

Bethany Lutheran Church

Long Beach, California

(562) 421-4711

4th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST + + + JUNE 28, 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: *“The Law of God Is Good and Wise”* LSB 579

1 The Law of God is good and wise And sets His
 2 Its light of ho - li - ness im - parts The knowl - edge
 3 To those who help in Christ have found And would in
 4 But those who scorn - ful - ly dis - dain God's Law shall

will be - fore our eyes, Shows us the way of righ - teous -
 of our sin - ful hearts That we may see our lost es -
 works of love a - bound It shows what deeds are His de -
 then in sin re - main; Its ter - ror in their ear re -

ness, And dooms to death when we trans - gress.
 tate And turn from sin be - fore too late.
 light And should be done as good and right.
 sounds And keeps their wick - ed - ness in bounds.

5 The Law is good; but since the fall
 Its holiness condemns us all;
 It dooms us for our sin to die
 And has no pow'r to justify.

6 To Jesus we for refuge flee,
 Who from the curse has set us free,
 And humbly worship at His throne,
 Saved by His grace through faith alone.

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

FIRST SCRIPTURE: *Romans 7:1-13*

Don't you realize, brothers and sisters, that laws have power over people only as long as they are alive? (I'm speaking to people who are familiar with Moses' Teachings.) For example, a married woman is bound by law to her husband as long as he is alive. But if her husband dies, that marriage law is no longer in effect for her. So if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she will be called an adulterer. But if her husband dies, she is free from this law, so she is not committing adultery if she marries another man.

In the same way, brothers and sisters, you have died to the laws in Moses' Teachings through Christ's body. You belong to someone else, the one who was brought back to life.

As a result, we can do what God wants. While we were living under the influence of our corrupt nature, sinful passions were at work throughout our bodies. Stirred up by the laws in Moses' Teachings, our sinful passions did things that result in death. But now we have died to those laws that bound us. God has broken their effect on us so that we are serving in a new spiritual way, not in an old way dictated by written words.

What should we say, then? Are the laws in Moses' Teachings sinful? That's unthinkable! In fact, I wouldn't have recognized sin if those laws hadn't shown it to me. For example, I wouldn't have known that some desires are sinful if Moses' Teachings hadn't said, "Never have wrong desires." But sin took the opportunity provided by this commandment and made me have all kinds of wrong desires. Clearly, without laws sin is dead. At one time I was alive without any laws. But when this commandment came, sin became alive and I died. I found that the commandment which was intended to bring me life actually brought me death. Sin, taking the opportunity provided by this commandment, deceived me and then killed me.

So the laws in Moses' Teachings are holy, and the commandment is holy, right, and good. Now, did something good cause my death? That's unthinkable! Rather, my death was caused by sin so that sin would be recognized for what it is. Through a commandment sin became more sinful than ever. – GW®

SECOND SCRIPTURE: *Matthew 10:34-42*

“Don't think that I came to bring peace to earth. I didn't come to bring peace but conflict. I came to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. A person's enemies will be the members of his own family.

“The person who loves his father or mother more than me does not deserve to be my disciple. The person who loves a son or daughter more than me does not deserve to be my disciple. Whoever doesn't take up his cross and follow me doesn't deserve to be my disciple. The person who tries to preserve his life will lose it, but the person who loses his life for me will preserve it.

“The person who welcomes you welcomes me, and the person who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. The person who welcomes a prophet as such will receive a prophet's reward. The person who welcomes a godly person as such will

receive a godly person's reward. I can guarantee this truth: Whoever gives any of my humble followers a cup of cold water because that person is my disciple will certainly never lose his reward." – 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: *"Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus"* Soloist: Pat Gagan

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 I want to walk as a child of the light.
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God.
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
 I want to look at Je - sus.
 I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.
 Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
 When we have run . . . with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.
 and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

MESSAGE:

Pastor Kevin L. Kritzer

Text: Romans 7:1-13

+ *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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“The Law of God Is Good and Wise” LSB 579

Text: Matthias Loy, 1828-1915, alt.

Tune: *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1543, ed. Joseph Klug;

setting: *Württembergisches Neues Choralbuch*, 1956

Text and tune: Public Domain

Setting: © 1956 Bärenreiter

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” LSB 411

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

Music: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

Text and music: © 1970, 1975 Celebration