All Saints Sunday

November 1, 2026



A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

Bethany Lutheran Church
6 Leo Moss Drive, Olean, NY 14760
716-372-1914
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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

Ringing of the Bells
Announcements:
Prelude: Two settings of "Sine Nomine" J. Bender/W Held

We Gather as God's People

(Please stand as you are able)
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers.
Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation
instead of your invitation.
We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.
We trust the voice of our shame and fear,
which keeps us from entering fully
into relationship with you and others.
We are not awake to the coming of your reign.
Rouse us and rescue us,
that we may enter into your joy.
Amen.

Inherit the riches of God's grace.
☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven.
Blessed are you.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn ELW 423

Shall We Gather at the River



Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899
Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

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"



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Please be seated)

We Hear God's Word for Us.

First Lesson: Revelation 7:9-17

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today's reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: "Who is able to stand?" The writer gives the faithful the assurance of God's protection and a vision of victory.

9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation,
from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb,
robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying,
"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"
11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living

creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, [12] singing,
"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."
[13] Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" [14] I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
[15] For this reason they are before the throne of God
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
[16] They will hunger no more and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat,
[17] for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD; for those who fear the LORD lack nothing. (Ps. 34:9)

[1] I will bless the LORD at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.
[2] **I will glory in the LORD;**
let the lowly hear and rejoice.
[3] Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD;
let us exalt God's name together.
[4] **I sought the LORD, who answered me**
and delivered me from all my terrors.
[5] Look upon the LORD and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.
[6] **I called in my affliction, and the LORD heard me**
and saved me from all my troubles.
[7] The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear the LORD
and delivers them.
[8] **Taste and see that the LORD is good;**
happy are they who take refuge in God!
[9] Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD,
for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.
[10] **The lions are in want and suffer hunger,**
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.
[22] O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-3
A saint is one who has been set apart by God for God's purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. Our holy hope is that we shall see God as God really is.

1 See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is
what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we
are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this:
when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. 3 And all who have this
hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

(*Please stand as you are able*)

Gospel Acclamation



Music: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954
Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.
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Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12
In the Beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God's favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples
came to him. 2 And he began to speak and taught them, saying:
3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Gospel of our Lord **C: Praise to you O Christ**

(Please be seated)

Reflection

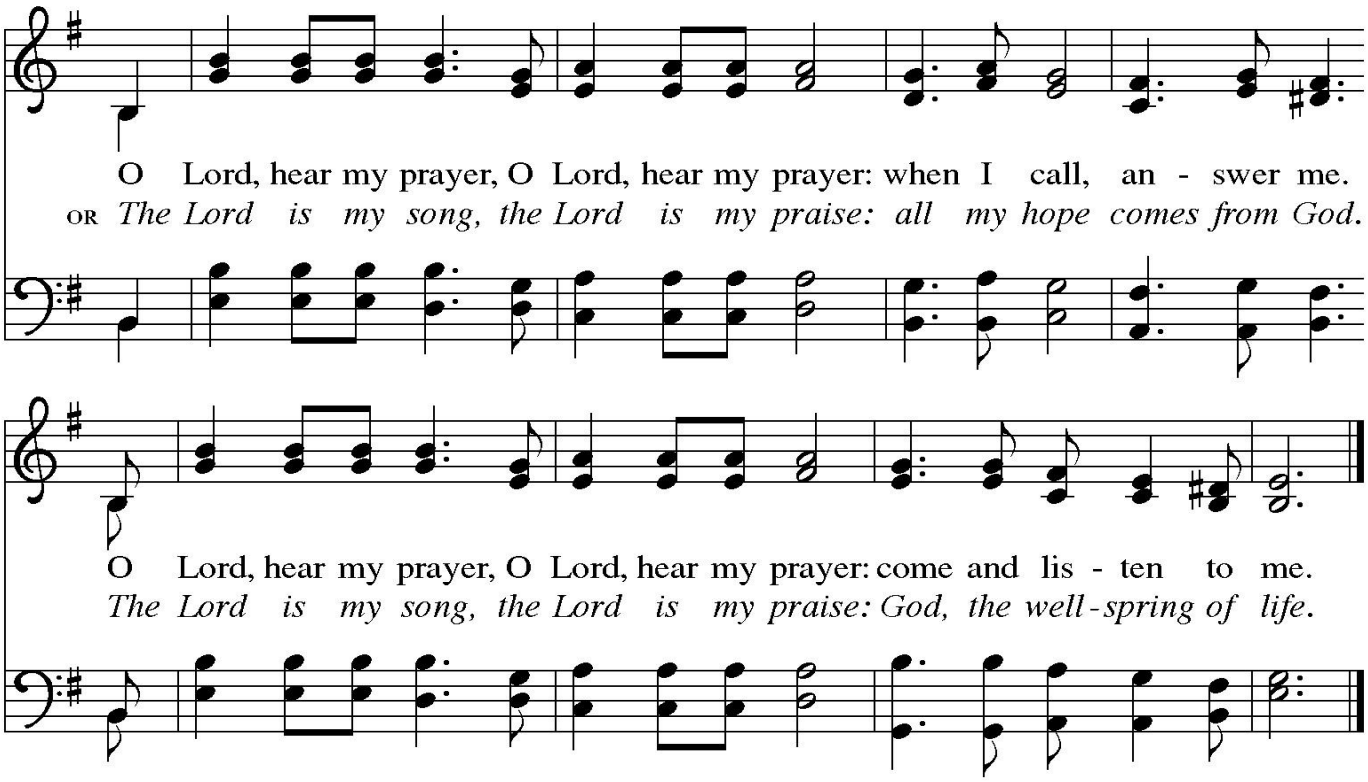
(Please stand as you are able)

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



Text: Psalm 102:1–2; Taizé Community, adapt.
Music: HEAR MY PRAYER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
Text and music © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
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(*Please be seated)*

Prayers of Intercession

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Fill your church with mercy and humility as we proclaim the gospel in our worship and witness in the world. Renew and inspire all who preach and teach among us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Restore all lands suffering from ecological degradation. Protect soils and waterways. Point us toward innovative ways of living in harmony and joy with creation. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Unite the nations in their actions toward justice and peace. Raise up leaders who listen deeply for the needs of their communities, and surround the election process with wisdom and discernment. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
Bring comfort and care to all who are in need, especially all who mourn this day. Sustain any who are weary, experiencing loneliness, or struggling with chronic illness *especially* from **Bethany**. Adam, Joanne Hitchcock, Kay Backhus, Kristen Clemens Keenan, Nancy Rebeyro, Ron Aaron, 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, Lynne Smith, Pastor Dan Hoffman, Bob Skudlarek 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 Wolfe, Jim Fragle, Don Sosnowski, Dave Dorson and those we name either silently or aloud God, in your mercy. **hear our prayer.**

Nurture programs and communities that support elders and those who are homebound. Bless caregivers, nurses, chaplains, social workers, and hospice staff. Guide this congregation's ministry with seniors and their families. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With grateful hearts we remember all who have died and now rest from their labors. ***Bethany*** – Gerry Zimmerman & Jimmy Carlson and ***St. Stephens*** – Anne Kinsey, Pasquale Piccirillo, Christopher Rossi & Sherrie Wendling. Fill us with songs of praise until we too are gathered at your side. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.
Amen.

Brief silence.

(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.

For All the Saints

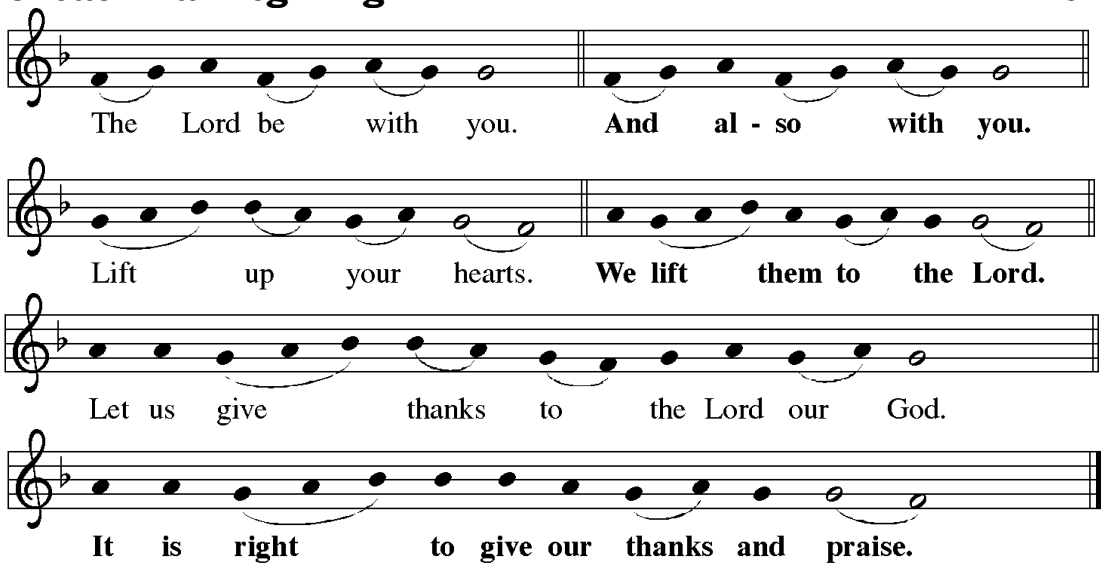


Text: William W. How, 1823–1897
Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
Outside USA: Music from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

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We Share the Holy Meal at God's Table

Great Thanksgiving s161



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

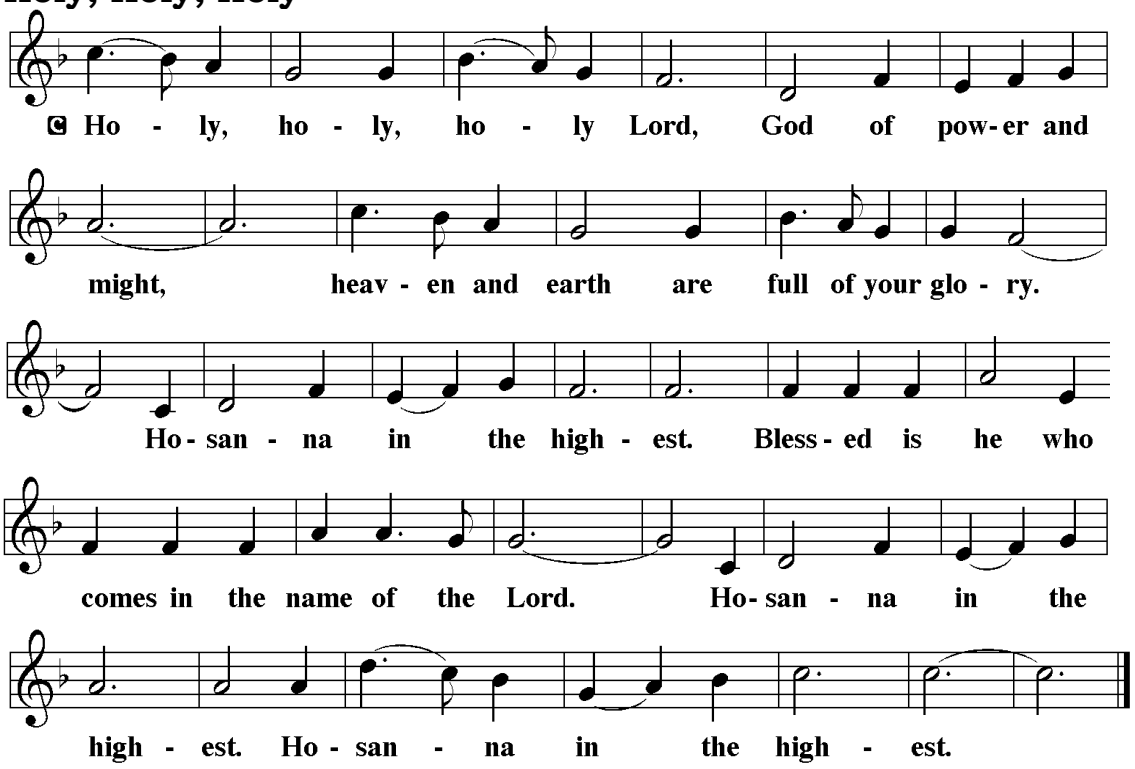


Table Prayer

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: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy.

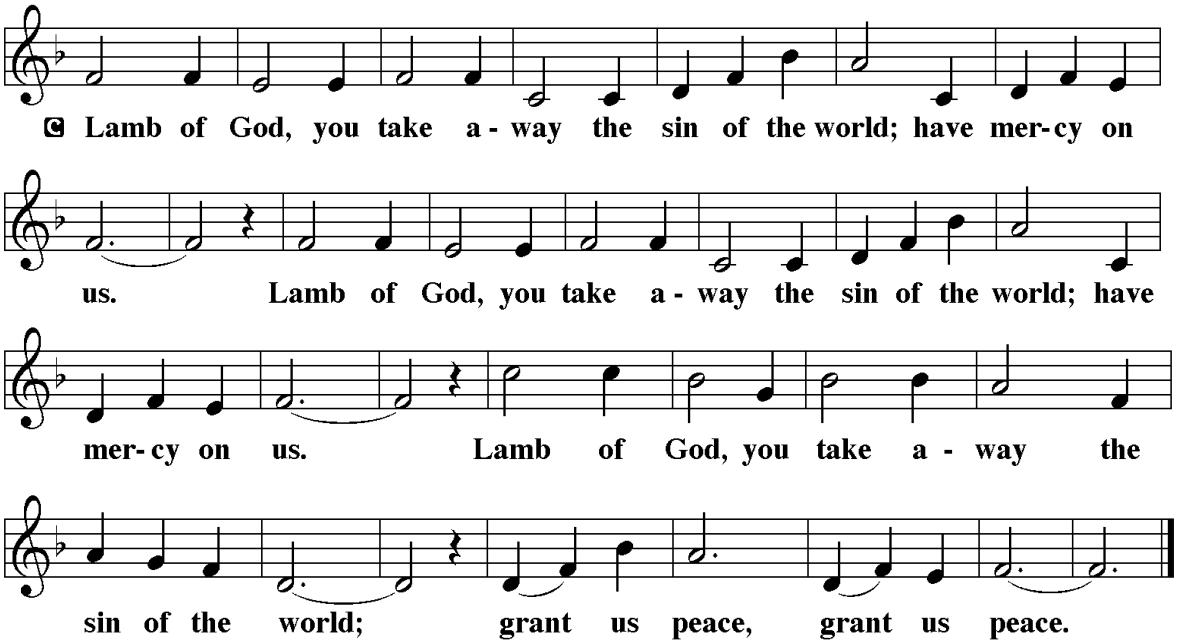
(*Please be seated***)**

****As you come to the altar, please form a single line…individual cups are to the right, common cup is to the left and if intinction is preferred you may use either side…****

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"*

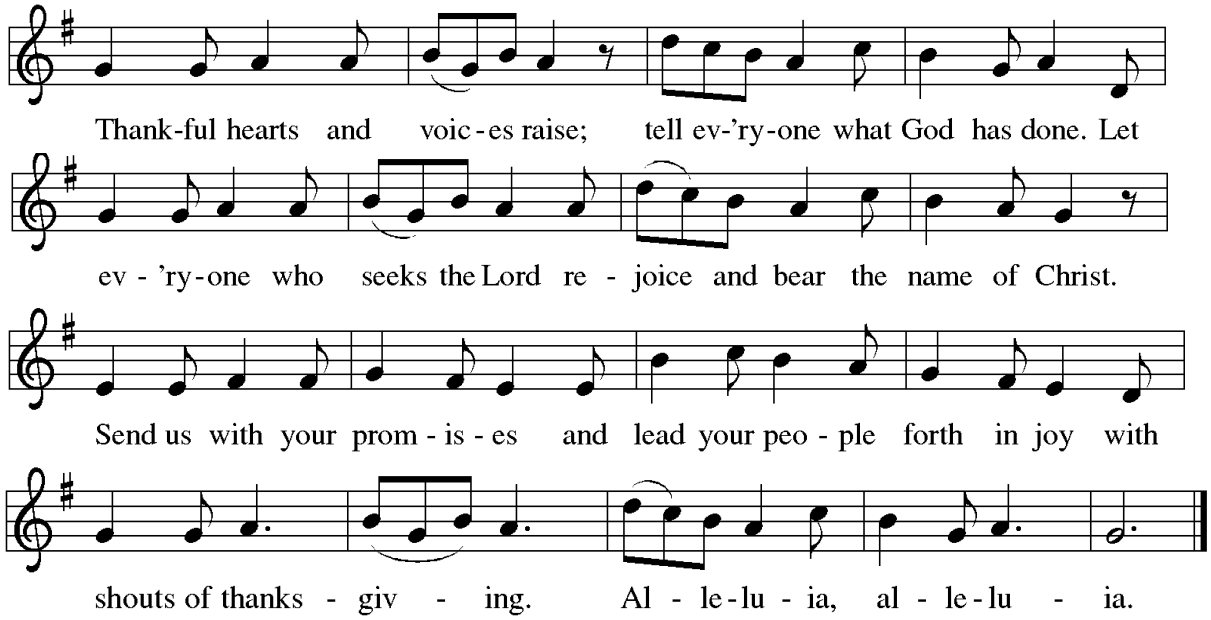


(Please stand as you are able)

Post Communion Prayer

Holy God,
we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal.
You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly.
Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.
Amen.

Post Communion Canticle: Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise" ELW 207



We Are Sent to Share the Good News

Blessing:
The holy Trinity,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God,
today and always.
Amen.

Holy God, We Praise Your Name



Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900
Music: GROSSER GOTT, *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Vienna, 1774

Dismissal:
Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude: "Sine Nomine" J. Bender

Today's Worship Servants
Worship Leader--Rev. Carrie Wolfe

Ministers: the people of Bethany Organists: Muriel Frable & Jack Bollman
Lay Lector: Kari Sprout Counter: Chris Brainard

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As a connected church, woven together, Rev. Carrie Wolfe (UMC), full communion partner, presides at the Eucharist today with the thanks and dispensation by the bishop of the Upstate New York Synod, in accordance with the constitution of the ELCA and UNYS. Bishop Lee M. Miller II

This week in our parish

Today 11/1	11:00 Worship @ Bethany
	5:30 AA Meeting
Tue 11/3	7:00a.m. – 9:00p.m. ELECTIONS (@ Bethany
Wed 11/4	5:30 AA Meeting
Sun 11/8	11:00 Worship Service @ St. Stephens
	Council meeting following worship in the Kim Rossi Room at St. Stephens

There will be a Bethany congregational meeting on Sunday, November 15, 2026 to review and vote on a proposed 2027 budget.

Road signs – (A play on words)
If you suck at playing the trumpet, that's probably why!

Turning Vegan would be a big missed steak!

Well, to be Frank – I'd have to change my name!

Forget world peace – visualize using your turn signal!

Life is short. If you can't laugh at yourself call me, I will!

What I if told you –
You read the top line wrong.

Ban pre-shredded cheese. Make America grate again

Electricians have to strip to make ends meet

For chemists alcohol is not a problem, it's a solution.

My mood ring is missing and I don't know how I feel about that.

Despite the high cost of living it remains popular.

Irony – the opposite of wrinkly

Big shout out to my fingers. I can always count on them.

Remember – if the world didn't suck we'd all fall off.

He who laughs last didn't get it