



BETHANY

Lutheran Ministries

Bethany Lutheran Ministries Sunday, September 13, 2020

**Bethany Lutheran Ministries
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GoBethany.com

The people of the Kingdom of God at Bethany welcome you.

MISSION: *Living God's Word through Caring, Sharing and Teaching*

Rev. Dr. Phillip Pledger,
School Principal Dr. Chris Smith,
Preschool Director Cindy Miller,
Administrative Assistant Natalie Hart

Call to Worship

Pastor: Now in Christ Jesus, you who once were far away have been brought near, through the blood of Christ! For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.

People: Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people, and members of God's household!

Invocation

Pastor: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

People: Amen.

Opening Song Above All

Verse 1

Above all powers --- above all kings, ---
 Above all nature and all created things.
 Above all wisdom and all the ways of man ----
 You were here before the world began.

Verse 2

Above all kingdoms, above all thrones ----
 Above all wonders the world has ever known.
 Above all wealth and treasures of the earth ----
 There's no way to measure what You're worth.

Chorus

Crucified – laid behind a stone. You lived to die – rejected and alone.
 Like a rose trampled on the ground ---- You took the fall ---
 and thought of me --- above all.

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Lenny LeBlanc & Paul Baloche ©1999 LenSongs Publishing

Confession

All: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserve Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Church: Amen.

Song In Christ Alone**Verse 1**

In Christ a-lone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ - I stand.

Verse 2

In Christ a-lone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in help-less babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied.

For ev'ry sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ – I live.

Verse 3

There in the ground, His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then, bursting forth, in glorious Day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sins curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood – of Christ.

Verse 4

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ – in me;
From life's first cry, to final breath, Jesus commands by destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ – I'll stand!

Ending

No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ev-er pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ – I'll stand!

Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

Prayer Of The Day

O almighty and everlasting God, mercifully direct our ways that we may walk in Your Law, and be made to abound in good works; through the same, Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Reading Gen. 50:15–21

15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" **16** So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: **17** 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. **18** His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. **19** But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? **20** You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. **21** So

then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Epistle Reading Colossians 2:6-12

6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, **7** rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. **8** See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. **9** For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, **10** and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. **11** In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, **12** having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Gospel Reading Matthew 18:21–35

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" **22** Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. **23** "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. **24** As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. **25** Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. **26** "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' **27** The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. **28** "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. **29** "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' **30** "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. **31** When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. **32** "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. **33** Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' **34** In anger his master handed him over to the

jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. **35** “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Song of the Day We Believe

Verse 1

In this time of desperation, when all we know is doubt and fear,
There is only one foundation: We believe, we believe.
In this broken generation, when all is dark, You help us see.
There is only one salvation; we believe, we believe.

Chorus

We believe in God the Father. We believe in Jesus Christ.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, and He's given us new life.
We believe in the crucifixion. We believe that He conquered death.
We believe in the resurrection, and He's coming back again. We believe.

Verse 2

So, let our faith be more than anthems, greater than the songs we sing,
And in our weakness and temptations, we believe, we believe!

Chorus

We believe in God the Father. We believe in Jesus Christ.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, and He's given us new life.
We believe in the crucifixion. We believe that He conquered death.
We believe in the resurrection, and He's coming back again. We believe.

Bridge

Let the lost be found and the dead be raised;
in the here and now let love invade.
Let the church live loud! Our God, we'll say, “We believe! We believe!”
And the gates of hell will not prevail for the power of God has torn the veil.
Now we know your love will never fail. We believe! We believe!

Last chorus

We believe in God the Father. We believe in Jesus Christ.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, and He's given us new life.
We believe in the crucifixion. We believe that He conquered death.
We believe in the resurrection, and He's coming back,
He's coming back again! He's coming back again.
We believe. We believe!

Travis Ryan, Richie Fike, & Matt Hooper (News Boys) ©Integrity Worship Music

Message: Walking In Christ

Creed

The Third Article: Sanctification

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean? I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

Offering

General Prayer

Benediction

Pastor: "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness" (Colossians 2:6-7).

Pastor: And may the grace of Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the power of His Holy Spirit be with you always.

People: Amen!

Closing Song He is Exalted

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high, ... I will praise Him.

He is exalted, forever exalted, and I will praise His name!
He is the Lord, forever His truth shall reign.
Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high!

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high, ... I will praise Him.
He is exalted, forever exalted, and I will praise His name!
He is the Lord, forever His truth shall reign.
Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name.
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Ending

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high!
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high!

Words and music by Twila Paris CCLI # 17827