

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pour out upon us, O Lord, the spirit to think and do what is right, that we, who cannot even exist without you may have the strength to live according to your will, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. ⁸Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

Psalm: Psalm 119:57-64

⁵⁷The LORD is my portion; I promise to keep your words.

⁵⁸I implore your favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise.

⁵⁹When I think of your ways, I turn my feet to your decrees;

⁶⁰I hurry and do not delay to keep your commandments.

⁶¹Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me, I do not forget your law.

⁶²At midnight I rise to praise you, because of your righteous ordinances.

⁶³I am a companion of all who fear you, of those who keep your precepts.

⁶⁴The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love; teach me your statutes.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:18-27

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

²⁴He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” ³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

Today: July 19th
8th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30-Worship w/Communion
10:30-Coffee Fellowship
6:00-Bethany Prayer Group
Tuesday: July 21st
9:30-Tuesday Coffee @ BLC

Sunday: July 26th
9th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30-Worship
10:30-Coffee Fellowship
6:00-Bethany Prayer Group

Prayer Concerns: Bethany Lutheran Church members, nursing home residents, storm/flood/fire victims, those suffering any illness, Lucas Sorensen, Kelly Gordon, Ireneo Zarzoso, Pastor David Klappenbach, Elaine Anderson, Roger Schulz, Shannon Hersom, Ken & Pat Boughey, Marie Rogers, Jeanette Jardee, Mary Roat, Todd & Elizabeth Wood, Myles Pedersen, Pastor John Mayer, Monica Isom, Eli Honer, Dorothy Sandvig, Gloria Bell, Helen Dodge, Patricia Bentsen. Our youth, parents & teachers, our military & missionaries.

64Lector: Vicki Fontenot
Ushers: July 19th -Dean & Eloise Armstrong
July 26th -Jean Swanson & Tammy Oxenreider
Acolytes: Bethany Youth

Weekly Budget Needs:
Faith Promise \$ 432.00 Worship 27

Birthdays:7-19-Luke Hersom; 21-Brayden Hudson

Anniversaries:

*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 COMMUNION SERVICE

PRELUDE/ RINGING OF THE BELL
WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS
*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS P.56
*HYMN *Great is Thy Faithfulness* CH 139
*GREETING P.57
*KYRIE P.57
*HYMN OF PRAISE P.60
*PRAYER OF THE DAY (bulletin-in unison)
FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8
PSALM: 119:57-64 (bulletin – responsively)
SECOND READING: Romans 8:18-27
*ALLELUIA VERSE P.62
***THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**
*GOSPEL RESPONSES P.63
SERMON Rich Ehlers
HYMN *Come, You Thankful People, Come* LBW 407
*NICENE CREED P.64
*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH
 Leader: “...Lord, in your mercy.”
 Response: “hear our prayer.”
*THE PEACE
OFFERING / *OFFERTORY P.66
*OFFERTORY PRAYER P.67
*WORDS OF INSTITUTION – HOLY COMMUNION
*THE LORD’S PRAYER P.71
*LAMB OF GOD P.72
DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION P.71
*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE
*BENEDICTION
*HYMN *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing* LBW 259
*DISMISSAL
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July 19, 2026
Eighth 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.*