

# “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



**Sept. 12**  
2021

***ALL ARE WELCOME AT BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH!***

## INTRODUCTION

Today we observe “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday. Our church — and our world — continue to live through the COVID-19 pandemic. Physical distancing has changed the way we worship and serve. But the need is great, and God’s church is at work. As church, we are guided by our life in Christ to share the love of Jesus and serve our neighbors — even if such acts of service look different during a pandemic.



# GATHERING

(\*Indicates to please rise as you are able in body, mind, or in spirit.)

## GATHERING MUSIC

*Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly*

*Leader sings verses. All join on each Chorus.*

Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with You, God.  
In all things, in all ways, walk humbly with You, God.

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## GATHERING PRAYER

### WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Based on Psalm 46*)

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength.

All: **A very present help in trouble.**

Pastor: Therefore we shall not fear, though the earth should change.

All: **Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though skyscrapers fall and planes crash into buildings and fields.**

Pastor: God will help when the morning dawn comes.

All: **God utters a word and the earth receives hope.**

Pastor: Be still, and know that I am God.

All: **The Lord of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge.**

### PRAYER FOR 9/11

### CHORAL RESPONSE

#### *Prayer for America*

Appalachian Folk Song

Words by Nan Allen

Offered by the Adult Choir

*Lord, thank you for America, and for the grace You shed on us.  
And thank you for our liberty, and for Your Truth that made us free.*

*Forgive us, Lord, when we forget it's by Your hand that we are blessed.  
For You have always been our guide; we'll walk by faith and not by sight.*

*Lord, give us wisdom, give us strength, and give us courage, give us peace.  
Renew our faith, restore in us the solemn cry, "In God We Trust!" Amen.*

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### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Mighty and merciful God, lover of justice and equity, you call us to support the weak, to help those who suffer, and to honor all people. By the power of your Holy Spirit, make us advocates for your justice and instruments of your peace, so that all may be reconciled in your beloved community; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## WORD

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Lord God has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he wakens—  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.  
<sup>5</sup>The Lord God has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.  
<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.  
<sup>7</sup>The Lord God helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
<sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.  
Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.  
<sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

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

## \*GOSPEL READING

Mark 8:27-38

*The Holy Gospel according to Mark. Glory to You, O Lord.*

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” <sup>28</sup>And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” <sup>29</sup>He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” <sup>30</sup>And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

He became sin, who knew no sin; that we might become His righteousness;  
He humbled Himself, and carried the cross. Love so amazing, Love so amazing.

Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names; Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.  
The Rescue for sinners, the Ransom from heaven; Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.

His body the bread, His blood the wine broken and poured out, all for love.  
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn. Love so amazing, Love so amazing.

Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names; Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.  
The Rescue for sinners, the Ransom from heaven; Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.

All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You; all the glory to You, God, the Light of the World.

Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names; Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.  
The Rescue for sinners, the Ransom from heaven; Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.  
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all. The Lord of all! The Lord of all.

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## COMMISSIONING OF CONFIRMAND STUDENTS

Micah Carlson, Jerry Fisher, Mia Hudson  
Sarah Newman, Adilyn Sikora, Micah Young

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting God at work in and among us, we raise our hearts and voices in prayer for the needs of the world.

For your work in the church, we give thanks. Plant and tend relationships among faith communities, both ecumenical and interfaith, that in faithful listening, speech, and action, our hands work to bear fruit for the sake of all in need. God of grace, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

For your work in creation, we give thanks. Sustain peoples and places affected by climate change, ecological devastation, and natural disasters. Prosper the work of creation-care ministries locally and globally, that with our minds and hearts opened, our hands work to lovingly care for the earth. God of life, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

For your work among the nations, we give thanks. Direct leaders in paths of honest service, that both their words and actions are carried out on behalf of those whom they serve. God of righteousness, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

For your work in places of need, we give thanks. Sustain all who are wearied by unemployment or lack of adequate food or housing, that we advocate for relief and just policy. Bring healing to all who are sick through the skillful hands and compassionate hearts of physicians, nurses, therapists and caregivers. God of restoration, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

For your work in our neighborhoods, towns, and cities, we give thanks. Guide our common life together so that children, youth, and adults of all ages flourish. Teach us to listen attentively to our neighbors, that any new endeavors consider those who may be left out or under served. God of wisdom, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

For your work this worshiping community, we give thanks. Bless the service projects of this day and throughout the year. Foster deeper connections among those who serve and a spirit of

accompaniment as we work alongside those in our community. Strengthen our faith, that we trust God moving in and among us. God of love, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

*Here other intercessions may be added.*

For your work among those who came before us, we give thanks. We remember those who have died and are held forever in your loving hands. Hold us in your presence now and always. God of heaven and earth, **hear us when we call.**

Receive these and all our prayers, Gracious God. We pray in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS PRESENTATION**

### **SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE**

### **MUSIC FOR REFLECTION**

*"God's Work Our Hands"  
Words & Music by Wayne L. Wold  
Offered by the Adult Choir*

*God's work, our hands: working together, building a future, repairing the world,  
raising up homes, planting new gardens, feeding the hungry and sheltering the cold.  
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name, sharing the good news of your gospel.*

*God's work, our feet: traveling together, following Jesus to places unknown,  
walking as friends, marching for freedom, running the race with God's future the goal.  
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name, sharing the good news of your gospel.*

*God's work, our voice: singing together, praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,  
praying for peace, shouting for justice, claiming God's love for the lost and the least.  
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name, sharing the good news of your gospel.*

*God is at work in and around us: seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!  
Washed and set free, humbled and honored, gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.  
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name, sharing the good news of your gospel.*

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

### **\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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 our thanks and praise.**

### **\*JESUS' WORDS ABOUT COMMUNION & 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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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## SENDING

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### \*BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**  
People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy  
Trinity, † one God, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### \*SENDING SONG

*I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus.  
I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me. The world behind me, the cross before me.  
The world behind me, the cross before me. No turning back, no turning back.

No turning back.

And I give myself to You, 'cause You gave Yourself for me.  
And I live my life for You, 'cause You gave Your life for me.

Though none go with me, still I will follow. Though none go with me, still I will follow.  
Though none go with me, still I will follow. No turning back, no turning back.

No turning back.

And I give myself to You, 'cause You gave Yourself for me.  
And I live my life for You, 'cause You gave Your life for me.

I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus.  
I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back, no turning back.

No turning back!

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### \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you. **Thanks be to God!**



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