

Bethany Lutheran Church

Long Beach, California
(562) 421-4711

2nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST + + + JUNE 14, 2020

+ *God Gathers Us In His Presence* +

WELCOME

INVOCATION:

Leader: Grace and peace to you from God our Father,
 from the Lord Jesus Christ
 and from the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from both. (*Romans 1:7*)

People: **Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: All of you who were baptized into Christ Jesus have been united with Him
 in His death and resurrection. (*Romans 6:3*)

People: **That we might live a new life. (*Romans 6:4*)**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Let us confess our sins to God, for all of us have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (*Romans 3:23*)

**People: I confess Lord, that I am no better than anyone else.
No one really understands You as they should.
No one truly seeks You in a way that is pure.
At some point, all of us have turned away from You, Lord.
No one constantly does the right thing.
In fact, oftentimes when I have done the right thing,
it has been with a hidden agenda, rather than from a pure heart.**

Leader: I confess Lord, that my talk has been foul,
my speech has contained cursing and bitterness;
I've opened my mouth and polluted the air.

**People: I have sought revenge, tried to get even
and have been quick to defend myself or my cause to get my way -
regardless of who is hurt in the process.**

Leader: Heartbreak and ruin have littered the lives of many
as a result of my actions.

**People: For the sake of Jesus Christ,
Who was delivered over to death for my sins
and raised to life for my justification,
forgive me and restore me. Amen. (*Romans 3:10-17 & 4:25*)**

Leader: God has demonstrated His love for you in this:
While yet a sinner, Christ died for you!
Now that you have been set right with God
by the sacrificial death of Christ,
there is no longer a question of being at odds with God in any way.
If you were restored to friendship with God
by the death of His Son while you were His enemy,
you will certainly be delivered from eternal punishment by His life.
(*Romans 12*)

OPENING HYMN: *“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”* LSB 435

1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined
 2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean - ness, Come de - filed, with -
 3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound - ed, im - po -
 4 They that drink shall live for - ev - er; 'Tis a soul - re -

by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain
 out, with - in; From in - fec - tion and un - clean - ness,
 tent, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,
 new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er

Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, per -
 From the lep - ro - sy of sin, Wash your robes and
 Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain
 Break His cov - e - nant of blood, Signed when our Re -

pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.
 make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
 will re - store; They that drink shall thirst no more.
 deem - er died, Sealed when He was glo - ri - fied.

+ *God Gives Us the Gift of His Word* +

FIRST SCRIPTURE: *Romans 5:6-15*

Look at it this way: At the right time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for ungodly people. Finding someone who would die for a godly person is rare. Maybe someone would have the courage to die for a good person. Christ died for us while we were still sinners. This demonstrates God’s love for us.

Since Christ’s blood has now given us God’s approval, we are even more certain that Christ will save us from God’s anger. If the death of His Son restored our relationship with God while we were still his enemies, we are even more certain that, because of this restored relationship, the life of His Son will save us. In addition, our Lord Jesus Christ lets us continue to brag about God. After all, it is through Christ that we now have this restored relationship with God.

Sin came into the world through one person, and death came through sin. So death spread to everyone, because everyone sinned. Sin was in the world before there were any laws. But no record of sin can be kept when there are no laws. Yet, death ruled from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin in the same way Adam did when he disobeyed. Adam is an image of the one who would come.

There is no comparison between God's gift and Adam's failure. If humanity died as the result of one person's failure, it is certainly true that God's kindness and the gift given through the kindness of one person, Jesus Christ, have been showered on humanity.

– GW®

SECOND SCRIPTURE: *Luke 15:11-32*

Then Jesus said, "A man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the property.' So the father divided his property between his two sons.

"After a few days, the younger son gathered his possessions and left for a country far away from home. There he wasted everything he had on a wild lifestyle. He had nothing left when a severe famine spread throughout that country. He had nothing to live on. So he got a job from someone in that country and was sent to feed pigs in the fields. No one in the country would give him any food, and he was so hungry that he would have eaten what the pigs were eating.

"Finally, he came to his senses. He said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more food than they can eat, while I'm starving to death here? I'll go at once to my father, and I'll say to him, 'Father, I've sinned against heaven and you. I don't deserve to be called your son anymore. Make me one of your hired men.'"

"So he went at once to his father. While he was still at a distance, his father saw him and felt sorry for him. He ran to his son, put his arms around him, and kissed him. Then his son said to him, 'Father, I've sinned against heaven and you. I don't deserve to be called your son anymore.'

"The father said to his servants, 'Hurry! Bring out the best robe, and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let's celebrate with a feast. My son was dead and has come back to life. He was lost but has been found.' Then they began to celebrate.

"His older son was in the field. As he was coming back to the house, he heard music and dancing. He called to one of the servants and asked what was happening.

“The servant told him, ‘Your brother has come home. So your father has killed the fattened calf to celebrate your brother’s safe return.’

“Then the older son became angry and wouldn’t go into the house. His father came out and begged him to come in. But he answered his father, ‘All these years I’ve worked like a slave for you. I’ve never disobeyed one of your commands. Yet, you’ve never given me so much as a little goat for a celebration with my friends. But this son of yours spent your money on prostitutes, and when he came home, you killed the fattened calf for him.’

“His father said to him, ‘My child, you’re always with me. Everything I have is yours. But we have something to celebrate, something to be happy about. This brother of yours was dead but has come back to life. He was lost but has been found.’” – GW®

+ We Give Thanks for God’s Word +

OFFERING:

*If you so desire, Text Giving is now available.
Text GIVE to 562-210-0463. Thank you!*

VOLUNTARY: **“He Will Hold Me Fast”** Soloist: Anneliese Ayers

*When I fear my faith will fail -- Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail -- He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold -- Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold -- He must hold me fast*

*He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast*

*Those He saves are His delight -- Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight -- He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost -- His Promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost -- He will hold me fast*

He will hold me fast...

*For my life He bled and died -- Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied -- He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life -- He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight -- When He comes at last*

He will hold me fast... For my Savior loves me so... He will hold me fast

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Leader: In mercy, God, send us Your Spirit
that we might offer You, ourselves as living sacrifices,
holy and pleasing to You.

People: **Transform us by the Spirit's presence,
that we no longer conform to the pattern of this world,
but are renewed into Your image,
O Lord, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen. (Romans 12)**

APOSTLE'S CREED:

(catholic means the universal Christian Church)*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy *catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Amen.



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -
 2 I was in slav - ry, Sin, death, and
 3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -
 4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did
 5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.
 dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.
 deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.
 of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.
 ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

MESSAGE

Text: Romans 5:6-15

+ *God Sends Us Forth for Lives of Love and
 Service* +

THE BLESSING:

Leader: May the God who gives endurance and encouragement
 give you a spirit of unity.
 So that with one heart and one mouth,
 you may give God glory as you follow the Lord Jesus Christ.
(Romans 15:5-6)

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ARE YOU RECEIVING THE BETHANY BULLET?

If you would like to receive the ***Bethany Bullet*** please email Aimee Coleman (acoleman@bethanylutheran.org) with your name and email address. The ***Bethany Bullet*** is a weekly capsule of worship highlights and big information that your brain may or may not have 'downloaded' from the prior Sunday. The purpose is to bolster you in faith, build you up in the key Biblical themes shared the previous Sunday in worship, to bring to mind the important issues on Bethany's plate and to broaden your awareness of opportunities of service to your Lord, your church, and your community. Tell a friend about the ***Bethany Bullet!***

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“Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain” LSB 435
Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.
Tune: Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812-87; setting: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978
Text and music: Public Domain

“He Will Hold Me Fast”
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“God Loves Me Dearly” LSB 392
Text: August Rische, 1819-1906; tr. composite
Tune: German; setting: *All God's People Sing!*, 1992
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