

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God you declare you almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Grant us the fullness of your grace, that you have promised, we may share your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ.

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers said, “What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?” ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷‘Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.’ Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

PSALM: Psalm 103:1-12

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

²Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—

³who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

⁴who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

⁵who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

⁶The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

⁷He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

⁸The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.

¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

¹²as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

¹⁴Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you

despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.” ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

Sunday: September 13th
16th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30-Coffee Fellowship
10:30-Worship
6:00-Bethany Prayer Group
Monday: September 14th
7:00-Hand Bell Rehearsal
Tuesday: September 15th
9:30-Tuesday Coffee @ BLC
Thursday: September 17th
2:00-Circle Group
7:00-Confirmation Class

Prayer Concerns: Bethany Lutheran Church members, nursing home residents, storm/flood/fire victims, those suffering any illness, Lucas Sorensen, Myles & Shirley Pedersen, 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, Pastor John Mayer, Monica Isom, Eli Honer, Dorothy Sandvig, Gloria Bell, Helen Dodge, Patricia Bentsen. Our youth, parents & teachers, our military & missionaries.
Lector: Shirley Kruse
Ushers: September 13th -Tom & Elaine Anderson
September 20th- Julian Johnsen & Family
Acolytes: Bethany Youth

Weekly Budget/Worship
Faith Promise \$1020.00 Worship 20
Matins & A Meal \$38.00 12

Birthdays: 9-13-Marilyn Ehlers; 17- Alex Runneberg; 18-Ethan Bauermeister
Anniversaries: 9-15-Doug & Becky Baker; 9-18-Allen & Theresa Sandvig

*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 *Praise to the Lord, The Almighty* **LBW 543**
*KYRIE P.57-58
*HYMN OF PRAISE P.59
*PRAYER OF THE DAY (bulletin-in unison)
FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21
PSALM: Psalm 103:1-12 (bulletin- responsively)
SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12
*ALLELUIA VERSE P.62
***THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35**
*GOSPEL RESPONSES P.63
SERMON **Tom Shewell**
HYMN *Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us* **LBW424**
APOSTLES CREED P.65
OFFERING/OFFERATORY P.75
*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH
Leader: “...Lord, in your mercy.”
Response: “hear our prayer.”
*The Lord’s Prayer P.76
*BENEDICTION P.76
*HYMN *Son of God, Eternal Savior* **LBW 364**
*DISMISSAL
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September 13, 2026
Sixteenth Sunday after Penetcost

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

213 S. Harrison, PO Box 151
Laurens, IA 50554
Ph. 712-841-2181
Email: bethanyalc@gmail.com

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 and give to an usher. Please come again!

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