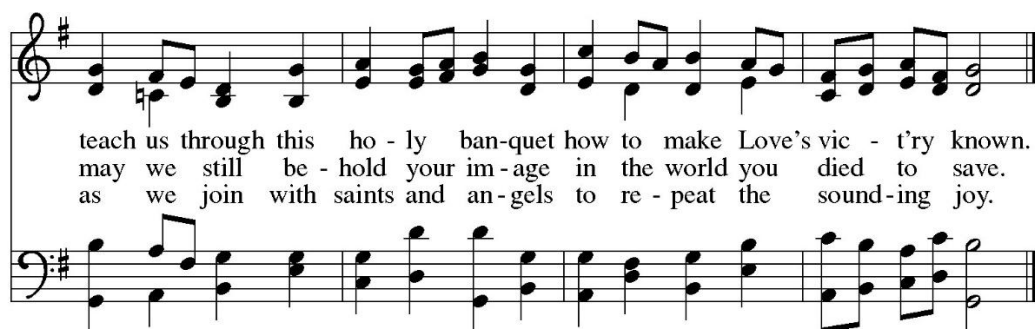
1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlütjes en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855–1932

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We Share the Holy Meal at God's Table

Great Thanksgiving

s161

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first phrase. The third and fourth staves end with double bar lines.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy *Great Thanksgiving*

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.'

Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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Table Prayer

P: We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will. He is your Word, inseparable from you. Through him you created all things, and in him you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary. It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you. It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said: Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This is my blood poured out for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we lift this bread and cup before you, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people. And we ask you: Send your Spirit upon these

gifts of your Church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ. Through him all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church both now and forever.

Amen

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom as we pray . . .

**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**

P: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

(Please be seated)

Invitation to Communion

(Christ is our host and Our Communion Table is open to anyone who wishes to partake of the Lord's Supper. As Lutheran Christians we believe Christ to be really present in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins.)

Communion: "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 Music:

(Please stand as you are able)

Post Communion Prayer

P: Compassionate God,

through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.

Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

Post Communion Canticle:

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,
the peo - ple of our God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—
The sup - per is end - ed, Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,
the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.
The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now
reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.
Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing
to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

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We Are Sent to Share the Good News

Blessing:

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✝ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

Amen.

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com-fort stilled you.

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906

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Dismissal:

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God

Postlude:

Today's Worship Servants
Worship Leader Mike Miles

Ministers: the people of Bethany

Organist: Muriel Frable/Jack Bollman

Lay Lector: Chris Brainard

Counter:

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This week in our parish

Today 7/26

10:30 Worship Service

5:30 AA Meeting

Mon 7/27

5:30 AA Meeting

Wed 7/29

5:30 AA Meeting

Sun 8/2

10:30 Worship Service @ St. Stephens

In the spirit of #churchtogether, Mike Miles, Synod Authorized Minister, presides at God's table today with the thanks of and authorization by the bishop of the Upstate New York Synod. Bishop Lee M. Miller II

****SMILES: God bless those with a sense of humor!****Reasons Not To Match Wits With Children**

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible. The little girl said, 'When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah'. The teacher asked, 'What if Jonah went to hell?' The little girl replied, 'Then you ask him'.

A kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, 'I'm drawing God.' The teacher paused and said, 'But no one knows what God looks like.' Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, 'They will in a minute.'

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to 'honor' thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, 'Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?' From the back, one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, 'Thou shall not kill.'

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head. She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, 'Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?' Her mother replied, 'Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white.' The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, 'Mommy, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?'

The children had all been photographed, and the teacher was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture. 'Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up and say, 'There's Jennifer, she's a lawyer,' or 'That's Michael, he's a doctor.' A small voice at the back of the room rang out, 'And there's the teacher, she's dead.'

A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, she said, 'Now class, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know, would run into it, and I would turn red in the face.' 'Yes,' the class said. 'Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary position the blood doesn't run into my feet?' A little fellow shouted, 'Cause your feet ain't empty.'

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray: 'Take only ONE, God is watching.' Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, 'Take all you want, God is watching the apples.'