

**Holy Communion**  
**Sunday, October 14, 2018**  
**Pastor –Rev. John Rollefson**  
**Organist – Lori Free**

Organ Prelude

Pastor's greeting

Opening Hymn: **#535 Holy God, We Praise Your Name**

Order of Worship – pages 77 – 79, 81

Prayer of the Day – Celebrate

First Reading: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Psalm: 90:12-17

Second Reading: Hebrews 4:12-16

Gospel: Mark 10:17-31

Sermon: The Needle's Eye

Hymn of the Day: **#241 We Praise You, O God**

Apostle's Creed: page 85

Offertory: page 96 – "Create in Me..."

Prayers of the Church - Celebrate

Communion

Communion Hymn: **#309 Lord Jesus, Think on Me**

Closing Hymn: **#534 Now Thank We All Our God**

Benediction

**WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS**  
**CELEBRATING OUR 136th YEAR**  
**IN HIS SERVICE**  
**1882 – 2018**

John Rollefson, a native of Oconomowoc and graduate of Luther College, currently resides in retirement in San Luis Obispo on California's central coast, having served as pastor of urban and campus congregations in San Francisco, Milwaukee, Ann Arbor and Los Angeles as well as interims in Solvang and London. His wife of 46 years, Ruth, is a church musician and vocal music teacher who last week served as guest musician at Holden Village. They have two sons, Griff and Jake, and two grandchildren Augie and Zadie. John's most recent accomplishment was the publication of a trilogy of books entitled "Postils for Preaching: Commentaries on the Revised Common Lectionary, Years A,B and C.

We welcome all visitors worshipping with us today. And if you spend time in Door County please consider becoming a member of our special ministry. Contact any member for information.

*All baptized Christians who celebrate the Real Presence in the Sacrament of Communion are invited to the Lord's Table.*

**Restrooms are located in the Pioneer School.**

Visit us at [www.bethanyephrain.org](http://www.bethanyephrain.org), and follow our worship services live, and archived, on the web site.

**The website above is correct. The website on the cover is no longer in use.**

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Longing for God's will to be fulfilled among us, we pray persistently for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

Almighty God, holy and righteous, cut our hearts open by your living word. Break down our pride and self-assurance, and transform us by your gentle mercy. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless workers who clear fields to prepare for the barren season to come. Bring the harvest of your creation to completion, even as we look forward to the blossoming of new life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Exercise and establish your true justice in courtrooms, in prisons, and in neighborhoods. Guide those who manage great wealth to do so with generosity and compassion. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pour out favor this day upon those who are afflicted and feel far removed from you (*especially*). Send them companions who will show them you are ever near. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Build up relationships among people of different beliefs and backgrounds. Use the cooperation between this congregation and others in our community to reveal your goodness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Gather us with all the saints whom you have made righteous in the death and resurrection of Christ. Through him give us all the gifts of your kingdom and life eternal. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Enfold all things in your compassion, O God, and bring us into your life through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Preparing for Next Week

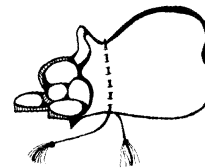
**Monday** (commemoration of Teresa of Avila, teacher, renewer of the church, 1582) Psalm 26. **Tuesday** Revelation 8:1-5. **Wednesday** (commemoration of Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, martyr, c. 115) Obadaiah 17-21. **Thursday** (Luke, Evangelist) Luke 1:1-4; 24:44-53. **Friday** Psalm 91:9-16. **Saturday** Luke 22:24-30. **22nd Sunday after Pentecost** Isaiah 53:4-12; Psalm 91:9-16; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45.

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7 of 13  
Tracks 1, 2, and 3



# Celebrate

Sunday, October 14, 2018  
21st Sunday after Pentecost

*The rich man who comes to ask Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life is a good man, sincere in his asking. Mark's gospel is alone in saying that Jesus looked on him and loved him. Out of love, not as judgment, Jesus offers him an open door to life: sell all you own and give it to the poor. Our culture bombards us with the message that we will find life by consuming. Our assemblies counter this message with the invitation to find life by divesting for the sake of the other.*

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

*Amos was a herdsman by profession and a prophet by God's call. During a time of great prosperity in the northern kingdom of Israel, the prophet speaks to the wealthy upper class. He warns his listeners that fulfilling God's demand for justice brings blessing, while corruption and oppression incur God's wrath.*

Seek the LORD and live,  
or he will break out against the  
house of Joseph like fire,  
and it will devour Bethel, with no  
one to quench it.  
<sup>7</sup>Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,  
and bring righteousness to the  
ground!  
<sup>10</sup>They hate the one who reproves in  
the gate,  
and they abhor the one who speaks  
the truth.  
<sup>11</sup>Therefore because you trample on  
the poor  
and take from them levies of grain,  
you have built houses of hewn stone,  
but you shall not live in them;  
you have planted pleasant vineyards,  
but you shall not drink their wine.

<sup>12</sup>For I know how many are your  
transgressions,  
and how great are your sins—  
you who afflict the righteous, who take  
a bribe,  
and push aside the needy in the  
gate.  
<sup>13</sup>Therefore the prudent will keep silent  
in such a time;  
for it is an evil time.  
<sup>14</sup>Seek good and not evil,  
that you may live;  
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will  
be with you,  
just as you have said.  
<sup>15</sup>Hate evil and love good,  
and establish justice in the gate;  
it may be that the LORD, the God of  
hosts,  
will be gracious to the remnant of  
Joseph.

So teach us to num - ber our  
days that we may ap - ply our hearts to wis - dom.

So teach us to num-ber our days  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

**13**Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry?

**Be gracious to your servants. R**

**14**Satisfy us by your steadfast love in the morning;  
so shall we rejoice and be glad all our days.

**15**Make us glad as many days as you afflicted us  
and as many years as we suffered adversity.

**16**Show your servants your works,  
and your splendor to their children.

**17**May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;  
prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork. **R**

*We cannot hide our thoughts, desires, and actions from God, to whom we are completely accountable. Nevertheless, Jesus understands our human weakness and temptations, because he also experienced them. Therefore we can approach the throne of grace to receive divine mercy from Christ.*

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup>And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

<sup>14</sup>Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

*Jesus has been teaching his disciples about what is most valued in God's eyes. Now, a conversation with a rich man brings his message home to the disciples in a way that is surprising but unforgettable.*

As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>18</sup>Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. <sup>19</sup>You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" <sup>20</sup>He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." <sup>21</sup>Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." <sup>22</sup>When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

<sup>23</sup>Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" <sup>24</sup>And the disciples were

perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." <sup>26</sup>They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" <sup>27</sup>Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

<sup>28</sup>Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." <sup>29</sup>Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, <sup>30</sup>who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup>But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."