

Holy Communion
Sunday, September 8, 2019
Pastor - Rev. Dr. Mark Throntveit
Organist - Lori Free

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

Organ Prelude

Pastor's greeting

Opening Hymn: **#686 We Give Thee but Thine Own**

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

Prayer of the Day - Celebrate

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm: 1

Second Reading: Philemon 1:1-21

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **#848 Give to Our God Immortal Praise!**

Apostle's Creed: page 105

Prayers of Intercession - Celebrate

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

Communion: pages 152 - 155

Communion Hymn: **#779 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound**

Sending Song: **#650 In Christ There Is No East or West**

Dismissal

Rev. Dr. Mark A. Throntveit is the Elva B. Lovell Emeritus Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament at Luther Seminary in Saint Paul, MN. In addition to his 38 years at Luther, Dr. Throntveit has taught at the University of Saint Thomas, Concordia University, and Augsburg University, and has held visiting Professorships in Sweden and Slovakia. He has served parishes in Whitewater, WI, Richmond, VA, and Minneapolis. Mark's wife, Carol, is the Director of Adult Learning at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. They have two grown children, Trygve and Trevor, and four grandsons. The Throntveits were here in the 1970s and '80s and are excited to return to Bethany and lovely Ephraim.

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.**

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

Sustained and nurtured by our generous God, we gather as one to pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Turn our hearts, O God. Make us attentive to your call to take up the cross-shaped way of life, and to share your good news with a world in need. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn our hearts toward life in all its infinite varieties. We pray especially for all vanishing and endangered creatures who struggle to find a home in this world. Open our eyes to the value of our interconnected relationships within your natural world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn our hearts toward all who yearn for calm and fairness. Where there is violence and conflict, grant peace. Where there is disparity, grant justice. Where there is hatred and fear, grant compassion and empathy. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

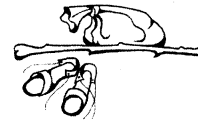
Turn our hearts toward all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. We pray for those in bondage to sin, addiction, poverty, physical slavery or human trafficking, and those incarcerated or detained. For those in any need we pray (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn our hearts toward the ministries of our congregations that feed the hungry, share with the needy, advocate for the silenced, and work for your justice. Embolden our hearts to labor without fear. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Turn our hearts toward your eternal reign. We give thanks for our sisters and brothers who have died, trusting the promise of life forever with you. Marked by the cross of Christ, inspire us by their examples to live in faith. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Assured by your promise to hear us, we lay our prayers before your throne of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Celebrate

Sunday, September 8, 2019
13th Sunday after Pentecost

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship today, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of the Christ in the blessed sacrament and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

Prayer of the Day

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare

to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday (commemoration of Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Colombia, 1654) Psalm 101. **Tuesday** 1 Timothy 4:6-16. **Wednesday** Luke 18:18-30. **Thursday** Psalm 51:1-10. **Friday** (commemoration of John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, 407) Genesis 7:6-10; 8:1-5. **Saturday** (Holy Cross Day) John 3:13-17. **14th Sunday after Pentecost** Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10.

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They are like trees plant - ed by streams of wa - ter.

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel ¹ of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats ¹ of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law ¹ of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching ¹ day and night. R**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that ¹ do not wither;
everything they ¹ do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so ¹ with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind ¹ blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when ¹ judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council ¹ of the righteous.

⁶**For the LORD knows the way ¹ of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall ¹ be destroyed. R**

While Paul was in prison, he was aided by a runaway slave named Onesimus. The slave's master, Philemon, was a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to his master and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ²to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, ⁹yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you,

but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

Gospel

Luke 14:25-33

Jesus speaks frankly about the fearsome costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish,

all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”