



Own it

The Robe

The 20th Sunday after Pentecost
OCTOBER 11, 2026

Bethany Lutheran Church

4500 Hampden Ave, Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113

bethany-denver.org

+ We Prepare Our Hearts +

Prelude

Prelude on "Morning Has Broken"

A. Royce Eckhardt

Alice Crawford, guest organist

Song without Words

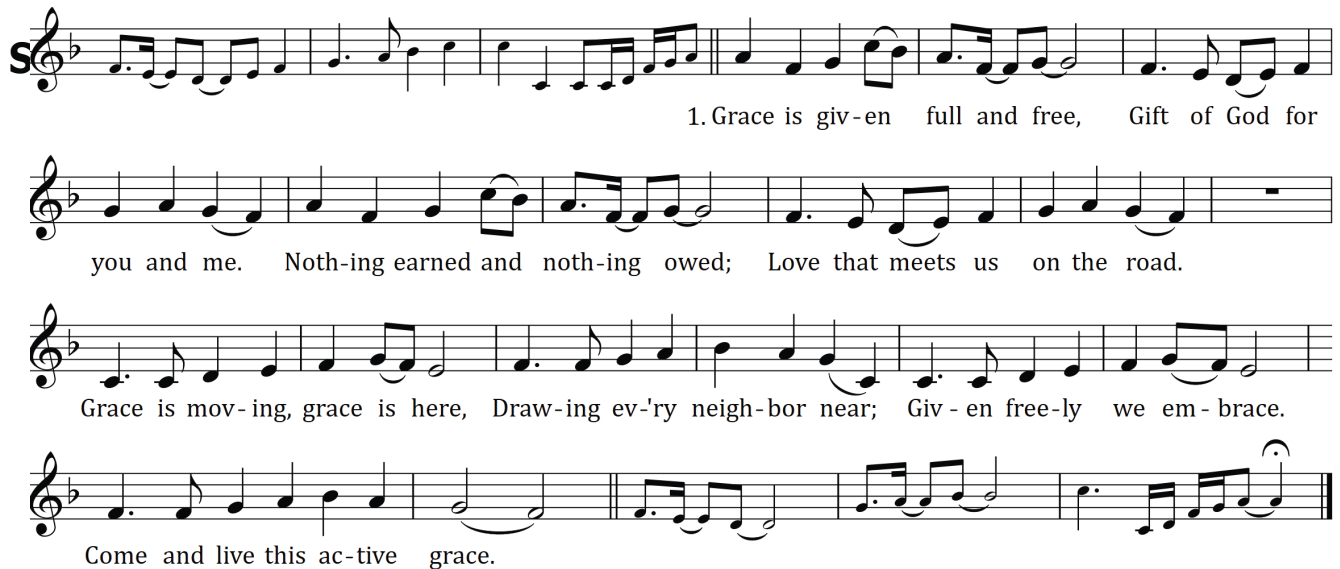
Gustav Holst

Carillons, dir. Nolan Oltjenburns

Welcome to Worship

Pastor Nate Preisinger

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



1. Grace is giv-en full and free, Gift of God for
you and me. Noth-ing earned and noth-ing owed; Love that meets us on the road.
Grace is mov-ing, grace is here, Draw-ing ev-'ry neigh-bor near; Giv-en free-ly we em-brace.
Come and live this ac-tive grace.

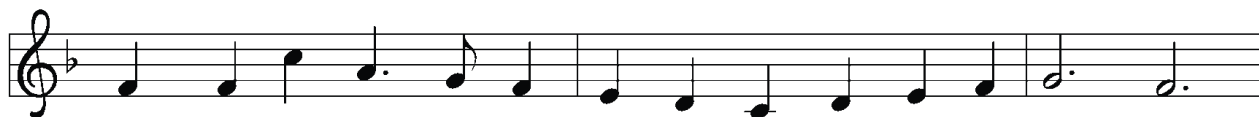
A Time of Confession

God of Mercy,

Help me to be more aware of those places in my life that do not align with your best intentions for me. I ask for your forgiveness: when I ignore the challenges my neighbors face; when I focus on my desires more than my neighbors' needs; when I convince myself that my worth is greater than other's. Please continue to open pathways for me to walk in your ways.

God's Gift of Forgiveness

God is already forgiving you of all your sins. God recognizes when you fail to be your best self, and through the gift of Jesus God reminds you that in his love you are set free - free to share your burdens with God knowing that he will carry them with you, free to live in God's mercy, and free to extend that mercy to others. Live in this freedom as your gift to God. **Amen.**



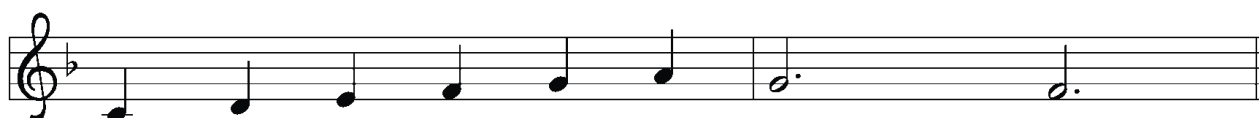
- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
- 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
 sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 if with his love he be - friend you.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

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

Let us pray,

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Children's Sermon

Children's Worship

We Prepare to Hear God's Word

ACTIVE GRACE

2. Speak, O God, and help us hear

Words that calm our hearts of fear. Turn our list - ening in - to life, Grace that meets a

world of strife. Grace is mov - ing, grace is here, Draw - ing ev - 'ry neigh - bor near;

Giv - en free - ly we em - brace. Come and live this ac - tive grace.

+ We Encounter God's Word

Today's Sermon is based on readings from:

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly ab

Philippians 4:1-9

¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

Matthew 22:1-14

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

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

1 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 2 "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. 4 Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' 5 But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, 6 while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. 7 The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. 8 Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9 Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' 10 Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

11 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, 12 and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 14 For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

Sermon

Pastor Gary Sandberg

Sermon Notes

Come, come unto me, all you who are weary, all who are weak, tired and lonely.

Come, come unto me, strong arms will enfold you, and lift you up.

Come, come unto me, bring all your burdens. Show me your wounds and I'll soothe them.

Come now and drink now of my goodness and rest your soul.

All are invited; there's none who aren't welcome to know of my comfort and peace.

My arms are opened and my voice is calling to come, simply trust and believe.

Oh, come, come unto me, live with me forever. All those who seek me will find me!

A STATEMENT OF OUR FAITH

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 the saints, forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Pastor Nate Preisinger

We Share God's Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you.**
(Please share a sign of peace with those around you.)

+ We Worship God With Our Offerings +

Abundantly Bethany

Pastor Nate Preisinger

- **Outranch Ministry Fair**
- **Outdoor Adventures**

The 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** 
- Unlock your phone, hold 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 plate as it is passed

Musical Offering

Carillons, dir. Nolan Oltejenbruns

The Voyage

Ron Mallory

Children Return to the Sanctuary

+ The Community Meal +

Invitation to The Communion Table

Pastor Nate Preisinger

Celebration of Holy Communion

May you know God's presence in this moment

God is with us here.

Come to this table with grateful hearts.

We lift our hearts to God.

Let us be thankful for Christ's promise of grace.

With gratitude, we receive this gift.

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.

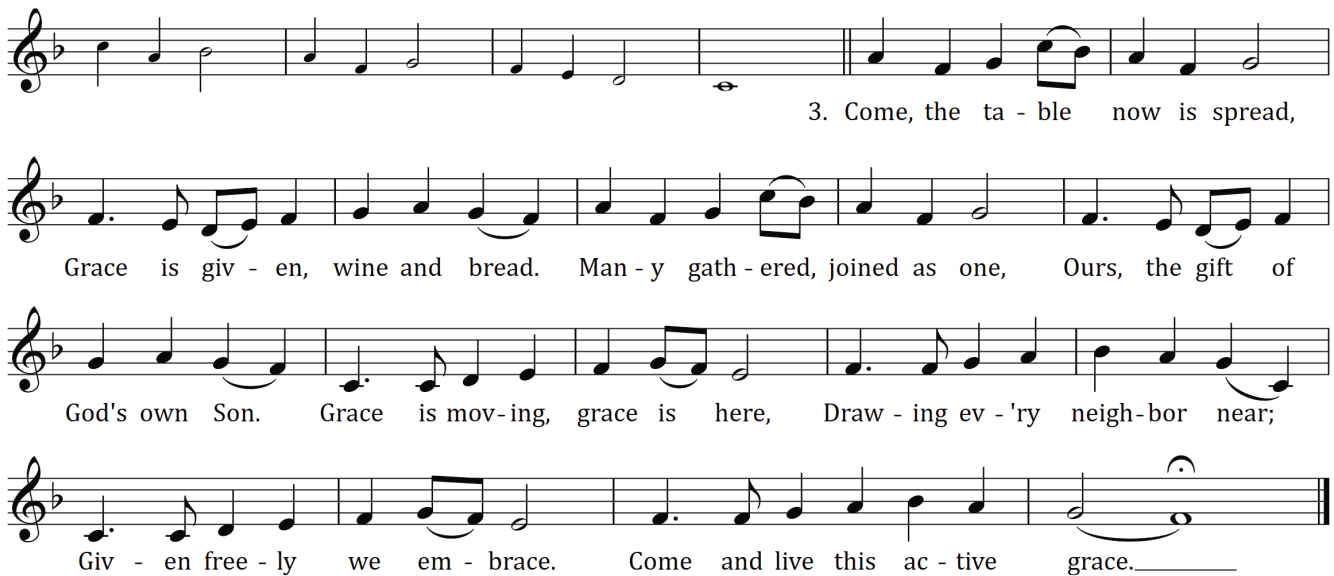
Communion Instruction

Bethany welcomes all to receive the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion. You are invited to take communion at your seat. Please dispose of your communion set in the waste baskets at the exit doors.

Candle Lighting Instruction

Communion Song

Active Grace



3. Come, the ta - ble now is spread,
Grace is giv - en, wine and bread. Man - y gath - ered, joined as one, Ours, the gift of
God's own Son. Grace is mov - ing, grace is here, Draw - ing ev - 'ry neigh - bor near;
Giv - en free - ly we em - brace. Come and live this ac - tive grace. _____

Communion Music

You Do Not Walk Alone

Elaine Hagenberg

Chancel choir, dir. Kirk Schjodt

May you see God's light on the path ahead when the road you walk is dark.

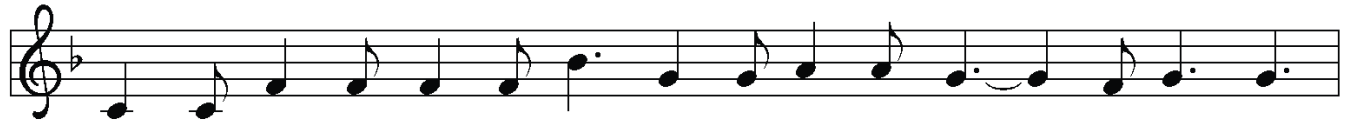
May you always hear, even in your hour of sorrow, the gentle singing of the lark.

When times are hard may hardness never turn your heart to stone,

May you always remember when the shadows fall, you do not walk alone.



Now the si - lence Now the peace Now the emp - ty hands up - lift - ed



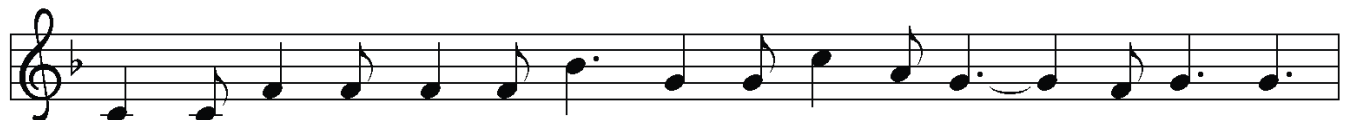
Now the kneel - ing Now the plea Now the Fa - ther's arms in wel - come



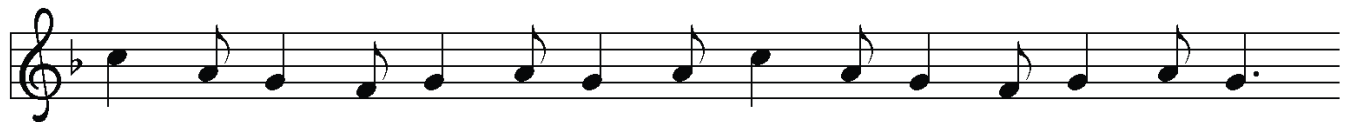
Now the hear - ing Now the pow'r Now the ves - sel brimmed for pour - ing



Now the bod - y Now the blood Now the joy - ful cel - e - bra - tion



Now the wed - ding Now the songs Now the heart for - giv - en leap - ing



Now the Spir - it's vis - i - ta - tion Now the Son's e - piph - a - ny



Now the Fa - ther's bless - ing Now Now Now

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919

Music: NOW, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

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Table Blessing

+ GOD SENDS US TO SERVE +

SENDING INVITATION AND BLESSING

Pastor Gary Sandberg

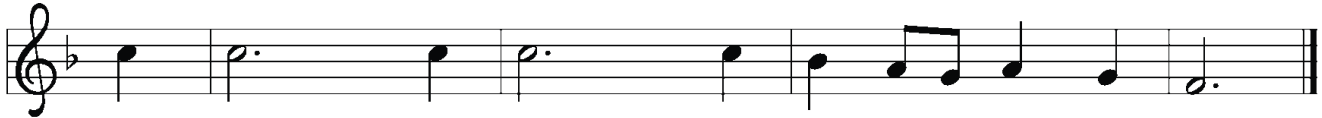


1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing;
 2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
 3 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth
 4 Still lift your stan - dard high, still march in firm ar - ray,



your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.
 send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
 pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
 as pil - grims through the dark - ness wend till dawns the gol - den day.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821–1891, alt.

Music: MARION, Arthur H. Messiter, 1834–1916

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

Fantasy on "Lobe den Herren"

Aaron David Miller

New to Bethany? Stop by the Mission Center for a welcome to Bethany gift.

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). 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline for anyone facing mental health struggles, emotional distress, or a crisis is another great resource. 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.

Things to Know About News & Events

Worship:

- **Choir for middle & high school students:** Spiritus rehearsals on Sundays from 11:20-12:00 10/25, 11/15, 12/13, 12/20

Education/Faith Formation:

- **Sunday Adult Education** - 9:45 in room 210, 11:30 in Chapel
- **Summer 2027 trip!** Info Meeting -Today, Room 412, 11:30-12:15

Hospitality:

- **Bethany Outdoor Adventures:** Sat Oct 17
- **Understanding Your Grief Support Group:** on Sundays 10/18 – 11/22 and 12/6 – 12/13 from 11:15 – 12:45
- **End of life planning.** Tuesday, October 20 10:30am
- **Women of Bethany!** Save the date of October 27, Tuesday at 11:30
- **Halloween Party** When was the last time you attended a Halloween Party? Oct 27 10am
- **All Saints' Day** Brunch Potluck Sunday, November 1, 2026 @ 11:30 AM

Outreach:

- **Outreach Ministry Fair:** Today in Fellowship hall
- **Family Promise:** Oct. 4-11
- **Outreach Team:** Project Angel Heart delivering meals on Oct 24
- **Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains** – Home for the Holidays Donation Drive Nov 4
- **Global Mission:** Bethany's Global Mission Ministry proposals- Nov 17
- **Integrated Family Community Services (IFCS)** Fresh Thanks - Sat, Nov 21
- **LFSRM's Refugee Youth Empowerment Program Needs SUPPLIES!**

Other:

- **ESOL** (English for Speakers of Other Languages) @ Bethany – Wed evenings

Look for full details for all our news and events on the Bethany website:

Bethany-denver.org/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 Mission Center 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 always welcome Worship Servants - go to www.signupschedule.com/Bethany to sign up!

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. Pick one up on the way in and return it on the way out.

Nursery: For directions to our Nursery, please speak with an usher.