

19th Sunday after Pentecost "Blessing of the Animals"



Word and Sacrament

"Not Just Going to Church, but BEING the Church"

Saint Bartholomew Lutheran Church

October 4th, 2026 11:00AM



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Welcome to Worship

This morning, we celebrate the Blessing of the Animals. The lyrics to the hymns are in the red hymnals in front of you. We extend special greetings to all our guests who are with us today. Your presence, along with our members and friends, is truly valued. Know that all of God's people and friends are always welcome here at St. Bartholomew.

Holy Communion

Saint Bart's celebrates the real presence of Jesus through the bread and wine. We invite all to come and share. At the time of communion, you will come up to the Altar and receive communion.

Praying People

Everyone is invited to offer their prayer concerns during the Prayers of the Church.

Blessing of the Animals

For many, pets are a beloved member of the family. Today, on the Sunday closest to October 4, churches around the country will hold Blessing of the Animals services as a way for Christians to give thanks to God for the joy and love that pets bring to the lives of their owners. One of the most famous animal lovers was St. Francis of Assisi who referred to the animals as his brothers and sisters. In addition to his love of animals and all of creation, Francis was known for his devotion to the poor. Though born into a wealthy family, he gave up his inheritance to serve the poor and founded the Franciscans, a monastic order. Francis believed that it was important for his faith to bear fruit in the world, so he took a vow of poverty, worked with lepers, acted as a peacemaker, and inspired others to adopt a way of life focused on serving God and others.

Announcements

Spanish Service- Wednesdays at 7pm

English Class Wednesdays at 6pm

Enid's Pantry will be open Saturday, October 10th at 10am.

Spanish Service Saturday, October 10th at 9am.

Peacemakers Summit October 22nd

Trunk or Treat October 31st 1pm

There will be no Coffee Hour After Worship today

Bell Choir Practice at 9:15AM October 11th

Bible Study @ 9:45AM beginning next Sunday!

We can use any food or monetary donations to help our community in need.

Are there any other announcements?

Bell/ Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

P. Bless the Lord, all you God's creatures.

C. Bless the Lord, in heaven and on earth.

Confession and Forgiveness

Confession and Forgiveness^[SEP] (STAND)

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C Amen.

P Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Compassionate God,

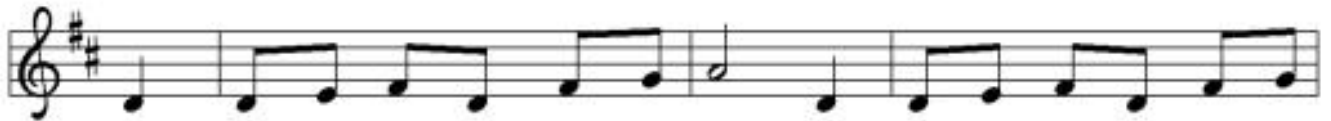
C We confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

P Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✠ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C Amen.

Gathering Hymn: *ELW 835*

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!



1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev-'ry voice in earth and
2 Sing, broth-er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
3 Sing, broth-er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain or sor-row



sky: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Sing, broth-er sun, in splen-dor
grain: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear sis-ter wa-ter, use-ful,
throng: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear moth-er earth, so rich in
grieve: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis-ter moon and stars of night:
clear, make mu-sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-
care, praise God in col-ors bright and rare:
fears; still make your song a-mid the tears:



lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you

Kyrie



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Canticle of Praise



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God, you have made us and these pets and all living things. You are even more wonderful than the things you have made. We thank you for giving us these pets who give us joy. As you take care of us, so also we ask that you help us to take care of our pets who trust us to take care of them. By doing this, we know that we share in your own love for all creation. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C **Amen**

WORD

- A** I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth (Psalm 34:1). Lord, bless the reading of your word. Make it come alive in our midst.
- C** Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 1:1, 20-28

When God began to create the heavens and the earth. And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the

sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Psalm 84:1-4

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

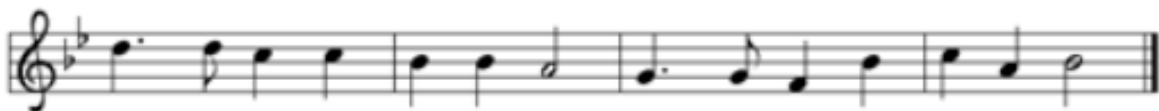
Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 21st chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 21:1-5

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately. This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

“Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

Hymn of the Day: ELW# 641

All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Refrain
Christ shall end di - vi - sions;
claim the faith of Je - sus;
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger;
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

P: The Lord be with you.

All : And also with you.

P: Let us pray. *(Collect for St. Francis)*

Most high, omnipotent good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy. O God, you have made us and all living things. You are even more wonderful than what you have made. We thank you for giving us these pets who bring us joy. As you take care of us, so also we ask your help that we might take care of those who trust us to look after them. By doing this, we share in your own love for all creation. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer of St. Francis (said in unison)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O, God, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

THE BLESSING OF EACH PET (INDIVIDUALLY)

P "May you be blessed in the Name of God who created you, and may you and (owner's name) enjoy life together with our God.

THE BLESSING PRAYER

P Most high, almighty Lord, our Creator, yours are the praise, the glory, the honor and all blessings! To you alone do all things belong. Be praised for giving us the animals, birds and fish which fill your world. May we think of you and thank you when we play with and care for our pets. Be praised for making us so happy to have our pets and to have them to play with. We ask you, Lord, that we may be good to our pets always, so that they may be happy also. Help us always to take care of them so that they will be healthy. O God, your world is wonderful.

May we all come into your even greater world of the kingdom of heaven where we shall see even more wonderful things and where we shall live and love for ever. This we ask to your eternal praise, and to our blessing. Amen.

Apostle's Creed

C 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

Each petition ends:

A Hear us, O God, C **Your mercy is great.**

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

God of every generation, Gracious Lord of love, we affirm our vital connection with all living creatures. Empower us to seek their welfare, intervening where needed, defending and tending your world with grace, compassion, and dignity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every creature, bless and protect the earth and all those who dwell within it. We give thanks for those who have helped us to see your Spirit in creation *especially Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church.* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every tribe and nation, restore peace to the world's conflict zones especially the United States, Palestine, Israel, and Ukraine, and shelter those who live within them. We pray especially for the safety of displaced people and refugees. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every comfort, you made us in your own image. Grant healing and relief to all who are sick or suffering *especially Milton, Mary Ellen, Mark, Benny, Diego, Kaiden, Shirley, Nick,*

Bob, Justin, Billy, Rosemary, and Rich. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every truth, you draw us nearer to you through your holy word. We give thanks for teachers of the faith *in Bible Study, English and Spanish Worship, and English Class.* Fill their hearts with your Spirit, that they inspire others with your truth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for our partner churches: Abiding Presence and Prince of Peace; we pray for our Bishop Christa Compton. We also pray for the concerns of this congregation: those who travel, those absent from worship, those celebrating birthdays especially Kaiden and Jaymie; and for those celebrating anniversaries; also for the people of God in this place and for other needs in our community. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

At this time, you may offer up prayers for loved ones, thanksgivings to God, or any other intercessions silently or aloud... *(Pause)* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every soul, you are the one who calls us home. We give thanks for all the saints who have been restored to perfect unity with you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

(PASTOR) Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE OFFERING

Offering Prayer

A Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

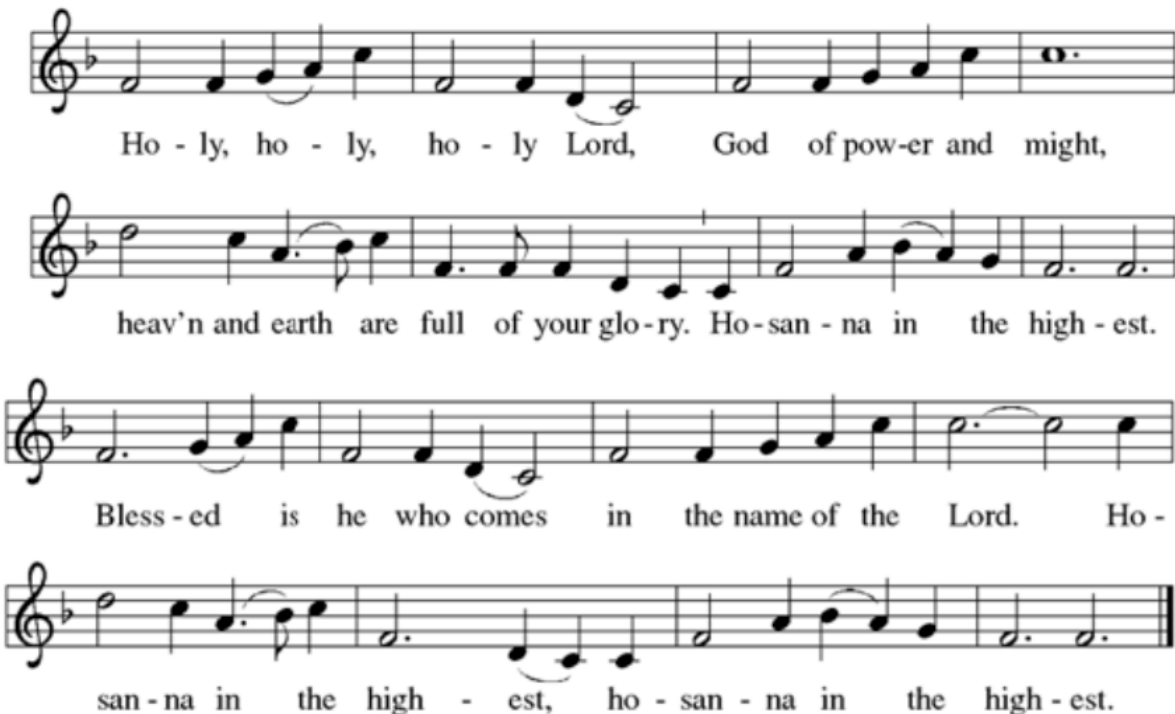
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

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

PREFACE

P 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:



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C Amen

Lord's Prayer

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C **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 kingdom, the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation

P Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

C **Amen.**

Distribution

Blessing

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace

C **Amen.**

Post Communion Blessing

(STAND)

P Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and
abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to
serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your
liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in
whose name we pray.

C Amen

Benediction

+Sending+

P The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

P The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all
circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C Amen.

P The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

C Amen

Sending Hymn ELW #839

elody

Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - es,
2 Oh, may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won-drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es;
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en,



who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Dismissal

A Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude