



**BE PATIENT UNTIL THE COMING OF THE LORD.
JAMES 5:7**

3rd Sunday in Advent ~ December 11, 2016

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

5110 Grand Avenue, Gurnee, Illinois 60031 – (847) 244-9647

Pastor Ben Squires

Cell phone: 224-419-5519 or email: pastor@bethelgurnee.org

Website: www.BethelGurnee.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. for Advent and Sundays 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Holy Communion: 1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday of the month

Becky Lanzito & Karen Leicht - Organists, Ann Souza - Music Director,

Mandi Stilson – Choir/New Music Accompanist

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We are pleased you chose to be with us in worship today, and pray the Lord blesses you as he has blessed us with your presence. Our goal is to help people find the right place for them to hear God's word and serve His mission. We'd love to support you in that spiritual journey. Please take a moment to complete an attendance card and place it in the Offering plate or give to an usher. This card will help us connect with you.

NURSERY

We have two rooms available for your use. When the service is in the sanctuary, the nursery is down the hall just past the restrooms. If the service is held in the gym, the nursery is in the youth room at the far end of the gym.

SERVING TODAY

8:00 a.m.

Elder: Mike Bandman
Comm/Asst. Elder: Matt Messmer
Acolytes: Nathan Stutzman, Katie Kreamer
Ushers: JJ Jones, Sandy Lahera, Dave Hoffmeister
Lay Readers: Nicole Kreamer, Warren Regnier
Greeters: Plapp Family, Chris Mason
Fellowship: Brazda Family
Dec. Altar Guild: Kathy Schwartz
Dec. Counters: David & Cheryl Ross

10:45 a.m.

Randy Gifford
Paul DeLassus
Tanner Swanson, Jacob Herstowski
John Schultz, Bill Ratzburg
Jose Rayos, David Ziegler
Gene & Ellen Bartelt, George Bruszer

Sheila Bunnell

ALTAR FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:

Craig Johnsen in memory of his wife, Donna J. Wheeler Johnsen,
Monte and Nancy Stoltzman in celebration of their 37th wedding anniversary, and
The Freehling family in memory of Jann's Dad's birthday.

ADVENT PROPHETS

This service draws from readings often used for the weeks of Advent, the Old Testament prophets who pointed to the first Advent of Jesus, His birth, and His Second Advent still to come.

Entrance Words and Invocation

based on Jeremiah 33:14-16

P: “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the LORD.

C: When He will fulfill the promise He made to all of His people.

P: In those days and at that time

the LORD will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David.

C: That Branch is a son of David. That Branch is Jesus, the Son of God.

P: The Branch shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

**C: In those days the LORD’s people will be saved
and His Church will dwell securely.**

P: And this is the name by which the Church will be called:

C: The LORD is our righteousness.

P: What does that name mean?

**C: We, His people, are righteous through His righteousness.
We are holy because He makes us holy through His Son.**

P: Let us remember our baptisms,

when the Lord became our righteousness...

in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

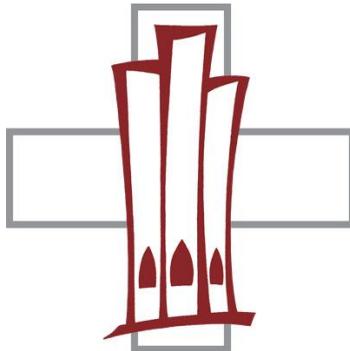
C: Amen!

Opening Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

LSB 515

You’ll find the hymn at the back of this bulletin. See page 12.



Preparation for God's Word

based on Malachi 3:1-7b

P: "Behold, I send my messenger

and he will prepare the way before me," says the Lord.

C: This is John the Baptist who announced that the Messiah is Jesus.

P: Shall we rejoice that the LORD has sent His messenger,

that the Messiah Jesus has come into our midst?

C: Yes, we shall rejoice; but our sin causes us to fear His coming.

P: The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.

**C: But who can endure the day of his coming,
and who can stand when he appears?**

For he is like a refiner's fire

burning away the worthless material in us.

**He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver,
and he will purify us from all our sin.**

P: And the LORD declares to you today

that His mercies are new every morning. He says:

"I the LORD do not change;

therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

From the days of your fathers

you have turned aside from my statutes

and have not kept them.

Return to me, and I will return to you,"

says the LORD of hosts.

Your LORD has drawn you back to Himself

through His Son, Jesus.

You have returned to the LORD

through the work of the Holy Spirit.

You have returned and find forgiveness for all of your sins

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

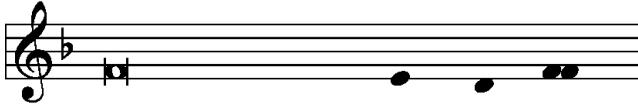
C: Amen.

P: And this is the name by which the Church will be called:

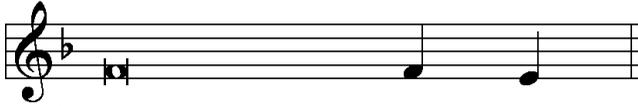
C: The LORD is our righteousness. Amen.

Versicles

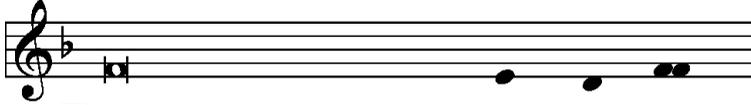
(Advent)



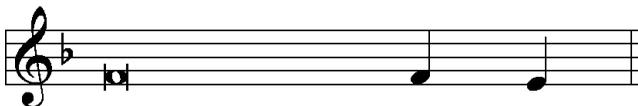
L The Spirit and the Church cry out:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.



L All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.



L The whole cre - a - tion pleads:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.

Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *Amen.*

Anthem**“Father, Long Your People Waited”****Adult Choir**

- Use the anthem’s music and words to help you to meditate on God’s Word and His truth for you today. Maintain this as meditative time.

Verse 1

Father long Your people waited
 Searching for the proper time
 Yearning for the Lord's appearing
 Watching ever for a sign
 Through the mists of time they saw him
 With the Holy Spirit's aid
 Told the glory of His coming
 He who earth and heaven made

Verse 2

Prophets told His kingly station
 Spoke His honor
 And his praise
 Seers revealed His death and suff'ring
 Powers and princedom to amaze
 Praise the Father
 Praise the Spirit
 God of future years and past
 Praise to Him who came from heaven
 When the time had come at last CCLI Song # 832844

Old Testament Reading**Isaiah 35:1–10 (ESV)**

- ¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
 the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.
 The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
 They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.
- ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart,
 “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance,
 with the recompense of God.
 He will come and save you.”
- ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
 For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;
 in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
 the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
- ⁸And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
 the unclean shall not pass over it.
 It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
 even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.
- ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
 they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2–15 (ESV)

²Now when John [the Baptist] heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to [Jesus], “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.”

¹¹“Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Children’s Message

& Recognition of Redeemer Lutheran, Waukegan

Redeemer helped daughter Bethel as a new congregation in 1966, and in thanksgiving for this on our 50th Anniversary, we are giving \$500 to Redeemer. They have committed to use this gift towards the efforts of our Circuit churches to develop ways to support Hispanic ministry in our area.



Bethel Lutheran Church
1966-2016

Video Presentation:

School for Missionaries at Iglesia San Pablo (LCMS), Aurora, IL

Epistle (New Testament Letter)

James 5:7-11 (ESV)

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn of the Day

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LSB 338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Sermon

"Patience Now and Later"

James 5:7-11

Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.—And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

Offering & Prayer Requests

In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

Offertory

Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious

LSB 548 sts. 1, 3



1 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, vic - to - rious! Thanks to Thee, O
3 For the joy Thine ad - vent gave me, For Thy ho - ly,



Lord of Life! Death hath now no pow - er o'er us,
pre - cious Word; For Thy Bap - tism, which doth save me,



Thou hast con - quered in the strife. Thanks be - cause Thou didst a -
For Thy blest Com - mu - nion board; For Thy death, the bit - ter



rise And hast o - pened par - a - dise! None can ful - ly
scorn, For Thy res - ur - rec - tion morn, Lord, I thank Thee



sing the glo - ry Of the res - ur - rec - tion sto - ry.
and ex - tol Thee, And in heav'n I shall be - hold Thee.

Prayers

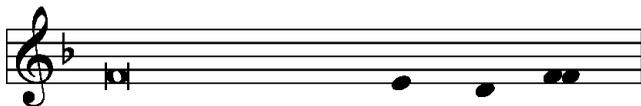
The Lord's Prayer

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

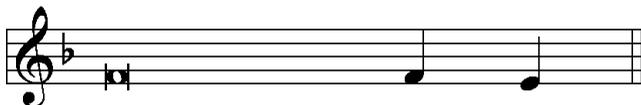
All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Versicles

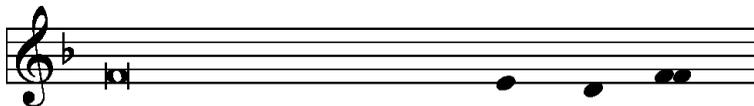
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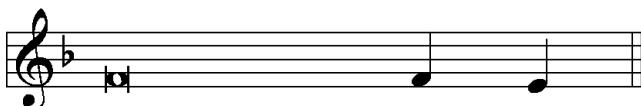
L The Spirit and the Church cry out:



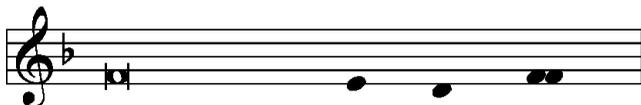
C Come, Lord Je - sus.



L All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.



L The whole cre - a - tion pleads:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.

Benediction

based on Micah 5:2-5a

P: Jesus shall stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And you, His flock, shall dwell secure,
for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth.
And He shall be your peace.
The almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless you and always watch over you. **C: Amen.**

Closing Hymn

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

LSB 348



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo-ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

Announcements

Acknowledgments

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Opening Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

LSB 515



1 Re - joice, re-joyce, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride-groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
 Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.
 Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.
 A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride-groom is at hand.
 In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.
 The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!