

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Summer Worship

JULY 5, 2026

LESSONS FOR THE DAY

Zechariah 9:9–12

Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30

Bethany Lutheran Church

4500 Hampden Ave, Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113

Summer Worship • 9:00 AM

bethany-denver.org

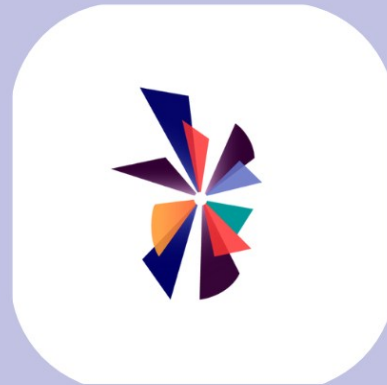
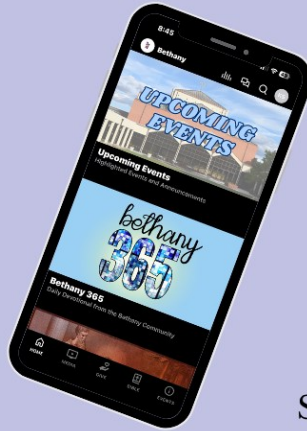


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+ WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS +

Prelude

American Tapestry

Joseph M. Martin

Welcome to Worship

Pastor Nate Preisinger

Song of Praise

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

WOV 783

1 Seek ye . . . first the king - dom of God and its
righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be
add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows a musical score for a song. It consists of three staves of music in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a '1' indicating the start of the first line. The lyrics are: '1 Seek ye . . . first the king - dom of God and its'. The second staff continues with 'righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be'. The third staff concludes with 'add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.' The music features various note values, rests, and dynamic markings.

Text: st. 1, Matt. 6:33, adapt. Karen Lafferty, b. 1948; st. 2, Matt. 7:7; st. 3, Matt. 4:4
Music: Karen Lafferty, b. 1948

LAFFERTY
irregular

A Time of Confession

Holy and gracious God,

We confess that we have not always lived with love.

We have said things that caused harm.

We have stayed silent when our voices were needed.

We have acted out of fear, pride, anger, and selfishness.

We have ignored the needs of our neighbors and taken your goodness for granted.

Forgive us.

Open our hearts again and turn us toward mercy, courage, and compassion.

Lead us in the way of Jesus.

Amen.

God's Gift of Forgiveness

Dear friends, God does not meet us with shame. God does not hold our failures over us.

God meets us with mercy. And so that means that your sin is not the final word. God's grace is.

So receive this gift: you are forgiven, loved, and made new in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Opening Song

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

ELW 733

You are invited to face the cross as it enters.



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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Greeting

Deacon Debra Alba

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.

Prayer of the Day

You are great, O God,

and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Avery Helms Boone - Born: May 1, 2026

Parents: Zach and Cori Boone

We gather at these living waters. Throughout history, God's saving action toward God's people has taken place through water. Let us pray:

Most Holy God, you created the seas, rivers, and lakes; you saved Noah and his family from the floods; you led the Israelites through the Red Sea and quenched their thirst with water flowing from a rock. Through the waters of the Jordan River, you proclaimed Jesus your own beloved son and so through these waters of baptism, you proclaim that we, too, are your own beloved children, now and forever. Amen.

Parents, do you wish Avery to be baptized into the promises of God? **R: I do.**

We make promises and assume responsibilities at baptism. God promises us unconditional love and life forever, and we know that our journey of faith encompasses certain promises so that our lives reflect this love.

Parents, do you promise to: Live with your child among God's faithful people, bring your child to the Lord's table, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place the holy scriptures in their hands to nurture their faith and prayer life, so that they will know and trust God?

R: I do.

Parents, sponsors, people of God, do you promise to support and pray for Avery's new life in Christ?

R: We do.

Baptism: Avery Helms, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Prayer: God of new life, sustain Avery with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Blessing: Avery Helms, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven. Let us welcome out new sibling in Christ!

We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a member of the body of Christ, child of God's kingdom on earth and in heaven.

2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and
 you shall find; knock and the door shall be
 o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

+ WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD +

Today's Sermon is based on readings from:

Zechariah 9:9-12

Gretchen Hack

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
 See, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he,
 humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem;
 and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations;
 his dominion shall be from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
 I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
 today I declare that I will restore to you double.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus spoke to the crowd saying: ¹⁶ “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸ “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁰ Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done because they did not repent. ²¹ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ²³ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven?

No, you will be brought down to Hades.

“For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴ But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

Sermon

Pastor Gary Sandberg

Sermon Notes



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
 2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
 3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . near,



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
 when my life is . . . al - most . . gone,
 and the day is . . . past and . . . gone,



Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
 hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
 at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.



Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

A Statement of Our Faith (*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 of the People

We Share God's 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.

Abundantly Bethany

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

- ◆ Food Drive for IFCS (Integrated Family Community Services)
- ◆ Middle School/High School Event: July 8
- ◆ Outdoor Adventure: July 9

+ WE WORSHIP GOD WITH OUR OFFERINGS +

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 as they are passed



Offering Music

Deep River

arr. Moses Hogan

Matt Weissenbuehler, baritone

*Deep river, my home is over Jordan. Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.
Oh, don't you want to go to that gospel feast, that promised land where all is peace.*

+ THE COMMUNITY MEAL +

Invitation to The Communion Table

Pastor Nate Preisinger

Celebration of Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Blessing of the Bread and Wine

The Lord's Prayer (*Ecumenical translation*)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Communion Instruction

Bethany welcomes all to receive the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion. An usher will direct you forward where you can receive communion by dipping the bread into the wine, or pick up a pre-packaged communion set or a gluten-free communion set from the tray in front of your seating area. Groups are welcome to visit a communion station together. Those who are not receiving communion are invited to cross their arms across their chests to receive a blessing.

Communion Distribution

Communion Music

Let Us Break Bread Together

arr. Moses Hogan

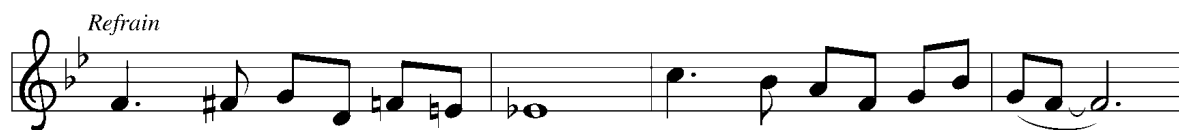
Matt Weissenbuehler, baritone

Let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord have mercy on me.
Let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord have mercy on me.
Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall down on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord have mercy on me.

Communion Song

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

ELW 697



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



- 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
- 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

Text: North American traditional
Music: CLOSER WALK, North American traditional

Table Blessing

+ GOD SENDS US TO SERVE +

Sending Invitation and Blessing

Pastor Gary Sandberg

Song of Sending

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

ELW 774

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



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,
last - ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1929

Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858–1924

Dismissal

Pastor Gary Sandberg

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.

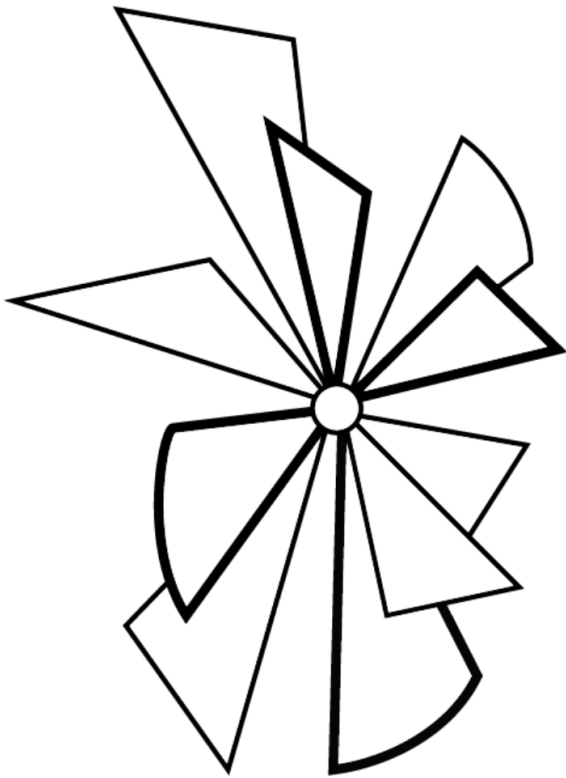
Postlude

Postlude on American Folk Hymns

Charles Callahan

Things To Know About News & Events

- ◆ **Summer Food Drive:** Every **Sunday through Sep 6** we'll collect food to support the IFCS no-cost food market. **Jul 5 - 26** please bring boxes of cereal (all kinds). They can always use other items too such as peanut butter and jelly, canned fruits and vegetables, crackers, snack bars, etc. If you'd prefer to make a cash donation, please use the Give button on Bethany's website and select IFCS in the drop-down menu.
- ◆ **Middle/High School Event:** Middle and high school students are invited to come to a fun day at Water World on **Wednesday, Jul 8!** We'll meet at Bethany at 9:00am, travel together to Water World, enjoy a day of fun and connection, and return to Bethany by about 3:00pm. Lunch, transportation, and admission are all included in the \$20 registration fee. Come spend the day with friends and make some great summer memories! Please register on the Bethany App. For questions - Addison at Addison@Bethany-Denver.org.
- ◆ **Bethany Summer Outdoor Adventure: Thursday, Jul 9, 9:00am-12:00pm.** Come to a family friendly, paddle boarding, kayaking, and/or swimming at the Gravel Pond in Chatfield State Park. Bring your stand up paddle (SUP) board or kayak and don't forget your life jacket or there are vendors at the gravel pond where you can rent all the equipment you need. You are also welcome to come and just relax by the lake under a canopy or bring your lawn chair and umbrella. There is no lifeguard on duty so adult supervision is required. To register please go to <https://sites.google.com/view/bethany-outdoor-adventures>.
- ◆ **Photo Directory:** All Bethany members are encouraged to participate in an online church directory to be compiled and published in the Fall. Individual and family photos will be taken in the Chapel before (8:00am - 8:45am) and after (10:15 am - 11:00am) the service on the following Sundays: **Jul 12, Aug 2** and on Wednesday, **Sep 2**.
- ◆ **Adult Bible Study:** Pastor Gary will lead a Bible study after worship **Sunday, Jul 12, 10:20am** in Room 210 - Hidden Growth, How Jesus used Seeds in Parables.
- ◆ **Bethany Foundation Scholarships:** Available to students attending Lutheran colleges. Lutheran colleges offer a smaller class size, like-minded students and staff who serve as mentors helping students grow in faith and education. Consider a Lutheran college for your higher education. For more information please see the Bethany Foundation tab on Bethany-denver.org. The deadline for the application is **Jul 15**.
- ◆ **Women of Bethany (WOB) Fellowship: Saturday, Jul 18, 4:30pm.** Sharon Boell has graciously offered her beautiful back yard. Please bring either a salad or appetizer. Dessert and drinks are covered. If you have not yet had a chance to join, please know that everyone is welcome and sign-ups are online!
- ◆ **Habitat for Humanity Metro Denver volunteers needed: Saturday, Jul 18, 8:30am-3:30pm,** painting at Production Shop; **Saturday, Aug 22, 10:00am-2:00pm,** Aurora ReStore; **Saturday, Sep 26, 7:50am-3:30pm,** Griffith Station Homes. Register to volunteer at <https://vhub.at/HolyHammers>. Contact Kevin Dempsey for questions at kmdmpsy@aol.com
- ◆ **United In Faith Monthly Update:** In June the Campus Operations & Facilities team orchestrated critical assessments, met with Cherry Hills Village and invited additional participation from the congregation. In July, with the benefit of a 3 year forecast for campaign proceeds, we will begin laying out a workplan with the uninterrupted operations of Bethany as a top priority. Maintenance Reserve and UIF Use of Proceeds policies are being finalized and each month the Executive Council will review the recommendations of the team and provide approvals when necessary. Progress and outcomes will then be shared with the congregation and periodically, opportunities for broader input will be incorporated into the workplan. Watch for exterior improvements later this summer and for a campus-wide de-cluttering initiative!



bethany

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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WATER WORLD DAY

MS & HS



REGISTER HERE!

Middle and High schoolers - join us at water world on 7/8! We will meet at Bethany at 9 am, drive up together, and be back at Bethany at around 3. Registration is \$20 - lunch is included! Register on the Bethany app or using the QR code. Email addison@bethany-denver.org with questions!



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:** 9:00am One worship service in the summer - Memorial Day weekend thru Labor Day weekend. Worship style may be Traditional - follows traditional Lutheran liturgy or 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.
- ◆ **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 always 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 friendly staffed Nursery, please speak with an Usher.