

**7th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Sunday, July 24, 2022**  
**Pastor - Rev. Norman Wahl**  
**Organist - Lori Free**

Organ Prelude and Pastor's Greeting

Opening Hymn: **#574 Here I Am, Lord**

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

Prayer of the Day - Celebrate

First Reading: Genesis 18:20-32

Psalm: Psalm 138

Second Reading: Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]

Gospel: Luke 11:1-13

*Response after the announcement:* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Response after the conclusion:* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **#732 Borning Cry**

Apostle's Creed: page 105 (see inside back cover of hymnal)

Prayers of Intercession - Celebrate

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

Words of Institution and Communion

Lord's Prayer (see inside back cover of hymnal)

Communion Hymn: **#614 There Is a Balm in Gilead**

Sending Song: **#543 Go, My Children, with My Blessing**  
Dismissal

**WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS**  
**CELEBRATING OUR 140th YEAR**  
**IN HIS SERVICE**  
**1882 - 2022**

Pastor Norman Wahl retired in October 2020 after 41 years as a pastor of the ELCA. His last 24 years were as Executive Pastor at Bethel Lutheran in Rochester, Minnesota. He also served in St. Charles, Minnesota; rural Alden, Minnesota; Viborg, South Dakota (church name--Bethany!); and on the staff of Augsburg College, both as Director of Church Relations and an adjunct professor of Religion. His internship was in Tomah, Wisconsin! Kathy and Norm, high school sweethearts, have been married 48 years. They have three grown children and seven grandchildren ages 9 months to 14 years. They have done some traveling, including two week-long trips in Door County with family. "We are thankful to the people of Bethany for your kindnesses, and for sharing the great good news we have in Christ."

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](http://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.

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

A brief silence.

Rooted and built up in Christ, we pray for the church. Embolden church leaders to take risks for the sake of the gospel, and equip the baptized to proclaim your extravagant love for the whole world. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the works of your hands, we pray for the natural world. Make rivers and lakes, oceans and all waterways, sparkle with your radiance. Protect water sources (*local water sources may be named*) and strengthen those who defend them. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Interceding on behalf of the vulnerable, we pray for the peoples of the world. Inspire all rulers and governing authorities with your justice. Guide the work of legislators and public officials, that they advocate for the well-being of those they serve. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

## Preparing for Next Week

**Monday** (James, Apostle) Mark 10:35-45. **Tuesday** Romans 9:30—10:4. **Wednesday** Matthew 5:43-48. **Thursday** (commemoration of Johann Sebastian Bach, 1750; Heinrich Schütz, 1672; George Frederick Handel, 1759; musicians) Psalm 49:1-12. **Friday** (commemoration of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany; Olaf, King of Norway, martyr, 1030) Proverbs 24:1-12. **Saturday** Ecclesiastes 1:1-11. **8th Sunday after Pentecost** Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23; Psalm 49:1-12; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21.

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# Celebrate

Sunday, July 24, 2022  
7th Sunday after Pentecost

*Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."*

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Genesis 18:20-32

*In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.*

The LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! <sup>21</sup>I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

<sup>22</sup>So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. <sup>23</sup>Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup>Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup>Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" <sup>26</sup>And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will

forgive the whole place for their sake." <sup>27</sup>Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup>Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." <sup>29</sup>Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." <sup>30</sup>Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." <sup>31</sup>He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." <sup>32</sup>Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."



I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with <sup>1</sup>my whole heart;  
before the gods I will <sup>1</sup>sing your praise.

<sup>2</sup>I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,  
because of your steadfast <sup>1</sup>love and faithfulness;  
for you have glorified your name  
and your word a- <sup>1</sup>bove all things. **R**

<sup>3</sup>When I called, you <sup>1</sup>answered me;  
you increased my <sup>1</sup>strength within me.

<sup>4</sup>All the rulers of the earth will praise <sup>1</sup>you, O LORD,  
when they have heard the words <sup>1</sup>of your mouth.

<sup>5</sup>They will sing of the ways <sup>1</sup>of the LORD,  
that great is the glory <sup>1</sup>of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>The LORD is high, yet cares <sup>1</sup>for the lowly,  
perceiving the haughty <sup>1</sup>from afar. **R**

<sup>7</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you <sup>1</sup>keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;  
your right <sup>1</sup>hand shall save me.

<sup>8</sup>You will make good your pur- <sup>1</sup>pose for me;  
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever;  
do not abandon the works <sup>1</sup>of your hands. **R**

*The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about "the empty lure" of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.*

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

<sup>8</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup>For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup>and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. <sup>11</sup>In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; <sup>12</sup>when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup>And when you were dead in trespasses

and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup>erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup>He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

[<sup>16</sup>Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. <sup>17</sup>These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. <sup>18</sup>Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, <sup>19</sup>and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.]

## Gospel

Luke 11:1-13

*In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.*

[Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." <sup>2</sup>He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup>Give us each day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup>And forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves forgive everyone  
indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time  
of trial."

<sup>5</sup>And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; <sup>6</sup>for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' <sup>7</sup>And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are

with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' <sup>8</sup>I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

<sup>9</sup>So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup>Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup>Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"