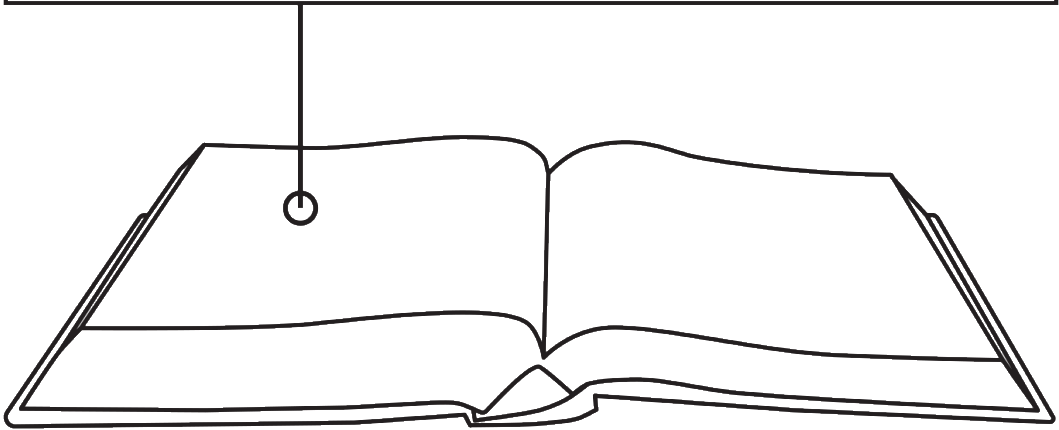


# Define: Christian



**THE CHRISTIAN TRUSTS GOD TO PROVIDE**

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

# **BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH** | York, Nebraska

*August 6, 2023*

## **SERIES THEME: DEFINE CHRISTIAN**

Ask ten different people to define Christian and you may get ten different answers. One might say, "A Christian is someone who believes in Jesus." Okay. But the demons believe that Jesus exists and is the Son of God. So is that definition adequate? Another person might have a more negative view. He says, "A Christian is someone who believes he is better than others." Is that completely false? And if you aren't humble, does that mean you aren't Christian? In our next worship series Christ himself defines the term Christian and describes what Christians do. We will be struck by how often we do not do all those things. There likely are times when people could look at our behavior and assume we were unbelievers. Yet throughout this series Jesus will demonstrate that ultimately a Christian is one who runs to Christ for forgiveness precisely because he has failed to live like what he is—a Christian. As we receive the mercy of Christ, it moves us to strive with all our being to better fit Christ's beautiful definition, doing all the things Jesus says that Christians do.

## **THEME OF THE DAY: THE CHRISTIAN TRUSTS GOD TO PROVIDE**

The hardest times to trust in God are the times we need him most. It's easy to trust God when your job is great, your health is fine, your relationships are strong, your family is well. It's easy to trust God when the sun is shining, but what happens when your life is suddenly overshadowed by dark days? When tragedy or conflict affect us, we may wonder if God continues to care and provide for us. At those times the Christian focuses on certain foundational facts. The Christian was chosen, predestined, and adopted as God's dear child. God has provided the Christian with innumerable spiritual blessings and promises the Christian an eternity of glory, peace, and joy. If we look at those spiritual blessing God provides to us, how could we doubt that he will, at the right time, give us everything we truly need? The Christian trusts God to provide.

**Worship Leader**  
**Organist/Pianist**

Pastor Justin Wilkens  
Quinton Corwin

## **Acknowledgments**

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House. Scripture quotations The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) copyright © 2017 The Wartburg Project/NPH. All rights reserved.  
[www.wartburgproject.org](http://www.wartburgproject.org)

## **The Service, Setting Two (page 172 in Christian Worship 21)**

### **Hymn: 708 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

*Stand*

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

**Amen.**

### **Confession**

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father,**

**we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.**

**We have done those things that we should not have done,**

**and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,**

**according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Lord, Have Mercy**

In the morning, O Lord, I call to you;  
be merciful to me and hear my prayer.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

# Glory Be to God on High

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



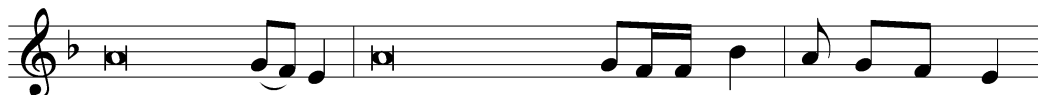
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



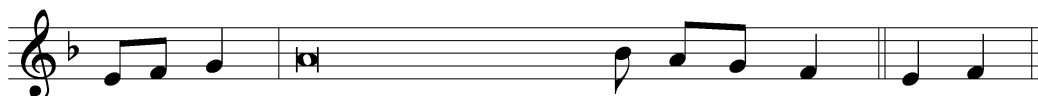
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## **THE WORD**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and willing to give far more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask except through the merits and mediation of 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**

*1 Kings 17:1–6*

*Elijah told a wicked king that God would send years of drought and famine. In those dark times, the Lord provided food for his faithful prophet.*

### **Elijah Announces a Great Drought**

<sup>1</sup> Elijah from Tishbe, one of the settlers in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As surely as the Lord lives, the God of Israel before whom I stand, there will be no dew or rain during the coming years, except at my word."

### **Elijah Fed by Ravens**

<sup>2</sup> Then the word of the Lord came to him: <sup>3</sup> "Leave this place and turn east. Hide yourself by the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. <sup>4</sup> You will drink from the stream, and I will command the ravens to provide for you there."

<sup>5</sup> So Elijah went and did just as the Lord had said. He lived in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. <sup>6</sup> The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and in the evening, and he drank from the stream.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day: 136C We Thank You, LORD, for You Are Good



1 We thank you, LORD, for you are good; *your*  
 2 You, Lord, a - lone did won - drous deeds; *your*  
 3 You made the star - ry lights to rise; *your*  
 4 You res - cue us from ev - 'ry foe; *your*



*mer - cy lives for - ev - er.* Your kind - ness from of  
*mer - cy lives for - ev - er.* From you a - lone all  
*mer - cy lives for - ev - er.* Your glo - ries shine in  
*mer - cy lives for - ev - er.* You feed your crea - tures



old has stood; *your love will keep us ev - er.*  
 good pro - ceeds; *your love will keep us ev - er.*  
 ra - diant skies; *your love will keep us ev - er.*  
 here be - low; *your love will keep us ev - er.*



O God of gods, O sov - 'reign Lord, we bless you  
 Your wis - dom made the heav'ns to be; you formed the  
 Your glow - ing moon en - hanc - es night; your sun brings  
 We give you thanks, Cre - a - tor, Lord; we sing the



now with one ac - cord: *your love is ev - er - last - ing.*  
 earth a - bove the sea: *your love is ev - er - last - ing.*  
 forth each morn - ing's light: *your love is ev - er - last - ing.*  
 glo - ries of your Word; *your love is ev - er - last - ing.*

Tune: Severus Gastorius

Text: © 1985 John G. Dunn. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 713578

Tune: Public domain

## Second Reading

*Ephesians 1:3–10*

*Before the world was formed, God chose us to be his beloved children. This is why we can trust God to provide.*

### **Praise for Spiritual Blessings in Christ**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

<sup>4</sup> He did this when he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, so that we would be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ. He did this in accordance with the good purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> and for the praise of his glorious grace, which he has graciously given us in the one he loves. <sup>7</sup> In him we also have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in keeping with the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup> which he lavished on us in all wisdom and insight. <sup>9</sup> He made known to us the mystery of his will in keeping with his good purpose, which he planned in Christ. <sup>10</sup> This was to be carried out when the time had fully come, in order to bring all things together in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

### **Gospel Acclamation**

*Romans 8:32*

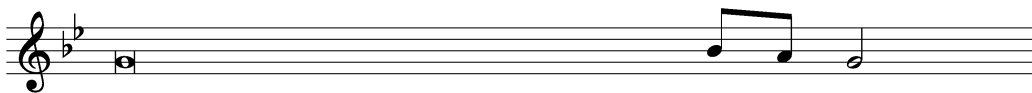


*Refrain*



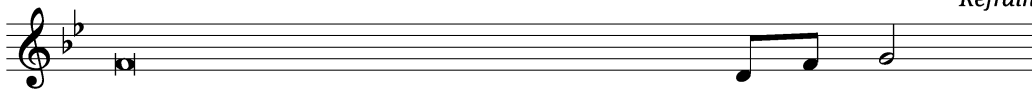
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Tone*



He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—

*Refrain*



how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Tune: © 2010 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 713578

## **Gospel**

*Matthew 14:13–21*

*Jesus graciously and abundantly provides for the needs of the great multitude.*

### **Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand**

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place to be alone. When the crowds heard this, they followed him on foot from the towns.

<sup>14</sup> When Jesus got out of the boat, he saw a large crowd. He had compassion on them and healed their sick. <sup>15</sup> When evening came, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place and the hour is already late. Send the crowds away, so that they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves.”

<sup>16</sup> But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

<sup>17</sup> They told him, “We have here only five loaves and two fish.”

<sup>18</sup> “Bring them here to me,” he replied. <sup>19</sup> Then he instructed the people to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fish. After looking up to heaven, he blessed them. He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples. The disciples gave the food to the people. <sup>20</sup> They all ate and were filled. They picked up twelve basketfuls of what was left over from the broken pieces. <sup>21</sup> Those who ate were about five thousand men, not even counting women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

**Hymn of the Day: 603 All Praise to God Who Reigns Above**



**Sermon:** 1 Kings 17:1-6

*Stand*

## **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **Prayer of the Church**

*Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.*

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ.  
Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

**Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.**

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

**Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.**

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

**Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.**

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

**Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.**

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

**Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.**

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. [Pour out your special blessing on . . . *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

**Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**Offering**

**Offering Hymn: 517 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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 the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. 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: 509 Feed Your Children, God Most Holy**

## **NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Today:** 10:30 AM Worship

**Sunday:** 10:30 AM Worship and Communion

### **Council Meeting August 20th**

Bethel will have its next council meeting on August 20th following our worship service.

### **NELHS Opening Service**

NELHS will have its opening service for the 2023-2024 school year on August 13th at 4:00 PM.

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



Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bethelyork](http://www.facebook.com/bethelyork)



Personal assisted listening devices are available.

**Given to the Lord:** Attendance: Worship 63, Offerings: Operating: Needed 2,920.37, Given \$1,535.25. **To God be the glory!**

800 N East Ave | York, NE | [www.bethelyork.com](http://www.bethelyork.com)