

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**God of love, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them; keep us from those things that harm us; and guide us in the way of salvation through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

### **FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. <sup>5</sup>Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>6</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>7</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>8</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>9</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>10</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>11</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>12</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

### **PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**<sup>2</sup>O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**<sup>4</sup>Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

**<sup>6</sup>Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

<sup>7</sup>Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness’ sake, O LORD!

**<sup>8</sup>Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

<sup>9</sup>He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

**<sup>10</sup>All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

### **SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-18**

<sup>2</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>3</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>4</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>5</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>6</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>8</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>9</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. <sup>10</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>11</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>12</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus

Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>14</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. <sup>15</sup>Do all things without murmuring and arguing, <sup>16</sup>so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world. <sup>17</sup>It is by your holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. <sup>18</sup>But even if I am being poured out as a libation over the sacrifice and the offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you— <sup>19</sup>and in the same way you also must be glad and rejoice with me.

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32**

<sup>23</sup>When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ <sup>26</sup>But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. <sup>28</sup>“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ <sup>29</sup>He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

**THIS WEEK AT BETHANY**

**Today: October 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

9:15-Adult SS  
 9:30-Youth SS  
 9:30- Coffee Fellowship  
 10:30-Worship w/Communion

**Monday: October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

4:00-W/M Meeting  
 6:30-Discipleship class  
 7:00-Handbell Rehearsal

**Tuesday: September 26<sup>th</sup>**

8:30-Prayer Group  
 9:30-Morning Coffee @ BLC

**Saturday: October 7<sup>th</sup>**

8:00-Mens Group

**Sunday: October 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

9:15-Adult SS  
 9:30-Youth SS  
 9:30- Coffee Fellowship  
 10:30-Worship  
 5:00-Youth Board Mtg @ FCC  
 5:00-7:00-Laurens Youth Group  
 KICK-OFF @ FCC

**Prayer Concerns:** Bethany Lutheran Church members, nursing home residents, Iowa storm victims, those battling COVID-19, Bob Winkelmann, Harry Summers, 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:** Tom Anderson  
**Ushers:** October 1<sup>st</sup> -Jean Swanson & Tammy Oxenreider  
 October 8<sup>th</sup> -Tom & Rhonda Shewell

**Acolytes: Bethany Youth**

**Weekly Budget Needs: \$2800.00**

Faith Promise \$ 627.00      Worship 31  
 Sunday School \$9.00      Adult SS 0      Youth SS 14

**Birthdays:** 10-2-Denise Hodgell, 10-7-Tammy Oxenreider,

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

**Altar Flowers:** The flowers on the altar are given to praise and worship God our Father from the Bieri family.

*An asterisk (\*) indicates when to stand (for those who are able)*

**ORDER OF THE SERVICE**

PRELUDE/ RINGING OF THE BELL  
 WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WORSHIP OF PRAYER & MEDITATION**

\*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS P.56  
 \*HYMN *Lead Me, Guide Me* **Insert**  
 \*GREETING P.57  
 \*KYRIE P.57  
 \*HYMN OF PRAISE P.60  
 \*PRAYER OF THE DAY *(bulletin-in unison)*

**MEDITATION ON GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**  
**PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10** *(bulletin -responsively)*  
**SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-18**  
 \*ALLELUIA VERSE P.62  
**\*THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32**  
 \*GOSPEL RESPONSES P.63  
 CHILDREN'S SERMON  
 Sermon Pastor David Klappenbach  
 HYMN *O Master, Let me Walk with You* **LBW 492**  
 NICENE CREED P.64  
 \*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH  
     **Leader:** "...Lord, in your mercy."  
     **Response:** "hear our prayer."  
 \*THE PEACE

**OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD**

OFFERING / \*OFFERTORY P.66  
 \*OFFERTORY Hymn *Blessed Assurance* **CH 572**  
 \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING P.68  
 \*WORDS OF INSTITUTION P.69  
 \*THE LORD'S PRAYER P.71  
 \*LAMB OF GOD P.72  
 DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION  
 BLESSING P.72  
 \*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE P.72

**\*BENEDICTION**

\*HYMN *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* **LBW 221**  
 \*DISMISSAL

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**October 1, 2023**  
**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

213 S. Harrison, PO Box 151  
 Laurens, IA 50554  
 Ph. 712-841-2181  
 Email: bethanynlc@gmail.com  
 Pastor David Klappenbach  
 Cell 419-603-8350 Home 712-841-2532

Shirley McKiernan, Organist  
 Website: www.bethanylutheran-laurens.org

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. Please come again!

*Welcome to our Communion Sunday Service.*  
*All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. 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 Communion/Visitor card in front of you. Please come again!*