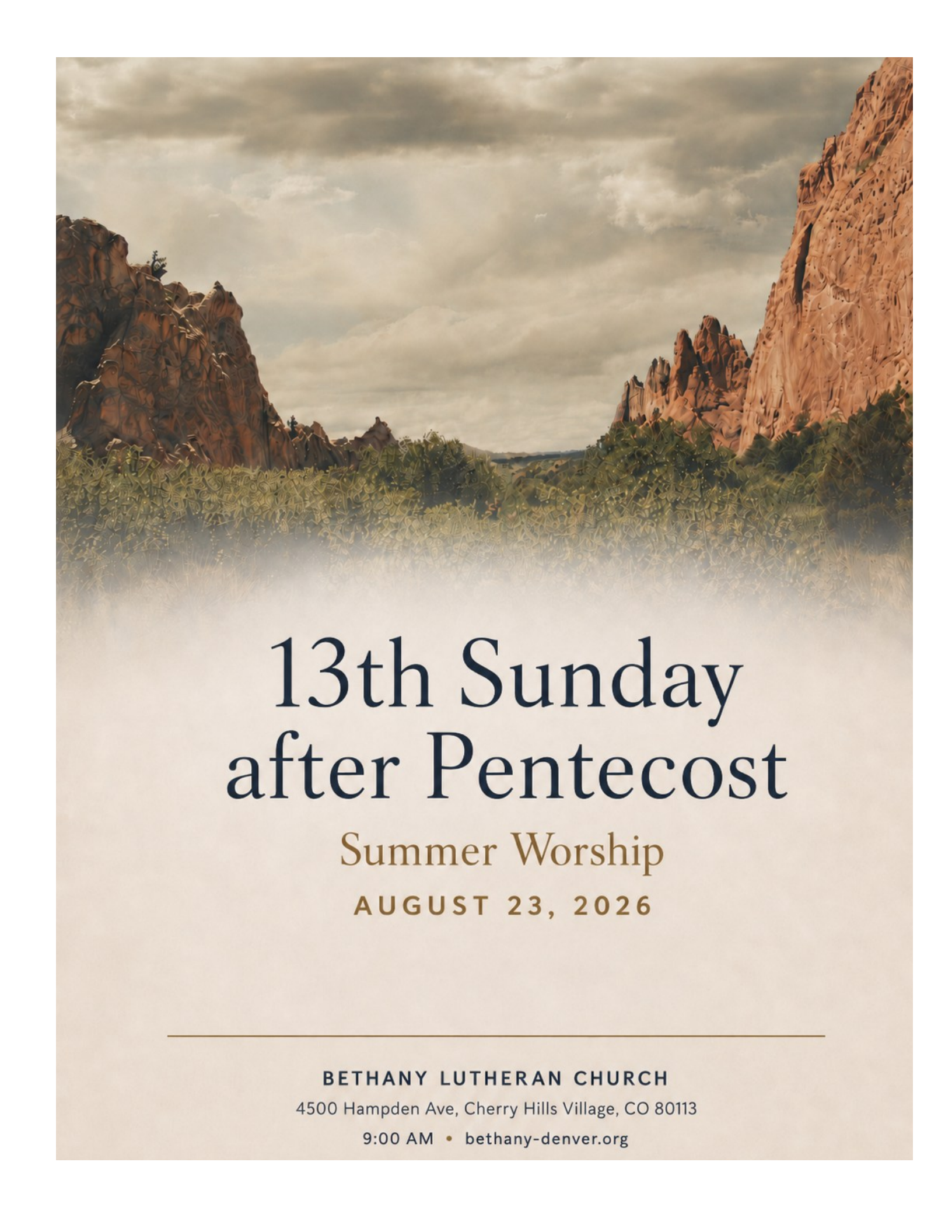




13th Sunday after Pentecost

Summer Worship

AUGUST 23, 2026

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

4500 Hampden Ave, Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113

9:00 AM • bethany-denver.org

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE

The Lost Chord

Arthur Sullivan

WELCOME

Pastor Gary Sandberg

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.**

You are invited to face the cross as it enters.

1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are
 2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not
 3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -
 fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
 dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly
 ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
 chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
 tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
 life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their
 souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
 bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
 midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt.
 Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887
 Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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GREETING

Pastor Nate Preisinger

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

Leader:



In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

Assembly:



Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, mer - cy on us all.

Leader:



For the reign of God, and for peace through-out the world, for the



u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord:

Assembly:



Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mercy, mer - cy on us all.

Leader:



For your peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the



strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord:

Assembly:



Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, mer - cy on us all.

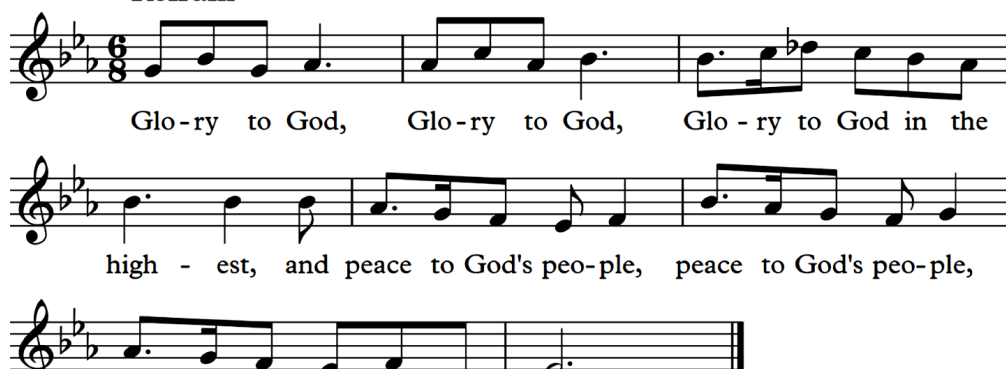
Leader:



Help, save, and de - fend us, O God. A - - - men.

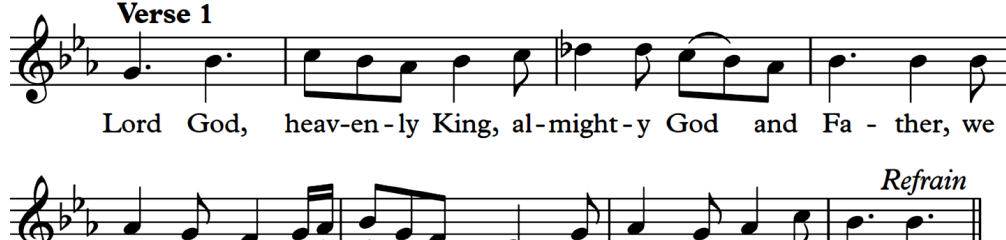
HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



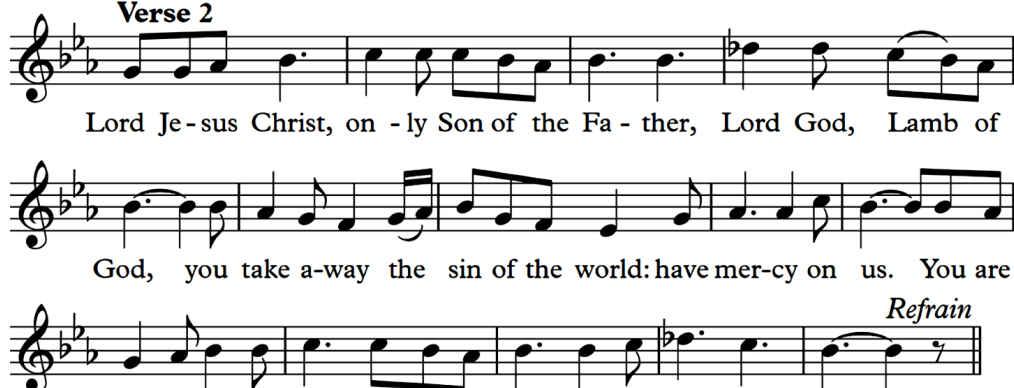
Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God, Glo - ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple, peace to God's peo-ple,
Peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Verse 1



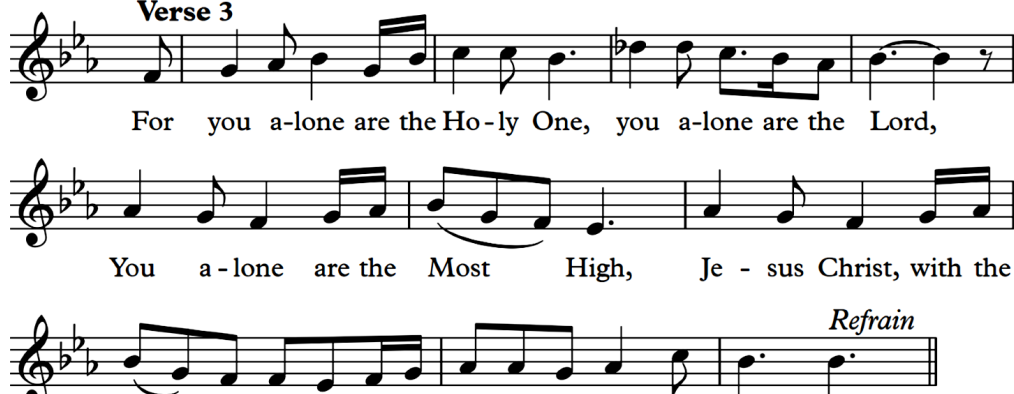
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa - ther, we
Refrain
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Verse 2



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of
God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us. You are
Refrain
seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re- ceive our prayer.

Verse 3



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
You a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
Refrain
Ho - ly Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Nate Preisinger

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Rori Emila McDonald-Bealer - Born: November 3, 2025

Parents: Ryli McDonald-Bealer and Tom Bealer

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 Rori 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 Rori's new life in Christ?

R: **We do.**

Baptism: Rori Emila, 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 Rori 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: Rori Emila, 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 our 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.

✠ WORD ✠

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Kaia Weinstein

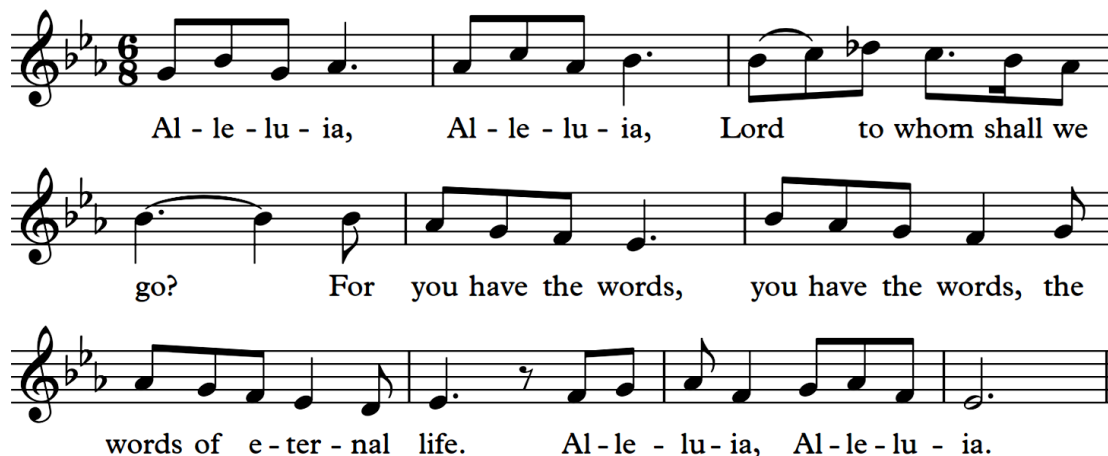
Dear Lord, may the scriptures we read today ground us in the joy of the resurrection, that we might grow in God's grace. May we find opportunity to live out your Gospel message as we share this good news with the world. **Amen.**

PSALM

Psalm 138

- ¹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.
- ² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**
- ³ When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.
- ⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord, when they have heard the words of your mouth.**
- ⁵ They will sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord.
- ⁶ **The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.**
- ⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.
- ⁸ **You will make good your purpose for me;**
O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Lord to whom shall we
go? For you have the words, you have the words, the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

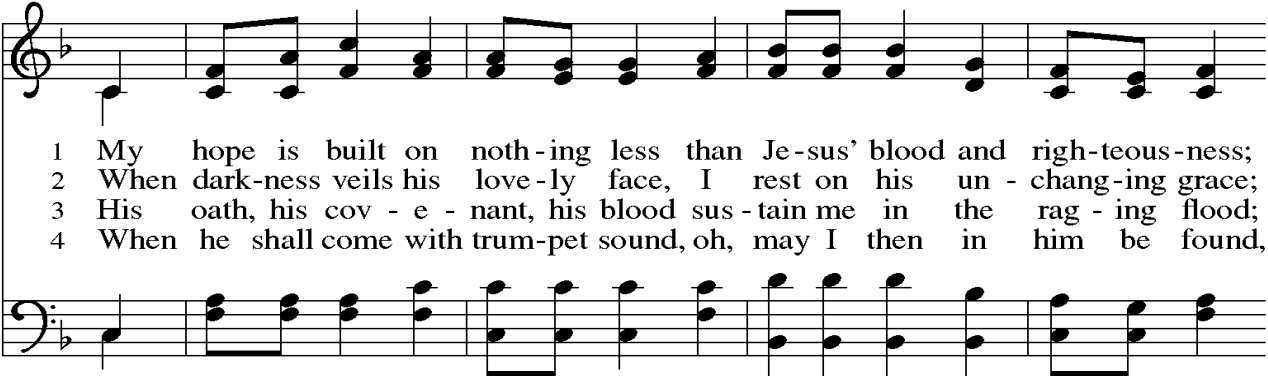
The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

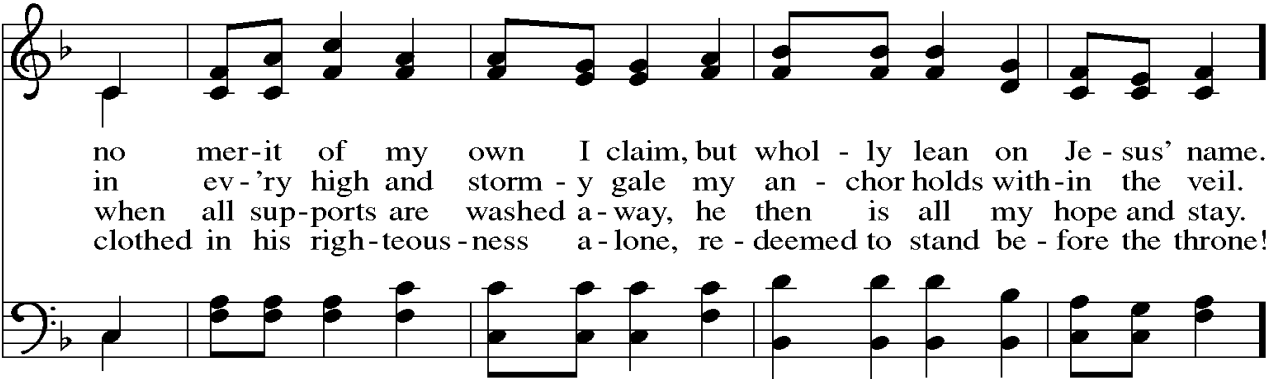
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Deacon Debra Alba

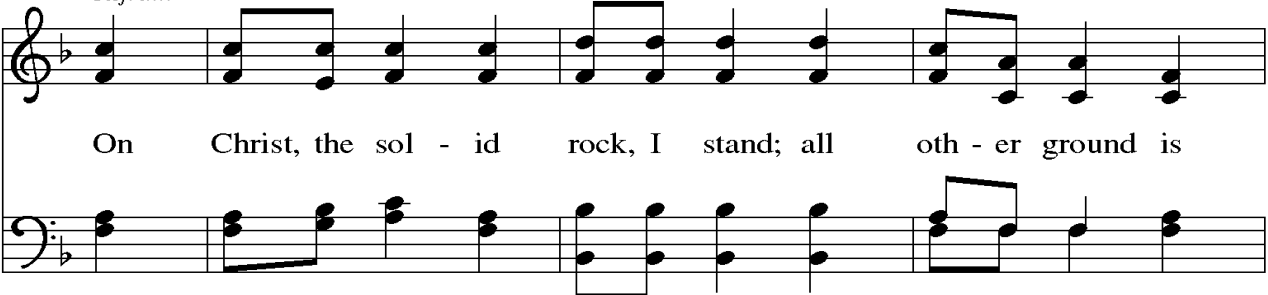


1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;
4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,



no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
in ev-'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.
when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.
clothed in his righ-teous - ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

APOSTLES' CREED

Pastor Nate Preisinger

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

Pastor Nate Preisinger

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

- ♦ Bible Study with Pastor Nate—Today
- ♦ Family Trivia Night
- ♦ Nursery Attendant Hiring



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 **BethanyConnect (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)
- Unlock your phone, hold near **NFC card** (on pew back), and wait for the notification to appear
- **On Sundays**, drop your offering in the silver plates as they are passed.

OFFERING MUSIC

His Banner Over Me Is Love

Steven V. Taylor

Laura Tribby

*He brought me to his banqueting table. His banner over me is love.
He lifted me up into heavenly places. His banner over me is love.
He brought me to his banqueting table of love.
Jesus is the rock of my salvation. His banner over me is love.*

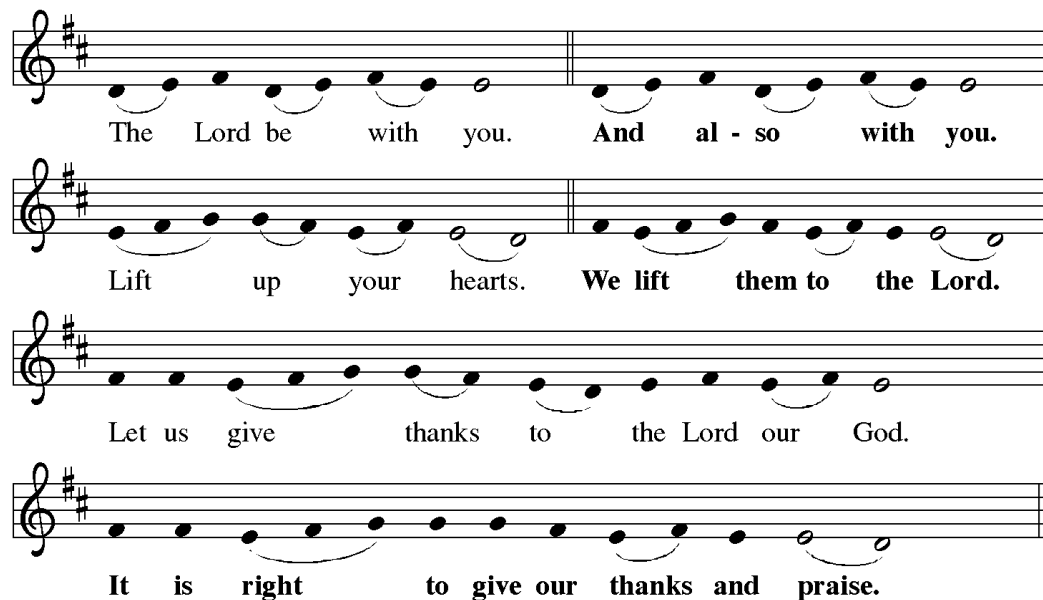
CHILDREN RETURN TO THE SANCTUARY

✠ MEAL ✠

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Pastor Gary Sandberg

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

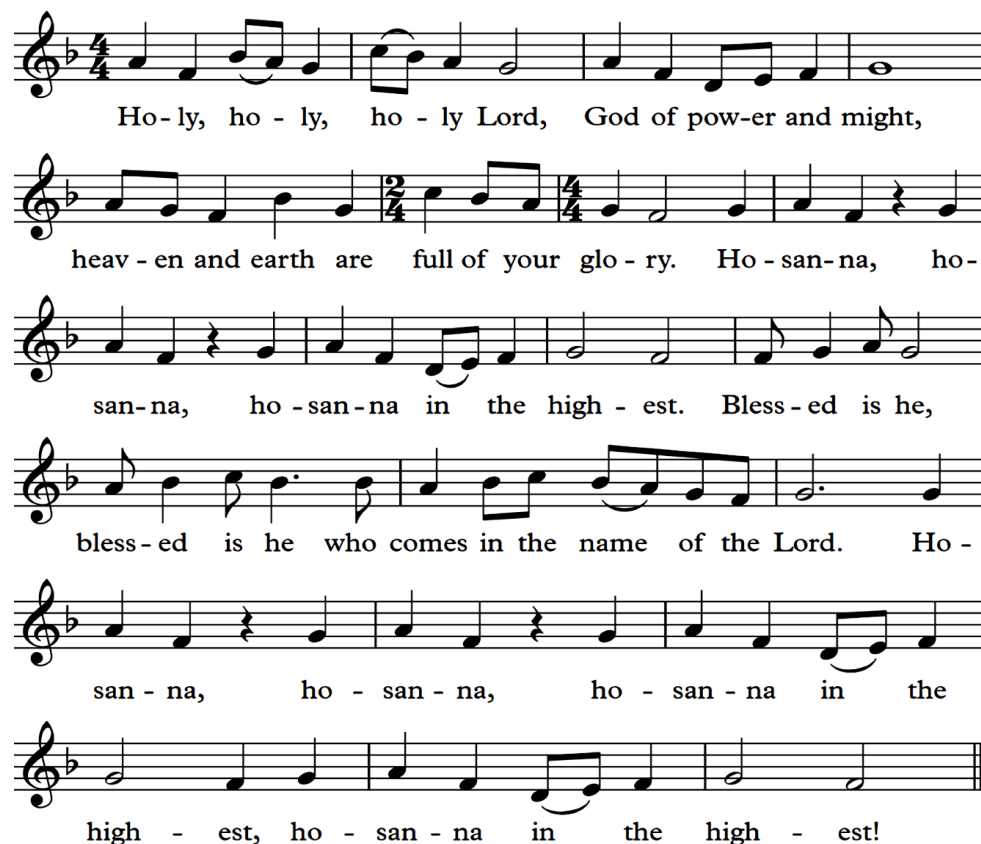


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...
...we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho -
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he,
bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

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

COMMUNION MUSIC

Laura Tribby

Angus Dei

KARL JENKINS

Angus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Angus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

*Angus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis
pacem*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Leader or All

1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
3 "Un - less . . . you . . . eat of the
4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion, . . .
5 Yes, Lord, . . . I be - lieve that . . .

come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
flesh for the life of the world, . . . and if you
flesh of the Son of the Man . . . and . . .
I . . . am the life. . . . If you be -
you . . . are the Christ, . . . the . . .

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
eat . . . of this bread, and you shall . . live for -
drink . . . of his blood, and drink . . . of his
lieve . . . in . . . me, e - ven . . though you
Son . . . of . . . God, who . . . have . . .

me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
ev - er, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
die, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
come in - to . . . the . . . world. . . .

Refrain
All
"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day."

Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6

Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM

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TABLE BLESSING

✠ SENDING ✠

BENEDICTION

Deacon Debra Alba

SENDING HYMN

The Churches One Foundation

ELW 654

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

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth;
by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food.
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

DISMISSAL

Deacon Debra Alba

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

March in D

Franz Schubert

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.
- ♦ **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.
- ♦ **Bible Study:** Pastor Nate will lead a Bible Study after worship on **Sunday Aug 23 starting at 10:20am** in the Chapel. This will be a special, new way of studying the Bible as a group completely different from other methods we've explored this summer.
- ♦ **Family Fun Trivia Night Wednesday Aug 26** at 6:30pm-7:30pm. Fellowship Hall 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
- ♦ **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.
- ♦ **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
- ♦ **Habitat for Humanity:** Metro Denver/Holy Hammers Fundraiser – **Wednesday Sept 16** To raise funds for its 2026 home sponsorship. Handing out promotional items at the Rockies Game volunteers arrive at 4:15pm and the game starts at 6:40 PM We need 30-35. Please contact Kevin Dempsey at kmdmpsy@aol.com if you would like to volunteer.
- ♦ **Deborah Circle** will be starting on **Wednesday Sept 16** in the library at 5:15. Feel free to stop by and join in the conversation. Contact Maren at Marenjdiercks@gmail.com if you have questions.
- ♦ **Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains (LFSRM) Innkeeper Dinner!** Please join us on **Thursday, Sept 17** to support of the programs of Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains. This year's dinner will be held at the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Museum in Colorado Springs. Cocktail Hour and Silent Auction at 5:30. Tickets: www.lfsrm.org.
- ♦ **Walk To End Alzheimer's:** Please join the Bethany Walkers Group at this year's Walk on **Saturday 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 **Sept 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.
- ♦ **Here We Stand:** The Story of the Reformation through the Kessler Collection. Save The Date! This event at Bethany on **Saturday Nov 21** will include an exhibit featuring rare artifacts from Candler School of Theology's Kessler Collection in the Fellowship Hall and a lecture on Reformation history by Dr. Bo Adams.

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.