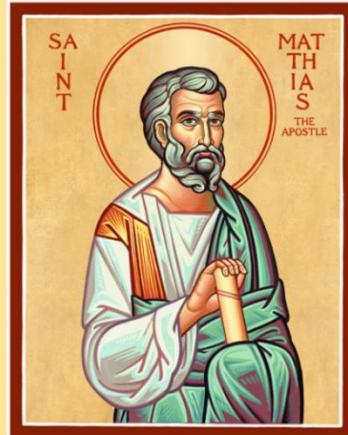


An Apostolic Advent

Midweek Worship Series



Matthias

Wednesday, December 14, 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

Elder: Bob Souza

Disciple Care: Jack Warneke

Acolytes: Nathan Faitsch, Lily Freehling

Lay Readers: Joanne Heidlauf, Ann Souza

Ushers: Morrie Cook, Paul DeLassus

Greeters: John & Karen Kozlik

Acknowledgments

Adapted from "Evening Prayer" in *Lutheran Service Book*.

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EVENING PRAYER

Adapted from the Lutheran Service Book Evening Prayer,
this liturgy recalls the Old Testament rhythm of prayer in the morning and the evening:
“When you lie down and when you arise” (Deuteronomy 6:7).

The liturgy of Evening Prayer, which grows out of the daily devotion of the home,
has a simple, four-part outline: Service of Light, Psalmody, Readings and Responses, and Prayers.
The Service of Light began as a daily lamp-lighting service at the setting of the sun in the early
centuries before gas or electric lights. The image of light in the midst of darkness is easily
associated with Christ who is our light (John 1:9). We look forward to the day when we will
no longer need lamp nor sun, for the Lord God will be our light (Revelation 22:5).

Opening Hymn

Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

LSB 353



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from
2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are
3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of
4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,
worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer
sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,
hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!
To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!
Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.
Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.
Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

Opening Words

P: The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last. **C: Amen.**

P: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

C: to sing praise to Your Name, O Most High;

P: to herald Your love in the morning,

C: Your truth at the close of the day.

Confession and Forgiveness

(Silence for reflection on the sins that trouble us).

Pastor: We begin with me confessing my sin... I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

C: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.

P: I thank my heavenly Father for this Good News. Amen.

C: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

P: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.

C: I thank my heavenly Father for this Good News. Amen.

Preparation for the Word *All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night* LSB 883, sts. 1-2



1 All praise to Thee, my God, this night For all the
2 For - give me, Lord, for Thy dear Son, The ill that



bles - ings of the light. Keep me, O keep me,
I this day have done, That with the world, my -



King of kings, Be - neath Thine own al - might - y wings.
self, and Thee, I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 66:1–2 (ESV)

¹Thus says the LORD:

“Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool;
what is the house that you would build for me,
and what is the place of my rest?

²All these things my hand has made,
and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD.

But this is the one to whom I will look:

he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.”

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:25–30 (ESV)

²⁵At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Acts 1:15–26 (ESV)

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶“Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” ¹⁸(Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰“For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

“‘May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it’;
and

“‘Let another take his office.’”

²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” ²³And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn of Response All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

LSB 883, sts. 3-4

3 Teach me to live that I may dread The grave as
4 Oh, may my soul in Thee re - pose, And may sweet
lit - tle as my bed. Teach me to die that
sleep mine eye - lids close, Sleep that shall me more
so I may Rise glo - rious at the awe - full day.
vig - 'rous make To serve my God when I a - wake!

Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, You chose Your servant Matthias to be numbered among the Twelve. Grant that Your Church, ever preserved from false teachers, may be taught and guided by faithful and true pastors; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Introit for the Festival of an Apostle Psalm 89:1,5,15-16; antiphon (repeated verse): Psalm 119:46

P: I will speak of your testimonies before kings, [O Lord,]
and shall not be put to shame.

**C: I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;
I will make your faithfulness known to all generations.**

P: Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!
Blessèd are the people who know the festal shout,
who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face,
who exult in your name all the day and in your righteousness are exalted.

**C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

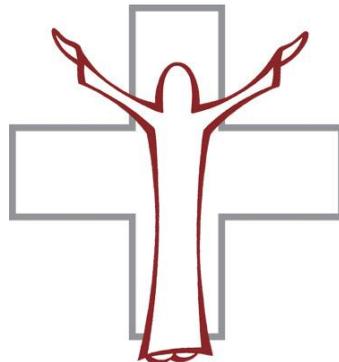
P: I will speak of your testimonies before kings, [O Lord,]
and shall not be put to shame.

**C: I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;
I will make your faithfulness known to all generations. Amen.**

Confession of Faith

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.

Apostles' Creed





1 O Christ, who called the Twelve To rise and fol - low You, For -
 2 O Christ, who taught the Twelve The truth for a - ges sealed, Whose
 3 O Christ, who led the Twelve A - mong the des - o - late And
 4 O Christ, who sent the Twelve On roads they'd nev - er trod To



sak - ing old, fa - mil - iar ways For ven - tures bold and new:
 words and works a - wak - ened faith, The ways of God re - vealed:
 broke as bread of life for all Your love com - pas - sion - ate:
 serve, to suf - fer, teach, pro - claim The near - er reign of God:



Grant us to hear Your call To risk se - cu - ri - ty And,
 In - struct us now, we pray, By Your em - pow'r - ing Word. True
 Lead us a - long the ways Where hope has near - ly died And
 Send us on ways where faith Tran - scends ti - mid - i - ty, Where



bound in heart and will to You, Find per - fect lib - er - ty.
 teach - er, be for all who seek Their light, their life, their Lord.
 help us climb the lone - ly hills Where love is cru - ci - fied.
 love in - forms and hope sus - tains Both life and min - is - try.

5 O Christ, the _apostles' Lord,
 The martyrs' strength and song,
 The crucified and risen King
 To whom the saints belong:
 Though generations pass,
 Our tribute still we bring,
 Our hymns a sacrifice of praise,
 Our lives an offering.

Sermon

“Matthias”

Offering

Offertory Prayer

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, from Your hand we receive all good gifts and by Your grace we are guarded from all evil. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that, acknowledging with our whole heart Your boundless goodness, we may now and evermore thank and praise You for Your loving-kindness and tender mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Prayers of the Church

P: Hear my prayer, O Lord;

C: Listen to my cry.

P: Keep me as the apple of Your eye;

C: Hide me in the shadow of Your wings.

P: In righteousness I shall see You;

C: When I awake, Your presence will give me joy.

P: Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of life may find our rest in You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and drive from them all the snares of the enemy; let Your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let Your blessing be on us always; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: We praise and thank You, O God, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, that You have enlightened us by revealing the Light that never fades. Night has fallen, and day's allotted span has drawn to a close. The daylight which You created for our pleasure has fully satisfied us, and yet, of Your free gift, now the evening lights do not fail us. We praise You and glorify You through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; through Him be glory, honor, and power to You in the Holy Spirit now and always and forever and ever.

C: Amen.

(Silence for meditation)

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.

Benediction

P: Guide us waking, O Lord,

C: and guard us sleeping,

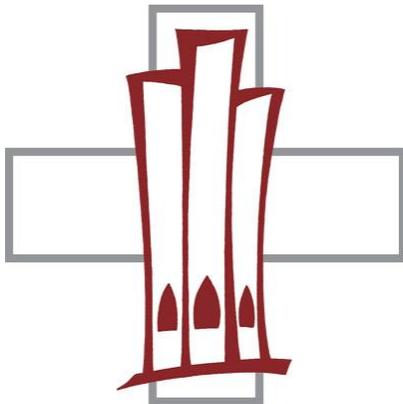
P: That awake we may watch with Christ

C: and asleep we may rest in peace.

P: The almighty and merciful Lord,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

C: Amen.



Closing Hymn

The Night Will Soon Be Ending

LSB 337



1 The night will soon be end - ing; The dawn can -
 2 The One whom an - gels tend - ed Comes near, a
 3 The earth in sure ro - ta - tion Will soon bring
 4 Yet nights will bring their sad - ness And rob our



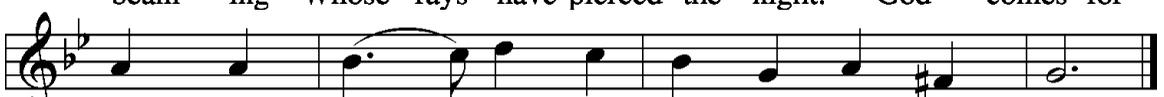
not be far. Let songs of praise as - cend - ing Now
 child, to serve; Thus God, the judge of - fend - ed, Bears
 morn - ing bright, So run where God's sal - va - tion Glows
 hearts of peace, And sin in all its mad - ness A -



greet the Morn - ing Star! All you whom dark - ness
 all our sins de - serve. The guilt - y need not
 in a sta - ble's light. As old as sin's per -
 round us may in - crease. But now one Star is



fright - ens With guilt or grief or pain, God's ra - dian
 cow - er, For God has rec - on - ciled Through His re -
 ver - sion Is mer - cy's vast de - sign: God brings a
 beam - ing Whose rays have pierced the night: God comes for



Star now bright - ens And bids you sing a - gain.
 demp - tive pow - er All those who trust this child.
 new cre - a - tion— This child its seal and sign.
 our re - deem - ing From sin's op - pres - sive might.

5 God dwells with us in darkness
 And makes the night as day;
 Yet we resist the brightness
 And turn from God away.

But grace does not forsake us,
 However far we run.
 God claims us still as children
 Through Mary's infant Son.

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Announcements

Join us for Christmas Worship!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

6:00 PM

11:00 PM

Christmas Morning Worship

10:00 AM

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

