

Holy Communion
Sunday, August 4, 2019
Pastor - Rev. Dr. Brian Beckstrom
Organist - Lori Free

Organ Prelude

Pastor's greeting

Opening Hymn: **#373 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!**

Order of Worship: pages 94-96, 147-150

Prayer of the Day - Celebrate

First Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14;2:18-23

Psalm: 49:1-12

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-11

Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **#627 O Day Full of Grace**

Apostle's Creed: page 105

Prayers of Intercession - Celebrate

Offertory: Hymn 186 in Service Music - "Create in me..."

Communion: pages 152 - 155

Communion Hymn: **#778 The Lord's My Shepherd**

Sending Song: **#545 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing**

Dismissal

WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS
CELEBRATING OUR 137th YEAR
IN HIS SERVICE
1882 - 2019

Rev. Dr. Brian A.F. Beckstrom has served at Wartburg College (Waverly, IA) since 2009. He is currently Dean of Spiritual Life, overseeing the college's ministry and promoting faith exploration and development in and out of the classroom.

Pastor Brian teaches in the college's Leadership Program and Religion Department. His writing has appeared in *The Journal of Lutheran Ethics*, *Intersections Magazine*, and on the ELCA's *Living Lutheran* web site. He is currently working on a book about Lutheran Higher Education.

Brian's wife Josie works as a labor and delivery nurse at the Waverly Health Center. They have two children, Soren (18) and Linnea (15). The Beckstrom's are excited to be back at Bethany for another summer!

We welcome all visitors worshipping with us today. 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 BethanyEphraim.org, and follow our worship service live, and archived, on the web site.

Prayers of Intercession

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

Treasuring your promise to hear us when we call, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of your creation.

A brief silence.

Your people struggle with the weariness and toil of living in a broken world. Work through your church to restore justice and mercy, and send rest and comfort to all who are bowed down. Trusting in God, our abundant provider, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Your creation longs for generous care. Give growth to the fields, strength to farmers, ranchers, and laborers who toil in summer's heat, and wisdom to us to respect earth's bounty. Trusting in God, our loving creator, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Your world reflects your image in billions of unique ways. Touch every life—low and high, rich and poor—and sway every heart toward your merciful will. Trusting in God, our Sovereign, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 127. **Tuesday** Colossians 4:2-6. **Wednesday** Ecclesiastes 12:1-8, 13-14. **Thursday** (commemoration of Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers [Dominicans], 1221) Psalm 33:12-22. **Friday** Ecclesiastes 6:1-6. **Saturday** (commemoration of Lawrence, deacon, martyr, 258) Matthew 6:19-24. **9th Sunday after Pentecost** (commemoration of Clare, Abbess of San Damiano, 1253) Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40.

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10 of 13
Tracks 1 and 2



Celebrate

Sunday, August 4, 2019
8th Sunday after Pentecost

Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

Prayer of the Day

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a "vanity of vanities." Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find enjoyment in one's work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. ¹²I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, ¹³applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. ¹⁴I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

^{2:18}I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me ¹⁹—and who knows whether they will be wise or fool-

ish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²²What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.



Hear this, ¹all you peoples;
 give ear, all you who dwell ¹in the world,
²**you of high de- ¹gree and low,
 rich and ¹poor together.**
³My mouth shall ¹speak of wisdom,
 and my heart shall meditate on ¹understanding.
⁴**I will incline my ear ¹to a proverb
 and set forth my riddle up- ¹on the harp. R**
⁵Why should I be afraid in ¹evil days,
 when the wickedness of those at my ¹heels surrounds me,
⁶**the wickedness of those who trust in ¹their own prowess,
 and boast of ¹their great riches?**
⁷One can never re- ¹deem another,
 or give to God the ransom for an- ¹other's life;
⁸**for the ransom of a life ¹is so great
 that there would never be e- ¹nough to pay it,**
⁹in order to live forev- ¹er and ever
 and never ¹see the grave.
¹⁰**For we see that the wise die also;
 like the dull and stu- ¹pid they perish
 and leave their wealth to those who come ¹after them.**
¹¹Their graves shall be their homes forever,
 their dwelling places from generation to ¹generation,
 though they had named lands af- ¹ter themselves.
¹²**Even though honored, they cannot ¹live forever;
 they are like the ¹beasts that perish. R**

Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes in order to put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷These

are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

Gospel

Luke 12:13-21

In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.

Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus], "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?'"

¹⁸Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."