

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Vibrantly open to the spirit, Bethel Lutheran Church serves God and its neighbors by joyfully living and sharing the Good News.

Sunday, September 17, 2017

15th Sunday after Pentecost (Setting 8)

Aaron Holmgren, Pastor

Jan Smith, Organist

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the ☩ holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

God of righteousness, **we confess that we have not embraced the freedom that your grace has given us. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We have thought poorly of our neighbors, and we have neglected to do what was right. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be your church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.**

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. By the grace of God our sins are forgiven and forgotten. ☩ God's love is unconditional and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new. In the name of Christ Jesus, **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn "As We Gather at Your Table" ELW # 522

Kyrie and Cantic of Praise (p. 184-186)

Rejoicing in God's grace, we sing our Cantic of Praise. **This is the feast...**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray, **Gracious God, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. May your overflowing grace continue to inspire compassion and mercy from all those who follow you, that we may delight in sharing your love for all. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Choir Anthem "You Are Welcome Here" by Marty Parks

WORD

Scripture Reading Romans 14:1-12 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message "The Unforgiving Servant"

Gospel Acclamation (p. 188) **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?...**

The holy gospel according to Matthew the eighteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Reading Matthew 18:21-35 The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon "Forgiveness"

Hymn of the Day "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" ELW # 588

Blessing of the Sunday School Program

Apostles Creed (p. 105)

Prayers of Intercession Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Peace The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Offering

We now enter into a time of offering where we joyously share in God's abundance.

Doxology "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" ELW # 884

Offertory Prayer

God of life, You give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light, Amen.

MEAL

We now share in Christ's holy meal of forgiveness, love, and grace.

Table Prayer **Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. Let these gifts to us be blest. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving (p. 190)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you...**

Holy, holy, holy...

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer (p. 191)

Invitation to Communion

Recognition of First Communion Recipients

Distribution Hymns (p. 201) Lamb of God...

"We Come to the Hungry Feast" ELW # 479

SENDING

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" ELW # 543

Dismissal Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude