

## 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 3, 2017

13th 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 "Great God, Your Love Has Called Us" ELW # 358 (st. 1,2,4,5)

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, give us grace to set a good example to all among whom we live, to be just and true in all our dealings, to be humble and honest in the face of glory, to be forgiving and merciful in the face of disappointment, and to be obedient to your will in everything that is to come; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### WORD

Scripture Reading Romans 12:9-21 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message "Exercise"

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

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

Gospel Reading Matthew 16:21-28 The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon            “The Cross”

Hymn of the Day        “How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord” ELW # 580

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 us 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 (insert)

Invitation to Communion

Distribution Hymns (p. 191) Lamb of God...

“Will You Come and Follow Me” ELW # 798

## 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        “O God beyond All Praising” ELW # 880

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

Postlude