

Prayer of Confession—Bethel Baptist Church

August 9, 2026

Scripture Reading:

(Psalm 80:0-19 ESV) ⁰ To the choirmaster: according to Lilies. A Testimony. Of Asaph, a Psalm. ¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth. ² Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might and come to save us! ³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved! ⁴ O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure. ⁶ You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves. ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved! ⁸ You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. ⁹ You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land. ¹⁰ The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches. ¹¹ It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River. ¹² Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit? ¹³ The boar from the forest

ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it. ¹⁴ Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine, ¹⁵ the stock that your right hand planted, and for the son whom you made strong for yourself. ¹⁶ They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your face! ¹⁷ But let your hand be on the man of your right hand, the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself! ¹⁸ Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life, and we will call upon your name! ¹⁹ Restore us, O LORD God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Prayer of Confession:

Indeed, O Lord, you are our Shepherd.

You are the one who cares for your sheep.

You are the one who protects us and provides for us.

But we often forget that these good things come from you.

We sometimes think that we do these things without any assistance from you, O Lord.

Forgive us and be merciful to us, our Shepherd and Savior.

Even in our confession, when we cry out to you and plead for you to hear us, we find ourselves in these situations

because we did not listen to your Word. And so we find ourselves in a dilemma: Do we give up, or do we seek you? We know that we have nowhere to turn but you.

O God, give ear to our plea and restore us.

We do not like how uncomfortable it feels when we fail. The psalmist asked on behalf of Israel that you would restore them and cause your face to shine upon them. And we confess that sometimes we want things restored and back to normal, but we do not really want your presence.

We just want to feel good about ourselves so that we can enjoy our things.

O Christ, come and rescue us from ourselves.

We need our marriages restored, but we want to sidestep repentance.

We need our families restored, but we want it without humility.

We need our church restored and revived, but we avoid submission.

We need our joy restored, but we prefer not to be holy.

We need your blessing upon us, but we are okay if you are not there, O Lord.

Do what you must, O God, to shepherd our hearts back to you.

If you do not save us, we will not be saved.

As Pastor Brandon embarks on this series of messages about church membership, teach us and expose the ways in which we have deceived ourselves or been deceived.

We can be here in this building while our hearts are consumed with a thousand other things. We come to get rather than to give, and the problem is that to get, one must give. Our plan doesn't work.

We have some who are on the verge of burnout because others are not willing to serve. We have some who are willing to serve, but we have not followed up with them or helped them get plugged in.

We have something against someone here, but we hope that time will heal it instead of talking through it.

We are often too easily hurt, and we hang on to small and insignificant things. We sometimes fail to give the benefit of the doubt to our fellow brothers and sisters, but instead impose the worst possible scenario upon them.

Lord, let us be a people who come together in the gospel, in the unity of the faith once for all given to the saints.

O Good Shepherd of your church, a people who have been bought with a price, be merciful to us.

Help us.

Bring reconciliation.

Bring restoration.

May we see the truth, and may the truth set us free.

Give us a deep love for one another.

Let us take notice of visitors and invite them into our lives.

Let us be a people who do the one another's well.

May we not be selfish, but glad servants who die to self and live for Christ.

Give us a heart for the salvation of our neighbors and the nations.

Raise up from among us those who will take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

O Lord, come and save us!

There are among us this very day those who are struggling in some very significant ways. They are trying to fight battles against sin, the flesh, the world, and the enemy alone.

This was never meant to be fought alone.

In your divine providence, cause us to cross paths this morning. Make us willing to love one another and help one another walk through these things.

We gather for many purposes, but may we be a people who help each other cross the finish line, trusting Jesus.

And help those who have been waiting for someone to ask them to push forward and ask someone for help.

O God of all providence, do the work that only you can do to bring these things about.

We are your sheep.

We often wander off.

We are your vine.

We often need pruning.

We are broken.

We need your restoration.

We need you, O God.

Help us to stop hiding.

Give us grace to confess.

Let us give our sins and failures to you.

There is forgiveness for those who repent.
Help us to repent.

O Lord, may we come to Christ and know that our sins have
been nailed to the cross, and we bear them no more.

Give us more grace.
May we continue to long for you and your presence.

Come, Lord Jesus, and rescue us, we pray.

In Christ's name, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

(Psalm 32:5 ESV) I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did
not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my
transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of
my sin. *Selah*