

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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9:00am August 16, 2026
"What We're Bringing Home"
Youth Led Worship Service

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+ WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS +

Prelude

Welcome to Worship

Deacon Debra Alba, Addison Andrix

Song of Praise

Gracious Spirit, Heed our Pleading

ELW 401

Zosha Kahn, Rick Seaton

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some lines having two parts (1 and 2) for different voices or instruments. The lyrics are in English and Swahili. The first staff has the lyrics: 'Njo - o kwe - tu, Ro - ho mwe - ma, M - fa - ri - ji we - tu.' The second staff has the lyrics: '1 Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing, fash - ion us all a - new. 2 Come to teach us, come to nour - ish those who be - lieve in Christ.' The third staff has the lyrics: 'Tu - fu - ndi - she ya mbi - ngu - ni, tu - we wa - tu wa - pya. It's your lead - ing that we're need - ing, help us to fol - low you.' The fourth staff has the lyrics: 'Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma. Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.' The fifth staff has the lyrics: 'Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma. Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.'

Njo - o kwe - tu, Ro - ho mwe - ma, M - fa - ri - ji we - tu.
1 Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing, fash - ion us all a - new.
2 Come to teach us, come to nour - ish those who be - lieve in Christ.
Tu - fu - ndi - she ya mbi - ngu - ni, tu - we wa - tu wa - pya.
It's your lead - ing that we're need - ing, help us to fol - low you.
Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

Music: NJOOKWETU, ROHO MWEMA, Wilson Niwagila

English and Swahili text and music © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress

A Time of Confession

Evelyn Preisinger

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

Sanctuary

John W Thompson & Randy L. Scruggs

Guitar: Hope Jones, Keegan Talley, Addison Andrix

You are invited to face the cross as it enters.

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary

Pure and holy, tried and true

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living

Sanctuary for You

(Repeat 3X)

Greeting

Liz Catt-Rubald

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

Gracious God

As we step into this fall, we see that there is a need for healing in our world. As Archbishop Desmond Tutu once said, "There can be no healing without truth." The truth about our experience here and throughout the world is the beginning of healing. And so let us pray together:

God of healing, God of Truth: **We ask for your guidance in bringing peace, healing, and justice to our world. Help us as we walk in the footsteps that have gone before us. Open our hearts to honor the rich beauty of humanity in Jesus name we pray. Amen.**

Children's Sermon

Deacon Debra Alba

Children's Worship

Deacon Debra Alba, Kate Souther

+ WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD +

Today's Sermon is based on readings from:

Isaiah 56 1, 6-7

Emily Moy

¹ Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples. .

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

Luke 10:25-37

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

Zosha Kahn

²⁵ An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷ He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

²⁹ But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

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

Sermon

Addison Dragseth, Charlotte Souther, Addison Andrix

Sermon Notes

Song of the Day

10,000 Reasons-Bless the Lord

Matt Redman

Piano: Charlotte Souther Guitar: Hope Jones, Addison Andrix

CHORUS

Bless the Lord O my soul
O my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name

VERSE 1

The sun comes up
It's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass
And whatever lies before me
Let me be singing When the evening comes

VERSE 2

You're rich in love
And You're slow to anger
Your name is great And Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness
I will keep on singing (3 beats)
Ten thousand reasons
For my heart to find

A Statement of Our Faith (Apostles' Creed)

Jacob Schopp

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 Will Davy, Liz Catt-Rubald, Jacob Schopp, Adelaide Schopp, Evelyn Preisinger
Each petition will end with "Lord in your Mercy" the congregation will respond: **Hear our Prayer**

We Share God's Peace

Addison Andrix

Pinky Peace

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

Abundantly Bethany

Pastor Gary Sandberg

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

- ♦ Bethany in Community (pg 13)

+ 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**
- Hold your phone near the **NFC card** (on pew back), and wait for the notification to appear
- **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

A Mighty Fortress

Charlotte Souther

Children Return to the Sanctuary

+ 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

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

Communion Song

Guitar: Abbey Reid, Addison Andrix

Dance With Me

Michael Joncas

This is holy time
We're gathered together to worship you
to love one another,
And as we pray,
And as we sing,
And as we dance,
And as we dream
Oh, Lord, I beg of you just this one thing

Won't you dance with me
Throughout the heavens
and beyond the seas and up on the mountaintops,
Roll with the breeze
Come carry me,
Oh, Lord, Won't you dance with me.
(Repeat 2x)

Communion Song

Humble Thyself/Awesome God

Bob Hudson, Rich Mullins

Humble Thyself in the sight of the Lord.
(Humble Thyself in the sight of the Lord)
Humble Thyself in the sight of the Lord.
(Humble Thyself in the sight of the Lord)
And God, shall
And God shall lift, you up, up into heaven,
And God, shall lift, you up.

Awesome God

Our God is and Awesome God
Who reigns from heaven above
With wisdom, power and love
Our God is an Awesome God.
(Repeat 2x, then back to "Humble Thyself")

Table Blessing

+ GOD SENDS US TO SERVE +

Sending Invitation and Blessing

Hope Jones

Receive the day's blessing:

May God open our ears that we may hear people's cries for justice,

May God open our ears that we may assist sojourners near and far,

May God Show us where love, hope, and faith are needed,

And may God sustain us, so that in these coming days we may be able to work for peace.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Amen

Song of Sending

Just Be (Be Still and Know I am God)

Nick Ehrhardt

Guitar: Keegan Talley, Addison Andrix

Be still and know I am God

Be still and know I am

Be still and knoo-oow

Bee-ee-ee still

Just be-ee-ee

Be-ee-ee-ee

(repeat 3x, last time acapella)

Be-ee-ee (repeat 3x, acapella)

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

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-and we will.

Postlude

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. **Aug 16-Sep 6** please bring canned tuna or canned chicken. 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.
- ♦ **Whiz Kids Tutoring:** Interested in tutoring and mentoring elementary students? Stop by the table in the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, Aug 16** and talk with a representative from Whiz Kids! Help local students build confidence, improve their reading skills, and experience the encouragement of a caring adult. As a tutor, you'll not only help a student grow in learning but also demonstrate Christ's love through your time, encouragement, and friendship.
- ♦ **Vitalant Blood Drive:** Bethany will host a blood drive for Vitalant on **Wednesday, Aug 19**, in the Fellowship Hall from 10:00am–1:00pm. To schedule an appointment, visit www.donors.vitalant.org and use blood drive code 0377 or call 877-258-4825. Please contact Janet Mortinsen if you have questions at Janet@Bethany-Denver.org.
- ♦ **Women of Bethany:** BREAKFAST BRUNCH at Pat Wallingford's on Saturday, **Aug 22** 9:30am WAFFLE BAR! Please bring a topping to share. RSVP by Tuesday, Aug 18th. Address and directions will be sent later. Hope you can come!
- ♦ **Habitat for Humanity Metro Denver volunteers needed:** **Saturday, Aug 22**, 10:00am-2:00pm, Aurora ReStore; **Sat, 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.
- ♦ **Family Fun Trivia Night Aug 26** at 6:30pm-7:30pm. Join in - come with your own team or join a table once you arrive, all ages are welcome! Pastor Nate will lead 3 rounds of trivia with questions from a wide variety of topics. Snacks provided
- ♦ **Rejoicing Spirits:** An inclusive worship space for people with cognitive and intellectual disabilities, their caregivers, and families. Gathers at Lord of the Hills every third Sunday of the month. For mor info contact: Pastor Margot: pastor@lordofthehills.org or Pastor Ann: native2615@gmail.com.
- ♦ **Dinner Club!** Get to know fellow Bethany members while sharing a meal. Groups of 6-8 adults gather to enjoy dinner in a home, brunch out or any meal in any location. The goal is fellowship! Our Fall into Winter groups will begin in October! Registration is open until **Sept 13**. Simply sign up here. Email Bethanybreakingbread@gmail.com if you have questions
- ♦ **Veteran Servant Corps Project: Friday, Sep 4**, 10:30am -3:00pm. Volunteers are needed to serve a cook-out for the residents and the staff at the Fitzsimons Veterans Community Living Center (1919 Quentin Street, Aurora). Duties include grilling food, serving food, taking orders, serving drinks and interacting with the Veterans. Please join in on Labor Day weekend to serve these Veterans lunch and to thank them for their service. To sign up contact Vicky Daub at lvdaub2@gmail.com.
- ♦ **Walk To End Alzheimer's:** Please join the Bethany Walkers Group at this year's Walk on **Sep 19** to raise research funds to wipe out this horrible disease. Either meet at 8:30am at Denver City Park behind the Museum of Natural History on the lawn across from the Check-in booth or in the Bethany Church East parking lot to carpool at 8:00am. Please register and donate to our Bethany Walkers team page at <http://tinyurl.com/AlzheimersWalk26>
- ♦ **Minding Your Balance classes:** Tuesdays, **Sep 29-Oct 27**, 1:30pm–2:45pm, Room 412. Good balance is necessary for daily activities which is essential to maintaining independence. Losing balance and fear of falling are two commonly voiced concerns. Susan Chandler, from Denver Ki-Aikido, will offer a 5 week “Minding Your Balance” series. The cost for this series is \$75. Space is limited so please sign up online at www.bethany-denver.org at the Bethany News Link by **Sep 22**. For questions, please contact Janet Mortinsen. At Janet@Bethany-Denver.org.
- ♦ **Nursery Attendants** Do you love young children? Wish you could spend more time with them? Bethany is currently hiring for Sunday mornings. If you'd like more information, please contact Debra Alba at debra@bethany-denver.org.

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 Nursery, please speak with an Usher. It will not be staffed today but you are welcome to use it with your child.