

Today we meet Queen Vashti, a woman who found the courage to say “no” when she was treated as something less than a beloved child of God. Her story invites us to consider the moments when faith calls us to stand with dignity, to protect the worth of others, and to trust that God is with us even when we feel alone. As we worship today, may we remember that our value is not something we earn—it is a gift God has already given us.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

Gathering Music	“Chapel Bells”	organ
Welcome & Announcements		
Confession and Forgiveness		
Gathering Song	“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”	ELW 618
Greeting		
Prayer of the Day		

WORD

Bible Reading	Esther 1-2:17	
Children’s Hymn	“This is the Day”	on screen
Children’s Word	Red Light, Green Light	
Gospel Acclamation	“Alleluia”	ELW p. 205
Gospel	John 8:1-11	
Sermon	Faces of Our Faith: Queen Vashti	
Hymn of the Day	“Canticle of the Turning”	ELW 723
Apostles’ Creed		
Prayers of Intercession		

MEAL

Gathering of Gifts		
Offering Prayer		
Sacrament of Holy Communion		
Words of Institution		
The Lord’s Prayer		ELW p. 154
Distribution		
Post-Communion Blessing		

SENDING

Blessing		
Sending Song	“Lead On, O King Eternal!”	ELW 805
Dismissal		
Sending Music	“Triumphal Chorus”	organ



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VENMO

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Rochester



Worship Participants

Preacher:

Rev. Lisa Hawe

Lector: Kathy Bolin

Organist: Jim Bahler

Minister of Music & Worship:

Brock A. Besse



SUBSCRIBE

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If you are not receiving our text messages already, you can subscribe by texting

“**Subscribe**” and your name to our number **507-288-6430**.

‘Prayground’ for Children

Our worship services offer a ‘Prayground’ towards the back of the Sanctuary as the perfect place for families with small children to grow together in faith, with the freedom to move, explore, and worship in a supportive environment.

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

Gathering Music	“Chapel Bells”	organ
	“Cornerstone”	organ & piano
Welcome & Announcements		
Call to Worship	“In This Very Room”	Jim & Linda Van Soest, Laurel Oetjen, Sue Jenkins
Confession and Forgiveness		
Gathering Song	“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”	ELW 618
Greeting		
Kyrie		ELW p. 203
Canticle of Praise	“Glory be to God”	ELW p. 204
Prayer of the Day		

WORD

Musical Offering	“People Need the Lord”	Jim & Linda Van Soest, Laurel Oetjen, Sue Jenkins
Bible Reading	Esther 1-2:17	
Children’s Hymn	“This is the Day”	on screen
Children’s Word	Red Light, Green Light	
Gospel Acclamation	“Alleluia”	ELW p. 205
Gospel	John 8:1-11	
Sermon	Faces of Our Faith: Queen Vashti	
Hymn of the Day	“Canticle of the Turning”	ELW 723
Apostles’ Creed		
Prayers of Intercession		
Gathering of Gifts	“Like a Morning Glorious”	organ & piano
Offering Prayer		
The Lord’s Prayer		

SENDING

Mission Trip Sendoff		
Blessing		
Sending Song	“Lead On, O King Eternal!”	ELW 805
Dismissal		
Sending Music	“Triumphal Chorus”	organ



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Worship Leaders:
Rev. Anjanette Bandel
Rev. Michael Mandsager
Lector: Paul Wittmer
Organist: Jim Bahler
Minister of Music & Worship:
Brock A. Besse
Sign Language Interpreter:
Melissa Almer



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INFORMATION



WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- **Saturdays:** 6 pm (Traditional worship—spoken liturgy | Holy Communion)
- **Sundays:** 9 am* (Traditional worship—sung liturgy)
10:10 am** Gate of Life (Contemporary service | Holy Communion)
*9 am in-person worship offers an ASL interpreter and is Live-streamed through our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/user/RochBethelLutheran](https://www.youtube.com/user/RochBethelLutheran)
**On the 2nd Sunday of the month (June through August), join our blended (Traditional and Gate of Life) worship service in the courtyard.
- **Videos of our services** are posted on our website to be viewed at any time: www.bethellutheran.com/worshiponline

HOLY COMMUNION

All the baptized believing that Jesus is truly present in the bread & wine are welcome to take communion (including visitors). Holy Communion is offered during our Saturday worship at 6 pm and Gate of Life Contemporary service on Sunday at 10:10 am each week. Our 9 am Sunday services offer Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

- A looping system is installed for those with compatible hearing aids.
- Assisted listening devices are available, please ask one of the ushers.
- Parenting room at the back left of the sanctuary; nursery staffed during the 9 am worship and open for parents and children during other services.

3 OF THE MANY THINGS HAPPENING AT BETHEL

1. **The Neighborhood Outreach Team is collecting donations** for homeless at-risk (youth ages 16-24) through Lutheran Social Services. Please review the donation choices on the Christmas tree in the Narthex. Then return the purchases to the designated bin. Neighborhood Outreach will do the rest! Monetary donations are also accepted either online (<https://bit.ly/donateonline-bethel>) or payable in the office. Thank you for your generosity!
2. **Youth Mission Trip – July 18–24** Please keep our Bethel youth and adult leaders in your prayers as they travel to Louisville, KY, for a Youthworks mission trip. They will serve alongside local partner organizations, helping neighbors meet everyday needs while building stronger friendships and sharing the love of Jesus through serving and being served. Pray for safe travels, good health, and meaningful experiences for Amelia Boline, Audrey Clark, Lauren Danielson, Lora Dettmann, Grace Haase, Jack Johnson, Reece Kroening, Nolin Lien, Stella Link, Ethan Lutzi, Calum Majerus, Trinity Rafdahl-Northouse, David Stansfield, Stephanie Stansfield, Tom Johnson, Kailea Mattheis, and Krista Lutzi.
3. Each summer month, we will have one Sunday where our CYF team will provide opportunities for family-friendly activities after worship in the courtyard from 9:45 am to noon. **Save the date for July 26th – Christmas in July:** Celebrate the most wonderful time of the year – in flip flops! We will have a living nativity with farm animals and fun activities to celebrate Jesus' birth in the sunshine!

To learn about more events subscribe to our weekly eNews by emailing us to info@bethellutheran.com or pick up a printed version through our **"Bethel Connection Box"** located by the entrance of our building.

ARE YOU NEW AT BETHEL?

We're glad you're here! Please stop by the Welcome Desk for more information about our vibrant Bethel church family.

CHILDREN'S NOISY OFFERING


Our children offerings will be directed to support **Food for Kidz**


CONTACT

Find information about Bethel & upcoming events:
www.bethellutheran.com

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To activate your Bethel Connect account please email us to info@bethellutheran.com

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810 Third Ave SE | Rochester, MN 55904 | 507-288-6430

- Worship Participants -

Preacher: Rev. Lisa Hawe

Worship Leaders: Rev. Anjanette Bandel
Michele Nyman

Piano: Jim Bahler

Minister of Music & Worship: Brock Besse

Lector: Sue Christian

Technical Support: Jim Weaver

Children's Noisy Offering:

Our children offerings will be directed to support Food 4 Kidz.



3 of the Many Things Happening at Bethel

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810 Third Ave SE, Rochester, MN 55904 | P: 507-288-6430 | bethellutheran.com



WELCOME!

Sunday, July 12th, 2026 | 10:10 am

- 7th Sunday After Pentecost -



Today we meet Queen Vashti, a woman who found the courage to say “no” when she was treated as something less than a beloved child of God. Her story invites us to consider the moments when faith calls us to stand with dignity, to protect the worth of others, and to trust that God is with us even when we feel alone. As we worship today, may we remember that our value is not something we earn—it is a gift God has already given us.



Join us on August 9th at 10:10 am
for our last outdoor service of the summer!

Gathering Music "Chapel Bells" Piano

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship "In This Very Room" Linda & Jim Van Soest, Sue Jenkins, Laurel Oetjen

Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Restore us to dwell in your forgiveness and peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

P: You Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer" ELW 618

- 1 Guide me ever, great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your pow'rful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore, feed me now and evermore.
- 2 Open now the crystal fountain where the healing waters flow; let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer, shield me with your mighty arm, shield me with your mighty arm.
- 3 When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side. Songs and praises, songs and praises, I will raise forevermore, I will raise forevermore.

but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Mission Trip Sendoff

Blessing

P: God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit † bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Song

"Praise"

Gate of Life Band

Intro

Let everything that has breath Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord

Verse 1

I'll praise in the valley Praise on the mountain I'll praise when I'm sure Praise when I'm doubting I'll praise when outnumbered Praise when surrounded 'Cause praise is the water My enemies drown in

Chorus

As long as I'm breathing I've got a reason to Praise the Lord oh my soul Praise the Lord oh my soul I won't be quiet My God is alive How could I keep it inside Praise the Lord oh my soul

Verse 2

I'll praise when I feel it And I'll praise when I don't I'll praise 'cause I know You're still in control 'Cause my praise is a weapon It's more than a sound My praise is the shout That brings Jericho down *Chorus*

Bridge

I'll praise 'cause You're sovereign Praise 'cause You reign Praise 'cause You rose and defeated the grave I'll praise 'cause You're faithful Praise 'cause You're true Praise 'cause there's nobody greater than You

Dismissal

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

Sending Music

"Praise"

Gate of Life Band



Prayers of Intercession

Gathering of Gifts

Thank you for your support of God's work through Bethel.

There are many ways to offer your gifts, including the offering plates:

-Mail your weekly/monthly giving to us

-Text "BETHELGIVES" to 73256 or via Venmo: @Bethel-Lutheran-Rochester

-Visit our website bethellutheran.com and click 'Give Online'



Offering Song

"In The Sanctuary"

Gate of Life Band

Verse 1

We lift our hands in the sanctuary

We lift our hands to give You the glory

We lift our hands to give You the praise

And we will praise You for the rest of our days

Yes we will praise You for the rest of our days

Verse 2

We clap our hands in the sanctuary

We clap our hands to give You the glory

We clap our hands to give You the praise

And we will praise You for the rest of our days

Yes we will praise You for the rest of our days

Chorus

Jesus we give You the praise

Emmanuel we lift up Your name

Heavenly Father coming Messiah

And we will praise You for the rest of our days

Offering Prayer

P: Loving God,

C: we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

**Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can experience your abundance.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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,**



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.



Prayer of the Day

Musical Offering

"People Need the Lord"

Linda & Jim Van Soest,
Sue Jenkins, Laurel Oetjen

First Reading

Esther 1-2:17

Narrator: A reading from the book of Esther.

In the days of King Ahasuerus, who ruled over one hundred twenty-seven provinces from India to Ethiopia, the king gave a great banquet for all his officials and servants. The leaders of the empire gathered before him. For many days the king displayed the wealth of his kingdom, the riches of his royal glory, and the splendor of his greatness. There were couches of gold and silver, decorations of fine cloth, and everything was done to show the power and majesty of the king. Drinks were served in abundance. The wine flowed freely, and the king commanded that each person should be allowed to drink as much as they wished. At the same time, Queen Vashti gave a banquet for the women in the royal palace. On the seventh day, when the king was merry with wine, he commanded the seven eunuchs who served him:

King: Go to Queen Vashti. Bring her before me wearing her royal crown, so that I may show the people and the officials her beauty.

Narrator: But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command.

Congregation: Queen Vashti refused.

Narrator: The king became enraged, and his anger burned within him. Then the king spoke with the wise men who knew the laws and customs of the kingdom.

King: What shall be done to Queen Vashti because she has refused to obey my command?

Official: Queen Vashti has wronged not only the king but also all the people of the empire. For the news of what she has done will spread throughout the kingdom. Other women will hear of it, and they will no longer respect their husbands. If it pleases the king, let a royal decree be written that Vashti may never again come before the king, and let her royal position be given to another.

Narrator: This advice pleased the king and his officials, and the decree was sent throughout the empire. After these things, when the anger of King Ahasuerus had cooled, he remembered Vashti and what she had done. Then the king's attendants said:

Official: Let beautiful young women from throughout the empire be gathered for the king. Let them be prepared, and let the woman who pleases the king become queen instead of Vashti.

Narrator: This pleased the king, and he did so. Now there was a Jewish man in the city of Susa named Mordecai. He had been carried away from Jerusalem with the exiles taken by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, also called Esther. She had neither father nor mother, and Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter. Esther was beautiful and graceful. When the king's command was announced, many young women were gathered into the palace, and Esther was taken there also. Esther pleased those who cared for her and found favor with them. Mordecai had instructed Esther not to reveal that she was Jewish or tell about her family.

When Esther's turn came, she was brought before King Ahasuerus.

The king was more pleased with Esther than with all the other women.

He placed the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

N: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Children's Song

"This is the Day"

Verse 1

This is the day,
(this is the day)
that the Lord has made,
(that the Lord has made.)

This is the day that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

We will rejoice,
(we will rejoice)
and be glad in it,
(and be glad in it.)

This is the day,
(this is the day)
that the Lord has made.



Children's Word

Red Light, Green Light

Gospel

John 8:1-11

P: The holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

while Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened

up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Faces of our Faith: Queen Vashti

Hymn of the Day

"Who You Say I Am"

Gate of Life Band

Verse 1

Who am I that the highest King Would welcome me
I was lost but He brought me in Oh His love for me
Oh His love for me

Bridge

I am chosen not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me not against me
I am who You say I am *Chorus*

Chorus

Who the Son sets free Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God Yes I am
In my Father's house There's a place for me
I'm a child of God Yes I am

Verse 2

Free at last He has ransomed me, His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me *Chorus*

Apostles' Creed

**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.**