

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**God, of all creation, you reach out to call people of all nations to your kingdom. As you gather disciples from near and far, count us also among those who boldly confess your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 66:18-24**

<sup>18</sup>For I know their works and their thoughts, and I am coming to gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and shall see my glory, <sup>19</sup>and I will set a sign among them. From them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Put, and Lud—which draw the bow—to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the nations. <sup>20</sup>They shall bring all your kindred from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and on mules, and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring a grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD. <sup>21</sup>And I will also take some of them as priests and as Levites, says the LORD. <sup>22</sup>For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, says the LORD; so shall your descendants and your name remain. <sup>23</sup>From new moon to new moon, and from sabbath to sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, says the LORD. <sup>24</sup>And they shall go out and look at the dead bodies of the people who have rebelled against me; for their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.

**PSALM: Psalm 50:1-15**

<sup>1</sup>The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**<sup>2</sup>Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.**

<sup>3</sup>Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him.

**<sup>4</sup>He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:**

<sup>5</sup>“Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”

**<sup>6</sup>The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge.**

<sup>7</sup>“Hear, O my people, and I will speak, O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God.

**<sup>8</sup>Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before me.**

<sup>9</sup>I will not accept a bull from your house, or goats from your folds.

**<sup>10</sup>For every wild animal of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.**

<sup>11</sup>I know all the birds of the air, and all that moves in the field is mine.

**<sup>12</sup>“If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and all that is in it is mine.**

<sup>13</sup>Do I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats?

**<sup>14</sup>Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High.**

<sup>15</sup>Call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”

**SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:4-29**

<sup>4</sup>In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup>And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as children— “My child, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, or lose heart when you are punished by him; <sup>6</sup>for the Lord disciplines those whom he loves, and chastises every child whom he accepts.” <sup>7</sup>Endure trials for the sake of discipline. God is treating you as children; for what child is there whom a parent does not discipline? <sup>8</sup>If you do not have that discipline in which all children share, then you are illegitimate and not his children. <sup>9</sup>Moreover, we had human parents to discipline us, and we respected them. Should we not be even more willing to be subject to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup>For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share his holiness. <sup>11</sup>Now, discipline always seems painful rather than pleasant at the time, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. <sup>12</sup>Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, <sup>13</sup>and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed. <sup>14</sup>Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. <sup>15</sup>See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and through it many become defiled. <sup>16</sup>See to it that no one becomes like Esau, an immoral and godless person, who sold his birthright for a single meal. <sup>17</sup>You know that later, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was

rejected, for he found no chance to repent, even though he sought the blessing with tears. <sup>18</sup>You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, <sup>19</sup>and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup>(For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.” <sup>21</sup>Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”) <sup>22</sup>But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup>and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup>and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. <sup>25</sup>See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! <sup>26</sup>At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” <sup>27</sup>This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. <sup>28</sup>Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; <sup>29</sup>for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

**GOSPEL: Luke 13:22-30**

<sup>22</sup>Jesus went through one town and village after another, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup>Someone asked him, “Lord, will only a few be saved?” He said to them, <sup>24</sup>“Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able. <sup>25</sup>When once the owner of the house has got up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then in reply he will say to you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ <sup>26</sup>Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ <sup>27</sup>But he will say, ‘I do not know where you come from; go away from me, all you evildoers!’ <sup>28</sup>There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrown out. <sup>29</sup>Then people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup>Indeed, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

<b>Sunday: August 24<sup>th</sup></b> <b>11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> 8:30-Adult SS 9:30-Worship w/Blessing of school supplies/backpacks, students & school personnel 10:30-Coffee Fellowship 6:30-Bethany Prayer Group <b>Tuesday: August 26<sup>th</sup></b> 8:30-Prayer Group 9:30-Tuesday Coffee @ BLC	<b>Sunday: August 31st</b> <b>12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> 8:30-Adult SS 9:30-Worship 10:30-Coffee Fellowship 4:00-Laurens Care Center Svc 6:30-Bethany Prayer Group <b>Monday: September 1<sup>st</sup></b> 7:00-Hand bell Rehearsal
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**Prayer Concerns:** Bethany Lutheran Church members, nursing home residents, storm/flood/fire victims, those suffering any illness, Jerry Runneberg, Todd & Elizabeth Woods, Myles Pedersen, Myra Reese, Janelle Mason, Desiree Welty, Pastor John Mayer, Monica Isom, Bill Alexander, Eli Honer, Dorothy Sandvig, Gloria Bell, Helen Dodge, Patricia Bentsen. Our youth, parents & teachers, our military & missionaries

**Lectors:** Vicki Fontenot  
**Ushers:** August 24<sup>th</sup>-Shirley Kruse & Jan Hersom  
August 31<sup>st</sup> -Jim & Denise Hodgell  
**Acolytes:** Bethany Youth

**Weekly Budget Needs: \$2817.00**  
Faith Promise \$6545.00      Worship 37      Adult SS 0

***Birthdays:*** August 25-Sandy Reese

\*\*\*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 (for those who are able)*

**ORDER OF THE SERVICE**

PRELUDE/ RINGING OF THE BELL  
WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS  
\*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS P.56  
\*HYMN *This Is the Day* CH 209  
\*GREETING P.57  
\*KYRIE P.57  
\*HYMN OF PRAISE P.59  
\*PRAYER OF THE DAY (bulletin-in unison)  
FIRST READING: Isaiah 66:18-23  
PSALM: Psalm 50:1-15 (bulletin – responsively)  
SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:4-29  
\*ALLELUIA VERSE P.62  
\*THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 13:22-30  
\*GOSPEL RESPONSES P.63  
CHILDREN’S SERMON  
SERMON Pastor David Klappenbach  
HYMN *I’m So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me* CH 522  
APOSTLES CREED P.65  
BLESSING SCHOOL SUPPLIES/BACKPACKS  
STUDENT& SCHOOL PERSONEL  
OFFERING P.75  
\*OFFERTORY HYMN P.75  
\*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH  
\*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH  
Leader: ...Lord in your mercy  
Response: Hear our prayer.  
\*THE LORD’S PRAYER CH 631  
\*BENEDICTION P.76  
\*HYMN *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* CH 575  
\*DISMISSAL  
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**August 24, 2025**  
**Eleventh 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**