



1st Sunday after Christmas
January 1, 2017

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

Pastor Ben Squires – pastor@bethelgurnee.org

Liturgy Assistant: Jacob Stoltzman

Bethel member and pre-seminary student at Concordia University – Wisconsin

**I WILL RECOUNT
THE DEEDS OF THE LORD
ISAIAH 63:7**

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Holy Communion: 1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper is celebrated according to the Lutheran Confessions based on the teaching Jesus gave his disciples and us that he is truly present in this meal. Confident that our sins are forgiven, we experience our oneness with him and each other as he gathers us at his table. His true body and blood, given and shed for us, we share in this meal as he invites in Matthew 26:26-28, "Take and eat; this is My Body ... This is My Blood..." Baptized Christians sharing these beliefs are invited to receive Communion. All others are invited to the altar rail for a blessing. Wine can be taken by common chalice, individual cup, or by dipping your wafer into the chalice. Please address questions to the Elders or the Pastor. ***Non-alcoholic wine is in purple-colored cups.***

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: Mike Bandman

Comm/Asst. Elder: OPEN

Acolytes: Jeremy Leicht, Ellie Maag

Ushers: Don Heidlauf, Paul DeLassus

Lay Readers: JJ Jones, Randy Gifford

Greeters: Jones Family, Cindy Ellwein

Jan. Altar Guild: Sheila Bunnell & Diane Sanders

Jan. Counters: David & Cheryl Ross

Acknowledgments

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THE WORD OF GOD SERVICE

This service celebrates the Word of God, using words from Paul's letters to Timothy.

Opening Hymn

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LSB 374



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Invocation and Greeting

A: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

A: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. *1 Tim. 1:2b*

C: And also with you.

The Word of God

A: In worship, we become acquainted with the sacred writings,

C: which are able to make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

A: All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

C: so that we may be equipped for every good work. Amen.

2 Tim. 3:15-16

Confession of Sin

A: The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance:

C: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

1 Tim. 1:15

A: For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men:

C: Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all.

1 Tim. 2:5-6

Silence for meditation on our need for Christ's forgiveness.

Absolution (Forgiveness)

1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Tim. 1:9-10; 2 Tim. 2:21

A: God our Savior desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. He saved you and called you to a holy calling, not because of your works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave you in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. You have been cleansed of your sin, set apart as holy, useful to our Lord, and ready for every good work in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

A: If we have died with him,

C: we will also live with him;

A: if we endure,

C: we will also reign with him;

A: if we deny him,

C: he also will deny us;

A: if we are faithless,

C: he remains faithful—

A: for he cannot deny himself.

2 Tim. 2:13-14

Response

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

LSB 358 sts. 1, 14

1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:

14 My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.

I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradlesong.

Greeting and Collects (Prayers of the Day)

A: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

A: Let us pray. O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ended and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Charge to the Congregation Regarding the Scriptures

A: Devote yourselves to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. Do not be ashamed of His Word, for we know whom we have believed, and we are convinced that He is able to guard His Word in us by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us.

1 Tim. 4:13, 2 Tim. 1:12-14

C: We have devoted ourselves to the Scriptures.

We dedicate this time now to hear from God's Word. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 63:7–14 (ESV)

⁷I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD,
the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us,
and the great goodness to the house of Israel
that he has granted them according to his compassion,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely."
And he became their Savior.

⁹In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

¹⁰But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit;
therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them.

¹¹Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people.

Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock?

Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit,

¹²who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses,

who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name,

¹³who led them through the depths?

Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble.

¹⁴Like livestock that go down into the valley,
the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest.

So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle (New Testament Letter)

Galatians 4:4–7 (ESV)

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:22–40 (ESV)

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took [Jesus] up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about [Jesus]. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of [Jesus] to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹And when [his parents] had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

A: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Song of Simeon

Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace

LSB 937

1 Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace,
 2 This is the Sav - ior of the world,
 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,
 Your word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -
 The Gen - tles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing
 To You we lift our voice; To Fa - ther, Son, and
 va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.
 in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.
 Spir - it blest Be hon - or, love, and praise.

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Sermon

"I Will Recount the Deeds of the Lord"

Isaiah 63:7-14

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

Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn

LSB 391

Sung as our Offerings are brought forward to the Altar.

Re - joyce, re - joyce this hap - py morn, A Sav - ior un -
 to us is born, The Christ, the Lord of glo - ry!
 His low - ly birth in Beth - le - hem The an - gels from
 on high pro - claim And sing re - demp - tion's sto - ry!
 My soul, ex - tol God's great fa - vor; Bless Him ev - er
 For sal - va - tion; Give Him praise and ad - o - ra - tion!

Prayers

P: Supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings are to be made for all people,

C: thanking God whom we serve,

P: as we remember others constantly in our prayers night and day.

C: And praying for our leaders and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life,

P: godly and dignified in every way.

C: This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior.

1 Tim. 2:1-3; 2 Tim. 1:3

(Pastor then offers the Prayers of the Church).

The Lord's Supper: What We Believe

All Christians who are baptized and have been instructed are invited to receive Communion with us if you believe as we do—that the bread is the body of Christ, and the wine is the blood of Christ, truly present for us for the forgiveness of our sins.

If this is a new teaching to you, or if this is different than you believe, we ask that you wait to commune until we've had a further chance to talk. We invite those who are not communing to come to the rail, cross your arms, and receive a blessing from the Lord.



Preparation for the Lord's Supper

P: The Lord was revealed in the flesh,

C: declared-righteous by the Spirit,

P: seen by messengers,

C: proclaimed among the nations,

P: believed in the world,

C: taken up in glory.

1 Tim. 3:14

P: He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see.

To him be honor and eternal dominion.

C: Amen.

1 Tim. 6:15-16

P: The Lord be with your spirit and grace be with you.

2 Tim. 4:22

C: And also with you.

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.

Words of Institution

Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

(We greet one another in peace saying "God's peace" or "The Lord be with you.")

First Distribution Hymn

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

LSB 386



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to Thee.
3 Now through His Son doth shine The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



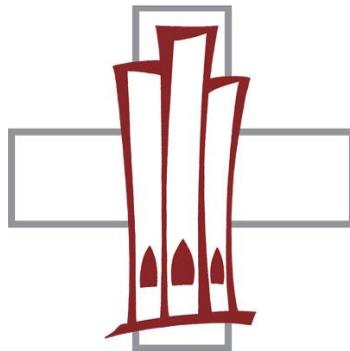
He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee!
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!



Second Distribution Hymn**Go Tell It on the Mountain**

LSB 388

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si-lent flocks by night,

2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo, a - bove the earth

3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;



Be - hold, through - out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.

Rang out the an-gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.

And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Common Dismissal

P: Now may this true body and true blood of our Lord...

C: Amen.**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

P: Father, You have strengthened us by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, through His body and blood shared with us in the holy meal. May what we have received from You enable us to share Your grace with others. May we endure all suffering in this world without swerving from the faith. And when we depart from Your Word, grant us repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth so that we may receive the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

C: Amen.*2 Tim. 2:1-2, 1 Tim. 6:21, 2 Tim. 2:10, 2:25***Benediction**

P: There is stored up for you the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to you on the Last Day, and not only to you but also to all who have longed for his appearing. The Lord will rescue you from every evil deed and bring you safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

2 Tim. 4:8,18

Closing Hymn

First Noel

LBW #56

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say Was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star Shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . same star Three
 4 This star drew near to the . . north-west, O'er . .

cer-tain poor shep-herds in fields as they lay; In fields where .
 in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; And to the . .
 Wise . Men came . . from coun - try far; To seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; And there it . .

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, On a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . great light, And . . so it con -
 king was their . . in - tent, And to fol - low the
 did both stop . . and stay Right. . o - ver the

Refrain
 night . that was . . so deep.
 tin - ued both day . . and night. No - el, No - el, No -
 star . wher - ev - er it went.
 place . where Je - sus lay.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

5 Then entered in those Wise Men three, And offered there in his presence
 Full rev'rently upon their knee, Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Refrain

Announcements