

**Pastors - The Under-Shepherds
of the Chief Shepherd**

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | York, Nebraska

July 10, 2022

SERIES THEME: GOD'S WORDS POSSESS GOD'S POWER

"Let there be light," God said (Genesis 1:3). God was not speaking a wistful wish into the darkness. He was declaring what would now be. "God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light." God speaks and reality results.

When we speak words, they are often meaningless. Sometimes, one's words are meaningless because they are spoken without true knowledge. Other times, one's words are meaningless because they were spoken insincerely. Still other times, one might make a sincere promise, but he lacks the ability to do what he said, making his promise meaningless. Words are often meaningless. But everything God says is meaningful. God speaks with absolute knowledge. God never lies. And God's words possess God's awesome power. Thus, it is God's words that determine our reality. It is God's words that establish our faith, transform our hearts and minds, and direct our lives along meaningful paths.

During the first half of the Church Year, we focused on the life of Christ. As we begin the second half of the Church Year, we turn our attention to the teachings of Christ... to the Son of God's words. We gather each week to let the Holy Spirit do the work Jesus promised he would do in the way Jesus promised he would do it—through his Word.

THEME OF THE DAY: CHRIST PROVIDES MINISTERS TO PROCLAIM HIS WORD

Christ has not only given us his powerful Word. In his grace, he gives us ministers who proclaim that Word to us in whatever ways we need at the time: words of comfort, words of instruction, or even words of rebuke. Those who are entrusted with the care of Jesus' flock are expected to shepherd that flock just as Jesus would. They humbly assume that privilege, not to proclaim their own ideas or opinions, but to speak Jesus' own words. They share Christ's words, not just when it is welcomed gladly by those who hear it, but also when it is not. Ministers carry out their calling, not because of what they might gain from the flock, but because of what the flock might gain from Jesus through them. God's words possess God's power. Therefore, God provides us with ministers to proclaim God's Word, so that God's kingdom might come powerfully among us.

Worship Leader
Organist/Pianist

Pastor Andrew Frey
Kathy Bremer

Acknowledgments

American Hymn Tunes from Christian Worship

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Hymn: 745 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

Tune: MISSIONARY HYMN



1 To God on high be glo - ry and peace to all the earth,
2 O Lamb of God ex - alt - ed, you take all sin a - way;



for God has shown his fa - vor in Je - sus' ho - ly birth!
ex - tend to us your mer - cy and hear us as we pray.



Al - might - y God and Fa - ther, our hum - ble thanks we bring;
With God the Ho - ly Spir - it, at God the Fa - ther's throne,



we wor-ship you, we bless you, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
you reign, O Christ, for - ev - er, for you are Lord a - lone!

Text: Michael D. Schultz

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THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have built your church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. Continue to send your messengers to preserve your people in true peace, that, by the preaching of your Word, your church may be kept free from all harm and danger; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Ezekiel 2:9-3:11

Then I looked, and I saw a hand stretched out toward me, and in it there was a rolled-up scroll. ¹⁰He unrolled it in front of me, and there was writing on both sides. Written on it was: Laments, Groaning, and Woe.

^{3:1}Then he said to me, "Son of man, eat what you have received. Eat this scroll, and then go, speak to the house of Israel." ²I opened my mouth, and he fed me the scroll.

³Then he said to me, "Son of man, feed your stomach and fill your belly with this scroll that I am giving you." I ate, and in my mouth it was sweet like honey.

⁴ He then said to me, "Son of man, go now to the house of Israel and speak my words to them. ⁵ For you are not being sent to a people who have incomprehensible speech or a difficult language, but you are being sent to the house of Israel. ⁶ Nor are you being sent to many peoples who have incomprehensible speech and difficult languages, whose words you cannot understand. Certainly, if I were to send you to such people, they would listen to you. ⁷ But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you because they are not willing to listen to me, because the whole house of Israel is hard-headed and hard-hearted. ⁸ Look, I have made your face just as hard as their faces and your forehead just as hard as their foreheads. ⁹ I have made your forehead like the hardest stone, harder than flint. Do not fear them, and do not be intimidated by their looks, for they are a rebellious house."

¹⁰ Then he said to me, "Son of man, receive into your heart all my words that I will speak to you, and hear them with your ears. ¹¹ Go now to the exiles, to your own people. You shall speak to them and say to them, 'This is what the LORD God says,' whether they listen or they do not."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading/Sermon Text

1 Peter 5:1-4

Therefore, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and as one who also shares in the glory that is about to be revealed, I appeal to the elders among you: ² Shepherd God's flock that is among you, serving as overseers, not grudgingly but willingly, as God desires,^[a] not because you are greedy for money but because you are eager to do it. ³ Do not lord it over those entrusted to your care, but be examples for the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive an unfading crown of glory.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 52:7

Refrain



Tone



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Gospel

Luke 10:1-12,16-20

After this, the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them out two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.

² He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. So ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest field. ³ Go your way. Look, I am sending you out as lambs among wolves. ⁴ Do not carry a money bag or traveler's bag or sandals. Do not greet anyone along the way. ⁵ Whenever you enter a house, first say, 'Peace be to this house.' ⁶ And if a peaceful person is there, your peace will rest on him, but if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Remain in that same house, eating and drinking what they give you, because the worker is worthy of his pay. Do not keep moving from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and they welcome you, eat what is set before you. ⁹ Heal the sick who are in the town and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near you.'

¹⁰ "But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹ 'Even the dust from your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this: The kingdom of God has come near.' ¹² I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom on that day than for that town.

¹⁶ Whoever listens to you listens to me. Whoever rejects you rejects me. And whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name!"

¹⁸ He told them, "I was watching Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ Look, I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy. And nothing will ever harm you. ²⁰ Nevertheless, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names have been written in heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day: 901 O Christians, Haste

Sermon Theme: Pastors - The Under-Shepherds of the Chief Shepherd

Stand

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Eternal God and Father, we thank you for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, and for fellowship with believers in our congregation and our synod.

Help us rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and use them faithfully.

Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, Lord Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

Awaken us to opportunities to proclaim your message of love.

Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

Silent prayer

Keep in your care those who are enduring chronic pain and incessant unhappiness, those enduring rejection and struggling with poverty, those mourning the loss of someone they loved. [Especially bless... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Bring healing and help and comfort and calm to everyone in distress.

Move us to act alone or join with others to provide help and support.

Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.

Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. Amen.

The offering is brought forward during the following hymn.

Offering Hymn: 716 O Christ, Who Called the Twelve

sts. 1, 4

THE SACRAMENT

Stand

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Tune: MISSIONARY HYMN



1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,

2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,



your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky,"
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!



Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!



in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.
“Ho - san - na in the high - est!” our grate - ful hearts pro-claim.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

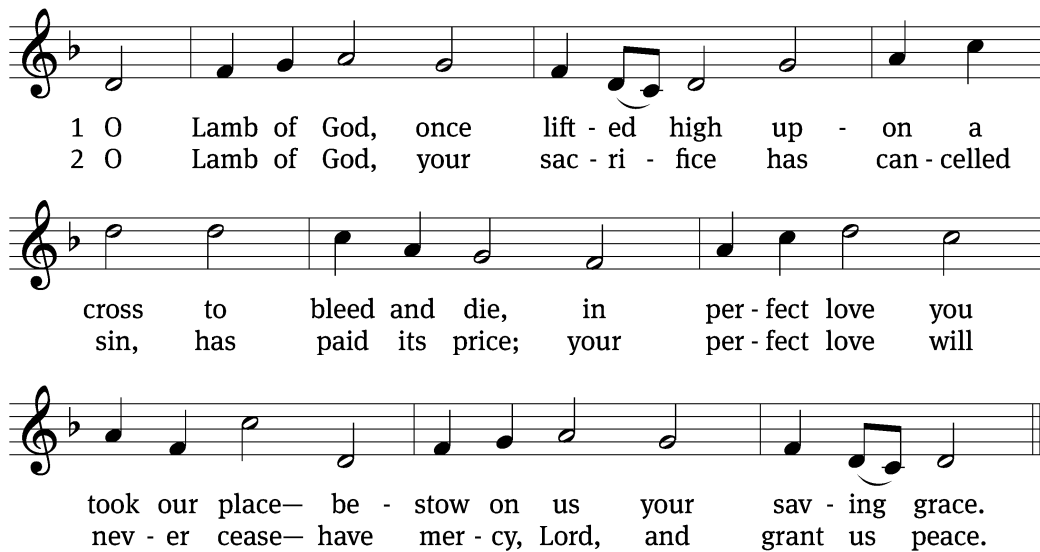
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

Tune: DISTRESS



1 O Lamb of God, once lift - ed high up - on a
2 O Lamb of God, your sac - ri - fice has can - celled

cross to bleed and die, in per - fect love you
sin, has paid its price; your per - fect love will

took our place— be - stow on us your sav - ing grace.
nev - er cease— have mer - cy, Lord, and grant us peace.

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Be seated

Distribution

Distribution Hymn: 670 I Come, O Savior, to Your Table

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
Amen.

Hymn: 551 Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 10:30 AM Worship

Sunday: 10:30 AM Worship

The second NELHS workday is coming up on **July 11th** from 8:00 am to 4:00 p.m. If you haven't contacted Cameron Handy about coming, please email him at chandy@nelhs.org or call the office at 402-728-5236.

There will be choir practices after church on **July 10th and 17th** to prepare for the installation service. There will also be a joint choir practice ahead of the installation service on July 17 at 3:30.

The installation of Justin Wilkens as Pastor at Bethel Lutheran and Grace Lutheran will be held at Bethel Lutheran Church in York on **July 17th** at 4:00 p.m. There will be a potluck fellowship after the service. **Members of Grace and Bethel** are asked to bring their favorite dish to share. Paper products and drinks will be provided.

TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL REQUEST

It is always a trial for me to make these requests of our families, members, and churches, especially as everyone is struggling with higher costs; however, at this time, I need to make you aware that Trinity needs additional financial assistance.



Throughout the year, the offerings to Trinity go up and down. Currently, we are at a low point in the funds we have available. If you are able and moved to make an additional offering to Trinity, it would greatly assist us in our ministry, the upkeep of our school, and the salary of our Called Workers.

If you are not able to support Trinity with extra financial gifts, we ask that you remember Trinity in your prayers to a God who can do infinitely more than we can ask for. I thank you all in advance for your gifts of time, talent, treasure, and prayer.

You can reach Richard Owen III with any offers of assistance by email at trinitywacoprincipal@gmail.com or by phone at 989-414-0063.

CONNECTION CARDS: Visitors or members with changes in contact information, please fill out a connection card online at www.bethelyork.com on the member connect tab or scan this code.



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Personal assisted listening devices are available.

Given to the Lord: Attendance: Worship 72, Offerings: Operating: Needed 2,583.54, Given 1,380.00, NELHS \$110.00 and Trinity \$240.00. **To God be the glory!**

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