# BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

4500 East Hampden Avenue | Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113 | www.Bethany-Denver.org | 303.758.2820



Traditional Worship Service October 19, 2025 8:30am



Requiem by Heather Sorenson - Bringing Hope and Healing

We all experience loss. A service is held each year at Bethany Lutheran Church on All Saints' Sunday during which we remember those whom we have lost, and we find in that observation a path of hope and healing. In the current climate of our society, we also know that there are many who are needing hope and healing, whether they have suffered a recent loss of a loved one or not. This year, on **November 2**<sup>nd</sup>, we are doing something very special for All Saints' Sunday and we invite you to be part of it.

It has become a tradition at Bethany to integrate wonderful concert-length musical works into a full Lutheran worship service during special observances. In the past we have included works such as The Seven Last Words of Christ during Good Friday service, the Christmas Oratorio by Camille Saint-Saëns at Advent, and various Bach cantatas through the years. This year our Bethany Chancel Choir with chamber orchestra will be presenting Requiem by Heather Sorenson for All Saints' Sunday.

Sorenson's Requiem follows the traditional requiem form, and is sung with Latin and English text. The piece differs from the traditional requiem in that along with expressions of grief over the losses we have experienced there are also passages that bring both hope and healing. It premiered at Carnegie Hall in 2023 and has been performed all over the United States and around the world with high praise from reviewers. Originally commissioned to honor those lost during the recent pandemic, it has become a staple of the concert hall. As far as we can ascertain, the November 2<sup>nd</sup> performance at Bethany will be one of the first to incorporate the work into a full worship service. Expect to be moved.

## **¥** Gathering **¥**

**PRELUDE** Cantabile César Franck

#### WELCOME

Deacon Debra Alba

To fill out your digital connection card, go to www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect.



#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

#### GATHERING HYMN

Rise, Shine, You People!

ELW #665

You are invited to face the cross as it enters.



The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.** 

#### **Kyrie**



#### Hymn of Praise



#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

## ₩ Word ₩

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Tom Mroch

Dear Lord, may the scriptures we read today ground us in the joy of the resurrection, that we might grow in God's grace. May we find opportunity to live out your Gospel message as we share this good news with the world. **Amen.** 

#### **LESSON** 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

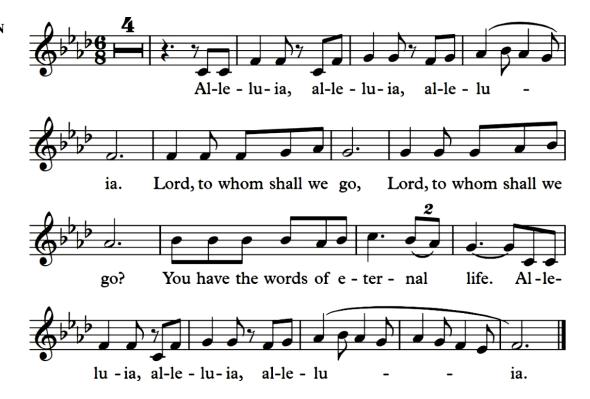
The writer of this letter continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.

<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

<sup>4:1</sup> In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: <sup>2</sup> proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. <sup>3</sup> For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires <sup>4</sup> and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. <sup>5</sup> As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Luke 18:1-8

Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. <sup>2</sup> He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. <sup>3</sup> In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' <sup>4</sup> For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, <sup>5</sup> yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' "And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup> And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? <sup>8</sup> I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Nate Preisinger

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APOSTLES' CREED

Deacon Debra Alba

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

#### **PRAYERS**

#### BLESSING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

Please share a blessing of peace with others around you. After sharing the Peace, please be seated.

## **¥** Offering **¥**

#### ABUNDANTLY BETHANY

Deacon Debra Alba

To fill out your digital connection card, go to www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect.

Quilt Sales: Fellowship Hall

• Bethany Info Sessions: Sundays, Oct 26 & Nov 9

• All Saints Sunday/Requiem: Nov 2

**Q1 Financial Update:** We are off to a strong start for the new fiscal year! Thank you all for your generosity! Through September total contributions were \$341,000 compared to last year of \$324,000. Total expenses through September were \$529,000 compared to \$565,000 last year.

#### **OFFERING**

You can give in the following ways; Thank you for your gifts!

- On our website, find the GIVE button in the header or under the Get Involved tab at Bethany-Denver.org
- Through SubSplash Use your phone's camera to scan this QR Code
- Mail in your check to the office (4500 E. Hampden Ave. Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113)
- Sunday mornings, drop your offering in the silver plate at the doors as you exit



**OFFERING MUSIC** 

Cry Out and Shout

Knut Nystedt

Chancel Choir, dir. Kirk Schjodt

Cry out and shout, ye people of God! The Lord is strength and song! Therefore with joy shall ye draw water from the wells of salvation.

## \* Meal \*

#### Invitation to the Lord's Table

Pastor Nate Preisinger

#### **CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

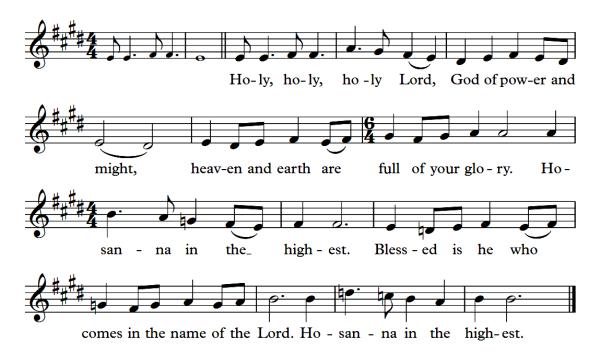


#### **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

...we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

#### **SANCTUS**



#### BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

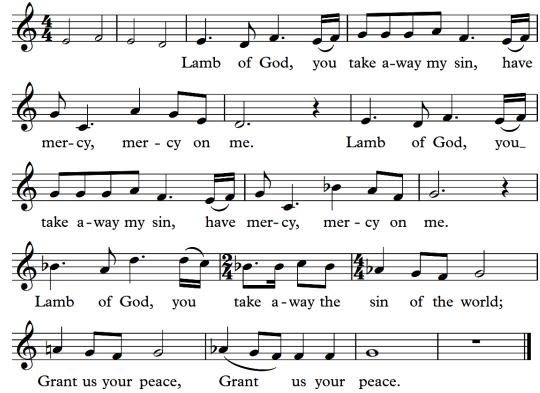
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

#### **COMMUNION INSTRUCTION**

Receive communion by dipping the bread into the wine. Pre-packaged communion sets are alcohol free; gluten-free options are available. Groups are welcome to visit a communion station together. Those who are not receiving communion are invited to cross their arms across their chest to receive a blessing.

#### COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION/CANDLE LIGHTING FOR MENTAL HEALTH





#### **COMMUNION MUSIC**

Chancel Choir, dir. Kirk Schjodt

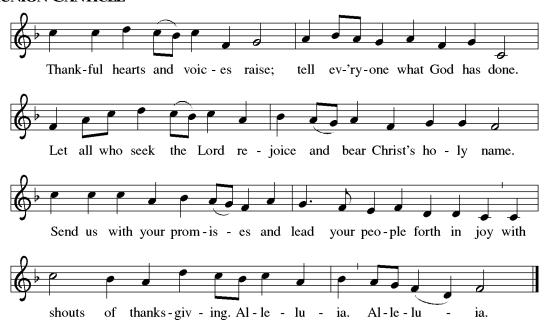
I Am the Lord

**Brigette Shevy** 

Will not the judge of all the earth give justice to his own? Does he not hear my cries of woe, mor sense my silent groan? Where is my God in times of grief? Why must he now delay? Will he not save me from my foes, nor answer when I pray? I am the Lord your God, my word will never fail. I am the wise, all-knowing one whose justice will prevail. Will not the ever-present one give grace in time of need? Will he not break the chains of sin and set my spirit free? Has he withdrawn his listening ear, or turned his watchful eye? Will he not look upon my grief or hear my anxious cry? I am the Lord your God, my love will never fail. I am the kind, forgiving one whose mercy will prevail. Will not the shepherd of my soul pursue my wayward heart, When from the paths of righteousness I foolishly depart? Will he recall my frailty and feeble feet of clay? Will he forgive them when I confess the error of my way? I am the Lord your God, my grace will never fail. I am the everlasting one whose goodness will prevail.

#### TABLE BLESSING

#### POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

#### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

# **¥** Sending **¥**

**BENEDICTION**Pastor Nate Preisinger

SENDING HYMN Thy Strong Word ELW #511

You are invited to face the cross as it recesses to the center.



**DISMISSAL**Pastor Nate Preisinger

As we go forth into the week ahead we remember our calling as the people of Bethany. Together we will:

Worship and encounter a God who loves us;

Embrace healthy dialogue that promotes unity over division;

Respond to the needs of the world through generosity and action.

With this as our mission, go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE** Sortie Leon Boëllmann

#### Things To Know About - News & Events

- Quilt Blessing and Sale: TODAY. Lutheran World Relief marks 80 years of global compassion and Bethany Patchers has proudly contributed for 28 of those years. Thanks to your continued support, we've provided comfort, warmth, and love to our neighbors near and far. Each quilt we create carries a message of hope, stitched with care and purpose. You are invited to join in a special Quilt Blessing and Sale, featuring a variety of handmade quilts and other crafted items. Your donations allows us to purchase supplies and continue our mission. Contributions can be made through SubSplash or directly to our Patchers group. Thank you for wrapping the world in love one stitch at a time.
- ♦ Candle Lighting for Mental Health: TODAY is our annual Candle lighting for Mental Health to highlight mental health awareness. During both worship services, there will be candles at the altar for the congregation to light in honor of themselves or someone who is afflicted with a mental illness in their lives during communion. A great resource for information or support is the National Alliance on Mental Illness or NAMI (www.nami.org). If you have further questions or would like to talk with one of the Pastoral Team, please feel free to contact Pastor Gary, Pastor Nate, Deacon Debra or Janet Mortinsen, through the main church office at 303-758-2820.
- ◆ Understanding Your Grief Support Group: Bethany will be offering a 7-week grief support group based on the book, "Understanding Your Grief" by Dr. Alan Wolfelt co-facilitated by Janet Mortinsen, Director of Pastoral Care, and Susan Junge, Stephen Minister and congregational member. The group will meet in the library starting TODAY through Nov 23 and Dec 7 from 11:15am 12:45pm. To register for this class or for more information, please contact Janet Mortinsen at janet@bethany-denver.org or call 303-300-3317.
- Lord's Prayer Milestone: 3rd 5th graders, TODAY, from 11:20am-1:30pm, Great Hall. Children and their adult caregivers are invited to enjoy lunch together and to participate in engaging and creative cross-generational learning activities all focused on The Lord's Prayer. Sign up on the Bethany News webpage or the Bethany Connect app. This is the first of four Milestone activities Bethany will offer for children during this program year. Go to Bethany-Denver.org/Children for more information on Bethany's Milestone Ministry or contact Deacon Debra Alba at Debra@Bethany-Denver.org.
- ♦ Rejoicing Spirits: TODAY at Lord of the Hills Lutheran Church ,21755 E Smoky Hill Rd. Aurora, CO 80015, 4:00-6:00pm. Rejoicing Spirits is an inclusive worship space for people with cognitive and intellectual disabilities, their caregivers, families and anyone who seeks an open, joyful and creative worship experience. If you would like more information regarding the Rejoicing Spirits experience or volunteering, please contact: Pastor Margot at pastor@lordofthehills.org.
- ♦ Bethany Information Sessions: These are a great way to get to know Bethany Lutheran Church. They are also designed to share information for those considering formal membership at Bethany. This fall session dates are: Sunday, Oct 26 at 11:30am and Sunday, Nov 9 at 11:20am. We will meet in Room 400 in the downstairs education wing. New Members will be received on Sunday, Nov 23 at both worship services and a tour of the Bethany campus will be offered at 11:20am. Confirmation Projects: Twelve Bethany 9th graders will be confirmed on Oct 26 at the 10:00am service! They are currently working hard on their confirmation projects and you can help! Go to www.Bethany-denver.org/news and scroll down to see a list of many of the great projects our young people are working on.
- ♦ Women of Bethany Potluck Luncheon: Thursday, Oct 30, 11:00am-1:30pm, Silver Mesa Clubhouse in Palomino Park (SW area of Quebec Street and C470). In preparation for Reformation Day, Susan Sharkey is hosting the WoB. At least one protein, salad, dessert, and beverage will be provided. Bring anything to this Potluck or you can plan with a partner (or on your own) to link a food to Reformation themes. Register by Sunday, Oct 26 on the Bethany Connect app to get details.
- Bethany's Global Mission Ministry Team: Funds have been awarded to eight international partners and the team hopes to do even more this year as we share God's generosity. If you know an international church, program, or project to recommend, including efforts like the Youth in Global Mission initiative, we're accepting letters of introduction now. Please contact Deacon Debra at Debra@Bethany-Denver.org by Oct 31. Consider joining the team—you're needed!
- ♦ All Saints Sunday: Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." On Sunday, Nov 2, we will give thanks to God for those who have been related to our life at Bethany and who have passed away since All Saints Sunday, 2024. As we continue to celebrate the hope and comfort of the resurrection, there will be a photo display of those who have passed away, and a member of the Pastoral Team will light a candle in memory of each of them and read the names aloud. All Saints will be celebrated both in person or online at both the 8:30am and 10:00am services. Brunch will be served in Fellowship Hall following the 10:00 am service. Please bring your favorite breakfast casserole, sweets, breads or fruit to share.

- ♦ Vitalant Blood Drive: Bethany will be hosting a blood drive for Vitalant on Wednesday, Nov 5, in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00am-1:00pm. Vitalant shared a recent statistic that 1 in 7 patients need blood. Thank you for considering to contribute to this important medical need. To schedule an appointment, visit www.vitalant.org/donate and use blood drive code 0377 or call 877-258-4825. Please contact Janet Mortinsen if you have questions.
- Home for the Holidays: This Outreach event helps LFSRM (Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains) welcome newcomers and connects with foster and adoptive families during the Thanksgiving holiday. Items needed: Pots and Pans, Electric Kettles, Rice Cookers. New Items Only!! Also needed are \$50 Gift Cards from Wal-Mart or King Soopers. Please deliver to the church no later than Sunday, Nov 9.
- Senior Ministries: The gatherings continue on Tuesdays through May 20, 10:00am-1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Any special activities will be communicated via our email list. If you'd like to be on the email list, contact Janet Boss at Janetb@Bethany-Denver.org. Join us for community fellowship, chapel, and lunch. Second and Fourth Tuesdays include special speakers & activities. Lunch is served at Noon each week, for a suggested donation of \$10/person. Payment can be either online or by check/cash.
- **Breakfast help needed:** Does your family or group like to cook? Does your family or group like to serve others? We are looking for interested people/families to help host a breakfast now and then for the Bethany Community. Please contact Gayle Newell at Gayle@Bethany-Denver.org or 303-758-2820.
- Bethany has an App! The new Bethany Connect App features sermons, music, devotionals, meditations, and much, much more with new features added all the time! Download the Bethany Connect App in the Google Play or Apple App store.
- **REMINDER:** If you haven't already, please transition your recurring gift from Realm to Subsplash. If you need any assistance, please reach out to Josh Ehlers (Accountant) or Diane McAllen (Gifts Processor). Thank you all so much for your help with this transition!

For more information and to see other announcements, please sign up for the email blasts by contacting the office - 303.758.2820, or visit www.Bethany-Denver.org/Bethany-news/



### **THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT WORSHIP**

- Welcome to Bethany! If you have questions or would like to consider making Bethany your church home, visit our website, Bethany-Denver.org, or stop by the Newcomer Nook after worship. The pastoral team, consisting of Pastor Gary Sandberg (he/him), Pastor Nate Preisinger (he/him), Deacon Debra Alba (she/her) and Director of Pastoral Care Janet Mortinsen (she/her), is available to speak with you.
- Bethany Lutheran Church values people of diverse race, sexual identity, ethnicity, and political affiliation. All are welcome at Bethany Lutheran Church and this community is enriched because you are here. We are together for good!
- Sunday Worship services: 8:30am Traditional worship follows traditional Lutheran liturgy. 10:00am Casual Blended a flow of worship that includes the elements of Lutheran worship with music that spans multiple genres and brings some creative ways to engage the theme of the day. Worship leaders are generally dressed more casually.
- Participating in Worship: There will be times during worship when you are invited to stand, but if it is more comfortable or more meaningful for you to remain seated, please feel free to do so.
- Communion Statement: Everyone gathered for worship is invited to take part in Communion. Jesus did not place any barriers around who received communion and neither does Bethany.
- Safety: Bethany Lutheran Church is committed to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. If at any time you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or have concerns, please speak with one of our staff or designated leaders. We are here to listen and to support you.
- Hearing Assistance Device: Please see the Sound Tech in the A/V booth at the rear of the Sanctuary if you need a hearing assistance device.
- Worship Servants: Thank you to all the A/V team, Ushers, Communion Servers, Altar Guild, Musicians, Embrace Volunteers and Sacristans for your work to greet people and make worship happen. We <u>always</u> welcome Worship Servants go to www.signupschedule.com/Bethany to sign up!
- You are welcome to bring beverages into the Sanctuary but please use a covered container. And enjoy your food outside the Sanctuary (although we understand small children may need snacks!).
- Children at Bethany: Children and youth are a blessing from God and we love having children in the Sanctuary! Additionally, we offer several options for children and families to feel comfortable in a variety of spaces on Sunday mornings:
  - ⇒ **Fidget Station:** We know that all of God's children (young and old) are wonderfully and fearfully made in the image of God. And, at Bethany, ALL are welcome to worship. Available outside the Sanctuary's north doors is a Fidget Station. Children and adults are invited to use these fidgets and art supplies to aid in your spiritual growth and presence in worship. Please return items to the station when you are finished.
  - ⇒ **Busy Bags:** Near the Sanctuary doors you will find premade bags perfect for littles. Grab one on the way in and return it on the way out.
  - ⇒ **Nursery:** For directions to our Nursery, please speak with an usher. The Nursery will not be staffed during our 8:30am service but you are welcome to use it with your child.

Today's flowers were given by Valerie & Steve Heuer in memory of their son, Will, who died three years ago today. God bless him.