

See. Frame. Engage.

Loving our neighbors through the viewfinder of Jesus

Summer Sermon Series



**A New
Name**

**Thursday
July 28
and
Sunday
July 31
2022**

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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THE MATHAYO FAMILY IN CELEBRATION OF SARUNI'S CONFIRMATION



THE EXPLORE GOD LITURGY

Worship in a traditional order drawing on the themes of the Explore God questions (underlined in the liturgy) and related passages from the Bible.

Opening Hymn

Praise Be to Christ

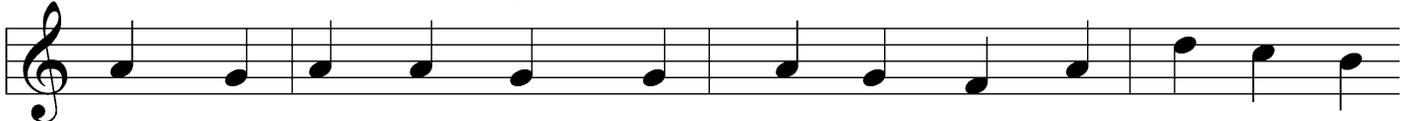
LSB 538



1 Praise be to Christ in whom we see The im - age of the
 2 Praise be to Him whose sov - 'reign sway And will up - holds cre -
 3 Praise be to Him who, Lord Most High, The full - ness of the



Fa - ther shown, The first-born Son re - vealed and known, The truth and
 a - tion's plan; Who is, be - fore all worlds be - gan And when our
 God - head shares; And yet our hu - man na - ture bears, Who came as



grace of de - i - ty; Through whom cre - a - tion came to birth,
 world has passed a - way: Lord of the Church, its life and head,
 man to bleed and die. And from His cross there flows our peace



Whose fin - gers set the stars in place, The un - seen pow'rs, and
 Re - demp - tion's price and source and theme, A - live, the first - born
 Who chose for us the path He trod, That so might sins and



this small earth, The fur - thest bounds of time and space.
 from the dead, To reign as all - in - all su - preme.
 sor - rows cease And all be rec - on - ciled to God.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926

Tune: Johann Störls . . . Schlag- Gesang- Und Noten-Buch, 1744, Stuttgart

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Invocation – Our Purpose is Found in God

Ecclesiastes 2:11, 3:14

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: When we take a good look at everything we've done, looking at all the sweat and hard work, if we're honest, we see nothing but smoke. Smoke and spitting into the wind. There is nothing to any of it.

C: **Does life have a purpose?**

P: It may seem like life has no purpose when we're chasing after our own desires. But the works of God are wonderful.

C: **They endure forever;**

P: nothing can be added to them,

C: **nothing can be taken away from His works.**

P: God has done them, so we worship Him and find our purpose in Him.

C: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution – In Our Despair, We Find That God is Real

James 1:6; Jude 20-25

P: When we see our own sinfulness, we actually might hope that there is no God, because we expect that a holy God would condemn our unworthiness. When we see the sinfulness of the world, we cannot believe there is a God, because how could a holy, loving God allow this world to continue to exist as it is? In despair over this, we ask:

C: **Is God real?**

P: We doubt that God is real, and we are like waves of the sea that are driven and tossed by the wind.—But then we hear that the God of the Bible has compassion on our struggles of faith. He says:

C: **“Have mercy on those who doubt.”**

P: God the Father encourages us to

C: **build one another up in our most holy faith,**

P: instead of pushing aside those who doubt.—God the Son calls on us to

C: **support one another as we wait for His mercy that leads to eternal life,**

P: instead of growing impatient with the endless troubles in the world.—God the Holy Spirit sends us out to

C: **save those caught in the fire of sin, and show mercy to others**

P: being careful not to be trapped ourselves by their sin. And we know that we ourselves need this same rescue assistance from others.

C: **Now to him who is able to keep us from stumbling in our faith and actions,**

P: and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy,

C: **to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord,**

P: be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority,

C: **before all time and now and forever. Amen.**

P: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Song of Praise

We Bow Down



1. You are — Lord of cre - a - - tion and Lord of my — life, Lord of the land .
2. You are — King of cre - a - - tion and King of my — life, King of the land .



— and the — sea. You were — Lord of the heav - - ens be - fore there was —
— and the — sea. You were — King of the heav - - ens be - fore there was —



time, and Lord of all lords You will be. We bow — down —
time, and King of all kings You will be. We bow — down —



— and we wor - ship You, — Lord. We bow — down — and we wor - ship You, —
— and we crown You the — King. We bow — down — and we crown You the —



Lord. We bow — down — and we wor - ship You, —
King. We bow — down — and we crown You the —



Lord. Lord of all lords You will be! _____
King. King of all kings You will be! _____

The Word of God – His Uniquely, Reliable Word

Psalm 1:2-3

P: We often may struggle to believe that we have the true words of God. We ask:

C: *Is the Bible reliable?*

P: We acknowledge this struggle, and we admit that we'll never find an adequate answer to all of our questions. Yet, the Bible reveals a unique God who brings salvation to us by grace—as a pure gift. No other spiritual book in the world teaches about divine mysteries like this. The hope and love and comfort that come from knowing salvation is a gift from God leads us to say:

C: *My delight is in the Word of the LORD.*

*I am like a tree planted by streams of water,
bearing fresh fruit every month,
Never dropping a leaf,
always in blossom.*

P: Hear now this life-giving Word of God.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 1:24–31 (ESV)

²⁴And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. ²⁵And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” ²⁹And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18–25 (ESV)

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Word of God – God’s Mission for Whole Wide World

Isaiah 49:6

P: When we hear that Jesus said He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and no one comes to God the Father except through Him, we find ourselves asking:

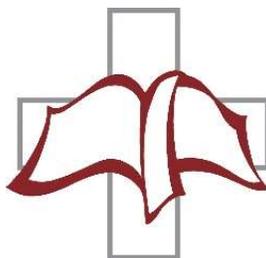
C: **Is Christianity too narrow?**

P: But in the Scriptures, we see that God always had in mind to save the whole wide world, His entire Creation. He said to His Son, the Messiah, the Christ: “That’s too small a thing for You, just to recover and round up the people of Israel.”

C: **God the Father said to our Savior Jesus:**

***“I will make you as a light for the nations,
so that my salvation becomes global!”***

P: Hear now the wide-reaching Gospel of God.



Epistle (New Testament Letter)

Colossians 3:11–17 (ESV)

¹¹[In Christ] there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

¹²Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Collect (See.Frame.Engage Prayer of the Day)

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, through Your Word and Spirit You most wonderfully created all things, and you made human beings in Your own image. But when we fell into sin and distorted that image, the Word made flesh brought new life to Your people. Grant that in Your mercy we may be formed to the image of Him who shares fully in our humanity, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Acknowledgements

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires.
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The Dangerous Act of Loving Your Neighbor by Mark Labberton, Intervarsity Press, 2010.
Today’s Collect from *The Alternative Service Book*, as quoted by Mark Labberton.
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Hymn of the Day

Father, We Thank Thee

LSB 652



Offering & Prayer Requests

In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

Offertory

Jesus Loves Me

LSB 588

(we join in singing as the offerings are brought forward to the altar)



1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, For the Bi - ble tells me so.
2 Je - sus loves me! He who died Heav-en's gates to o - pen wide.



Lit - tle ones to Him be-long; They are weak, but He is strong.
He has washed a - way my sin, Lets His lit - tle child come in.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!



Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

Prayers of the Church – Praying to God Who Knows Our Suffering

Psalm 13:1-2,5; 1 Peter 5:7

P: We come before God with our prayers—thanksgivings, rejoicing, and praises, but also our pains and sufferings. Our God is big enough for us to ask:

C: Why does God allow pain and suffering?

P: We do not know, but we know God invites us to bring our questions to Him.

The Psalmist prayed: “How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever?”

C: How long will You hide Your face from me?

P: God also invites you to cast all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.

**C: We have trusted in His steadfast love;
Our hearts shall rejoice in His salvation.**

P: Let us pray.

(Sunday) Rite of Confirmation for Saruni Kisiongo

We celebrate Confirmation—publicly confirming that Saruni indeed believes in Jesus. He is a disciple through the grace of God granting him faith in Jesus.

Thank you to our Lay Coaches from this year, **Cindy Daluga, Jon Kreamer, Yassi Moringe & Sara Pipia**

CONFIRMATION VOW & BLESSING

Do you understand the gifts which God gave you in your Baptism?

Do you reject the devil and his works and all his ways?

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty...Jesus Christ, His only Son... the Holy Spirit?

Do you intend to continue in the Christian faith, to be committed to the Church throughout your life?

Will you suffer, even to the point of death, rather than denying Christ?

Do you believe the Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and do you believe that the Small Catechism accurately teaches what the Scriptures say?

Do you desire to be a member of the Lutheran Church and of this congregation?

Do you intend faithfully to live your life according to God's Word, to hear God's Word and receive the Lord's Supper and to remain true to God in your faith, your words and your actions?

Are you asking to be shepherded (cared for) in your faith and committing to encourage others in their faith in Jesus?

Will you serve in and support the work of this congregation in the mission of God?

Do you confess that you are a disciple, a follower of Jesus?

May you grow in the wisdom of God, seek the Lord in prayer, receive His strength and always have the hope of eternal life, in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



The Lord's Supper: What We Believe

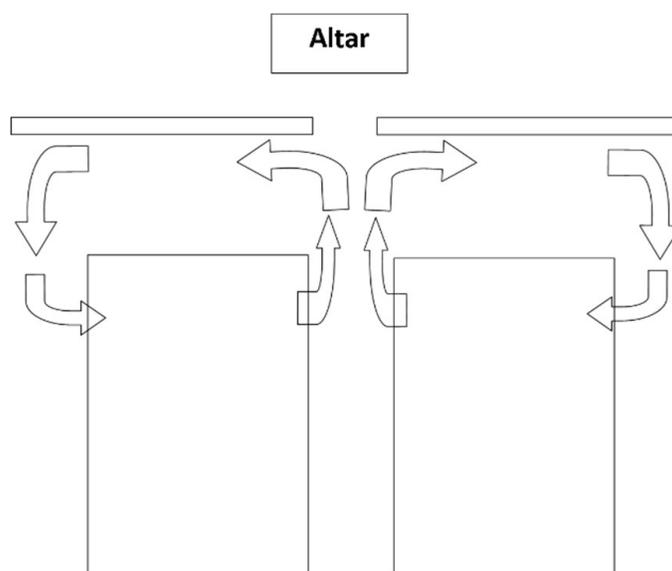
All Christians who are baptized and have been instructed are invited to receive Communion with us if you believe as we do—that the bread is the body of Christ, and the wine is the blood of Christ, truly present for us for the forgiveness of our sins.

If this is a new teaching to you, or if this is different than you believe, we ask that you wait to commune until we've had a further chance to talk. We invite those who are not communing to come to the rail, cross your arms, and receive a blessing from the Lord.



Communion Distribution

- Pastor distributes the bread, and the Elders distribute the wine—with individual cups or common cup. The individual trays also contain alcohol-removed wine in the center of each tray in the purple cups.
- Each side will be ushered from the center aisle to the communion rail, row by row, starting with the front.
- Go to the rail on your side of the sanctuary, filling in starting with the outside wall towards the center.
- Once you have received the elements, you may remain at the rail for prayer and leave at your own pace.
- Return to your seat using the outside aisle.



Preface – Our Questions Find Their Answer in Christ Genesis 45:5; Psalm 103:3-4,8,11-12

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: This Supper, Holy Communion, is a declaration that God sent His Son into the flesh to be our Savior from sin, death, and the devil. But we have all asked at times:

C: **Is Jesus really God?**

P: Do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you at times have questioned whether Jesus is God, because God the Father sent Him for this very reason: to preserve your life.

C: **Why would Jesus become human and die?**

P: Jesus, the divine, eternal Son of God, humbled Himself by obeying His Father's will to the point of dying on the cross. He made Himself nothing, becoming our servant, to rescue us through His body and blood.

C: Can I know God personally?

Can I know that this Lord's Supper is for me?

P: Yes, this Word is true for you. Here in Word and Sacrament we meet the Lord.
He forgives all your iniquity,
redeems your life from the pit,
crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far does He remove your transgressions from you.

**C: *May we always declare with our mouths and hearts:
Jesus Christ is my Lord. Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

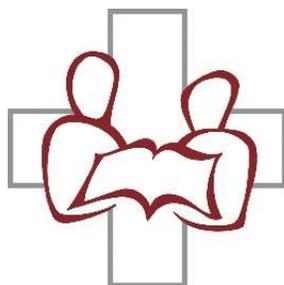
All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: *And also with you.***

(We greet one another in peace saying "God's peace" or "The Lord be with you.")



Distribution Hymn**God Himself Is Present**

LSB 907



1 God Him - self is pres - ent: Let us now a - dore Him
 2 God Him - self is pres - ent: Hear the harps re - sound - ing;
 3 Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Pu - ri - fy my spir - it,



And with awe ap - pear be - fore Him. God is in His
 See the hosts the throne sur - round - ing. "Ho - ly, ho - ly,
 Trust - ing on - ly in Your mer - it. Like the ho - ly



tem - ple; All with - in keep si - lence; Hum - bly kneel in
 ho - ly!" Hear the hymn as - cend - ing, Songs of saints and
 an - gels, Wor - ship - ing be - fore You, May I cease - less -



deep - est rev - 'rence. He a - lone On His throne
 an - gels blend - ing. Bow Your ear To us here:
 ly a - dore You. Let Your will Ev - er still



Is our God and Sav - ior; Praise His name for - ev - er!
 Hear, O Christ, the prais - es That Your Church now rais - es.
 Rule Your Church ter - res - trial As the hosts ce - les - tial.

Text: Gerhard Tersteegen, 1697–1769, abr.; tr. Frederick W. Foster, 1760–1835, alt.; tr. John Miller, 1756–90, alt.
 Tune: Joachim Neander, 1650–80

Post-Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, You invite all who are burdened with sin, doubts, and struggles to come to You for rest. We have come at Your invitation to the heavenly feast, which You have provided for Your children on earth. Preserve us in this true faith, cleanse us from our unrighteousness, and clothe us with the righteousness purchased with Your blood. Strengthen our faith, increase our love and hope, and assure us a place at Your heavenly table, where we will eat eternal manna and drink of the river of Your pleasure forever and ever. Hear us, Jesus, for Your own sake.

C: Amen.

Benediction (Blessing)

Psalm 103:1-2

P: Bless the LORD, O my soul,

C: **and all that is within me,
bless His holy Name!**

P: Bless the LORD, O my soul,

C: **don't forget a single blessing,
don't forget His answers to all of my heart's desires.**

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn All Christians Who Have Been Baptized

LSB 596 sts. 1, 5-6



1 All Chris-tians who have been bap-tized, Who know the God of
5 O Chris-tian, firm-ly hold this gift And give God thanks for-
6 So use it well! You are made new— In Christ a new cre-



heav-en, And in whose dai-ly life is prized The name of
ev-er! It gives the pow-er to up-lift In all that
a-tion! As faith-ful Chris-tians, live and do With-in your



Christ once giv-en: Con-sid-er now what God has done, The
you en-deav-or. When noth-ing else re-vives your soul, Your
own vo-ca-tion, Un-til that day when you pos-sess His



gifts He gives to ev-'ry-one Bap-tized in-to Christ Je-sus!
Bap-tism stands and makes you whole And then in death com-pletes you.
glo-rious robe of righ-teous-ness Be-stowed on you for-ev-er!

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. Jon D. Vieker, 1961

Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, 1524, Wittenberg

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Announcements

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JULY 28

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY W/COMMUNION) – 6:30PM

SUNDAY, JULY 31

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY W/COMMUNION) – 9AM
FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY W/COMMUNION) – 6:30PM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY W/COMMUNION) – 9AM
FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY) – 6:30PM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY) – 9AM
FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY W/COMMUNION) – 6:30PM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY W/COMMUNION) – 9AM
CHURCH PICNIC AT VIKING PARK 11AM

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY) – 6:30PM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY) – 9AM
FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM

CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SCHEDULE. USHERS, READERS, AND VARIOUS OTHER VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP AND COMMUNION. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING FOR ONE OF THOSE ROLES, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE AT OFFICE@BETHELGURNEE.ORG.

Bethel Lutheran Church

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