

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

**Almighty and eternal God, you know our problems and our weaknesses better than we ourselves. In your love and by your power help us in our confusion and in spite of our weakness, make us firm in faith, through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord**

### **First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9**

<sup>7</sup>So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

### **Psalms: Psalm 32:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

<sup>2</sup>**Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

<sup>3</sup>While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup>**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

<sup>6</sup>**Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup>You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

### **Second Reading: Romans 13:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. <sup>2</sup>Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. <sup>3</sup>For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; <sup>4</sup>for it is God’s servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup>Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. <sup>6</sup>For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, busy with this very thing. <sup>7</sup>Pay to all what is due them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due. <sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

### **Gospel: Matthew 18:1-20**

<sup>18</sup>At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” <sup>2</sup>He called a child, whom he put among them, <sup>3</sup>and said, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup>Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. <sup>6</sup>“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea. <sup>7</sup>Woe to the world because of stumbling blocks! Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to the one by whom the stumbling block comes! <sup>8</sup>“If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for

you to enter life maimed or lame than to have two hands or two feet and to be thrown into the eternal fire. <sup>9</sup>And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into the hell of fire. <sup>10</sup>“Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. <sup>12</sup>What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? <sup>13</sup>And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. <sup>14</sup>So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost. <sup>15</sup>“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

## THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

Today: September 10 <sup>th</sup> 15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 9:15-Adult SS 9:30-Coffee Fellowship 10:30-Worship <b>Monday: September 11<sup>th</sup></b> 4:00-W/M Meeting 7:00-Hand Bell Rehearsal <b>Tuesday: September 12<sup>th</sup></b> 8:30-Prayer Group 9:30-Tuesday Coffee @ BLC <b>Wednesday: September 13<sup>th</sup></b> 7:00-Council Meeting <b>Saturday: September 16<sup>th</sup></b> 9:00-Iowa Mission District Convocation	Sunday: September 17 <sup>th</sup> 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 9:15-Adult SS 9:30-Coffee Fellowship 10:30-Worship /Communion SS Sing, Installation of Teachers 11:30-Potluck BBQ Cook-Out 3:00-4H Club Mtg <b>M-TH September 18-21</b> Pastor at Society of Holy Trinity General Retreat
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**Prayer Concerns:** Bethany Lutheran Church members, nursing home residents, Iowa storm victims, those battling COVID-19, Linda Booth, Everette Buck, Monica Isom, Tiffany Klappenbach, Don & Marjean Ehlers, Lisa Anderson, Rodolfo Rezarin, Betty Thorsvig, Ely Kleszczelski, Colleen Phillips, Neil Bailey, Bill Alexander, Eli Honer, Christine Gordon, Dorothy Sandvig, Helen Dodge, Pastor James Puotyual, Carol Schmidt, Gloria Bell, Cenon Zarzoso, Patricia Bentsen. Our youth, parents & teachers, our military & missionaries.

**Lectors:** Dean Armstrong  
**Ushers:** September 10<sup>th</sup>-Tom & Elaine Anderson  
September 17<sup>th</sup>-Julian Johnsen Family

**Acolytes:** Bethany Youth

**Weekly Budget Needs: \$2600.00**  
Faith Promise \$3384.38                      Worship 28

**Birthdays:** September 11 – Becky Baker; 13 – Marilyn Ehlers  
**Anniversaries:** September 15 – Doug & Becky Baker

\*\*\*Please note that the blue CH (Celebration Hymnal) is located under the pew in front of you.

**Altar Flowers:**

*An asterisk (\*) indicates when to stand (as able)*

### ORDER OF THE SERVICE

PRELUDE/ RINGING OF THE BELL /  
WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WORSHIP OF PRAYER & MEDITATION

\*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS                      P.56  
\*HYMN    *We Praise You, O God*                      **LBW 241**  
\*GREETING    P.57  
\*KYRIE    P.57  
\*HYMN OF PRAISE    P.59  
\*PRAYER OF THE DAY                                      *(bulletin-in unison)*

### MEDITATION ON GOD'S WORD

**FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-9**  
**Psalm: Psalm 32:1-7**                                      *(bulletin – responsively)*  
**SECOND READING: Romans 13:1-10**  
\*ALLELUIA VERSE    P.62  
\***THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 18:1-20**  
\*GOSPEL RESPONSES                                      P.63  
CHILDREN'S SERMON  
SERMON    **Pastor David Klappenbach**  
HYMN    *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*              **CH 688**  
APOSTLES' CREED    P.65

### OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

OFFERING:    P.67  
**Offering Hymn: Create in me...**                      P.75  
\*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH  
    Leader: ...Lord in your mercy  
    **Response: Hear our prayer.**  
\**THE LORD'S PRAYER*    P.76

### OUR SENDING

\*BENEDICTION  
\*HYMN    *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*                      **LBW 370**  
\*DISMISSAL

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**September 10, 2023**  
**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**WORSHIP, LOVE, ACCEPT  
TOGETHER IN CHRIST'S NAME**

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To our visitors! Welcome to our Sunday Service. We are happy to have you sharing in our worship service and ask for the opportunity to meet you. We invite you to complete the visitor card in front of you and give to an usher. Please come again!

***We are a  
Christ-Centered  
Mission-Driven  
Traditionally-Grounded  
Congregationally-Focused  
Church.***