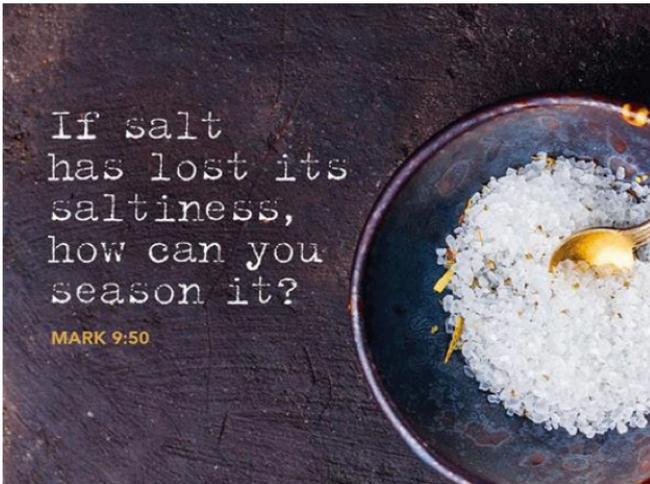




**18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**SEPTEMBER 26, 2021**  
**9:30 AM**



**Bethel Lutheran Church**  
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Pastor Jessie Obrecht

A congregation of the Montana Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*Large print bulletins are available, please see the ushers for a copy.*

*As we gather for worship and prepare our hearts, we would ask that you please silence your cell phones for the duration of the service.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Someone who isn't part of Jesus' own circle is casting out demons in Jesus' name, and the disciples want him stopped. They appeal to Jesus, as Joshua did to Moses about the elders who prophesied without official authorization. Like Moses, Jesus refuses to see this as a threat. Jesus welcomes good being done in his name, even when it is not under his control. The circle we form around Jesus' word must be able to value good being done in ways we wouldn't do it, by people we can't keep tabs on.

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **GATHERING SONG**

*Loose Sheet*

*All Are Welcome*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
whose teaching is life,  
whose presence is sure,  
and whose love is endless.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God our comforter:

**like lost sheep, we have gone astray.**

**We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.**

**We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.**

**We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.**

**Free us from our sin, gracious God.**

**Listen when we call out to you for help.**

**Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

**Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in ✚ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.

Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

## GREETING

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

*Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.*

*Lord, Have mercy; have mercy, O Lord.*

*(ELW 154)*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Generous God,

**your Son gave his life that we  
might come to peace with you.**

**Give us a share of your Spirit,  
and in all we do empower us  
to bear the name of Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## JUBILATE CHOIR

*How Can I Keep From Singing?*

### **FIRST READING: NUMBERS 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29**

*What constitutes legitimate need and legitimate leadership is the focus of this reading. God provides manna in the wilderness, yet the people crave meat. What is truly needful? God bestows the spirit on seventy elders, yet two men not designated as leaders prophesy in the power of God's spirit. What constitutes real leadership?*

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry,

and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, “Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors’? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, ‘Give us meat to eat!’ I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery.”

So the Lord said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you.”

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, “My lord Moses, stop them!” But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 19:7-14

The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;  
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.  
**The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;  
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;  
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.  
**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

By them also is your servant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**Who can detect one's own offenses?  
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not  
get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and  
innocent of a great offense.

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be  
acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

## SECOND READING: JAMES 5:13-20

*Marks of the Christian community include praying for those who are sick and in need, celebrating with those in good health, restoring those who have strayed, confessing sins to one another, and offering forgiveness to each other.*

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three

years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Dakota Road: Open My Heart to Your Love*

*Open my hear to your love, oh God.*

*Open my eyes to your grace.*

*Open my life to receive your word.*

*Let wisdom and courage to follow your way.*

The holy gospel according to Mark the ninth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL: MARK 9:38-50**

*On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus teaches his disciples about ministry that involves service and sacrifice. His disciples are slow to realize that these words apply to them as well as to others.*

John said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and

to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

“For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

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

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE AND SERMON**

Rev. Jessie Obrecht

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*W&P 22*

*Bring Forth the Kingdom*

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess 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 saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Lord, in your mercy,                      Hear our prayer.*

### THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### OFFERING

We are so very blessed with the continued support of this congregation during this time of physical distancing. For those who are gathering in worship today, the offering plate is placed on the table as you entered. For those who are joining us from home, you are encouraged to mail in your pledge to the church, to give on-line, if you aren't already, or to give through an arrangement you can set up through your bank. Thank you for your faithful support.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of abundance,  
**you cause streams to break forth in the desert  
and manna to rain from the heavens.**  
**Accept the gifts you have first given us.**  
**Unite them with the offering of our lives  
to nourish the world you love so dearly;**  
**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**  
**Amen.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection  
opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

*Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.*

*My heart is glad to say these words:*

*You are holy, God.*

*(W&P 62)*

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,  
and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for  
all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first  
taught us:*

**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**

All who hunger and thirst, come.  
The table is ready.

*The Lord's Table is open to believers of all Christian traditions. We believe that Christ comes to us in the bread and cup for the forgiveness of sins and new life. Today we will be coming forward for communion. The usher will help guide you. Please keep the six foot physical distancing in mind as we move forward. We will begin with the south side of the sanctuary. Families may come up together. Use the hand sanitizer provided. The you may choose to have the bread put in your hands by Pastor or take one of the covered cups with bread, gluten free wafers are marked with a "GF". A garbage is by the table for you to drop the cup and lid into. The table also has the wine and white grape juice offered. You may choose from the unlidded cups in the tray or a lidded option. A garbage is available for your use. Hand sanitizer is provided should you desire to use it.*

## **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

*BOB 55      Feed My Lambs  
BOB 46      Do This In Remembrance of Me (2x)  
BOB 41      Come to the Table (2x)  
BOB 243     You Are My All in All  
BOB 65      Give Thanks (2x)*

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.      **Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray, Lord of life,  
**in the gift of your body and blood  
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.  
Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,  
bearing witness to the abundance of your love  
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

## BLESSING

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 HYMN

*BOB 69*

*Go Out As People of God*

## DISMISSAL

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

And all God's children said:  
**Amen.**

## SERVING TODAY

**Accompanist** Connie Titcomb, piano; Pastor Steve Nelson, guitar  
**Lay Assistant** Judy Statham  
**Usher** Sue Hesse  
**Tech** Kaleb Stringer  
**Counters** Pam Dougherty and Kaleb Stringer

**Flowers are given** by Terry Snodgrass in celebration of Bryce Hansen's 9th birthday.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today at Bethel** we celebrate 18th Sunday after Pentecost.

Join **Pastor Jessie** in the Fellowship Hall following worship today for adult education. Today's topic is .....

## THIS WEEK

### Tuesday 9/28

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast combined Zoom and in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am

## **Wednesday 9/29**

- Bible Study with Pastor Jessie in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom 10:00 am
- Logos 5:30 pm; High School Logos 6:30

## **Friday 10/1**

- Bethel office is closed.

# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

## **Sunday 10/3**

- Sunday Worship in-person and live stream 9:30 am.
- World Hunger Sunday
- Adult Education with Pastor Jessie immediately following worship in the Fellowship Hall

## **Tuesday 10/05**

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast combined Zoom and in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am

## **Wednesday 10/06**

- Bible Study with Pastor Jessie in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom 10:00 am
- Logos 5:30 pm; High School Logos 6:30 pm

## **Thursday 10/7**

- Exec Board Zoom meeting 5:30 pm

## **Friday 10/8**

- Bethel office is closed.

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