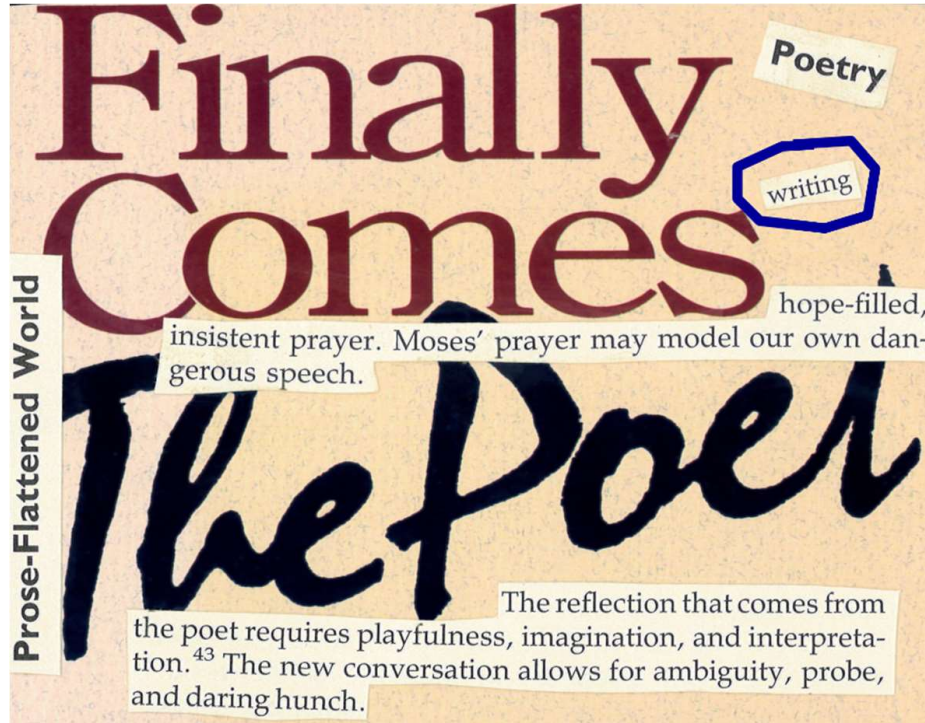


SABBATICAL PRACTICES



SIMEON WROTE
A POEM TO
REVEAL WHAT HEARTS
WILL SAY WHEN
THEY KNOW JESUS
AS REVELATION

1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 27, 2020

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

Katrina Johns, Equipping Coordinator

Direct line: 224-623-0800 or email: katrina@bethelgurnee.org

Website: www.BethelGurnee.org

DIVINE SERVICE I

This service is from *Divine Service, Setting One*, in Lutheran Service Book.

Opening Hymn

See amid the Winter's Snow

LSB 373



1 See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,
2 Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,
3 Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was Thine,
4 Teach, O teach us, ho - ly Child, By Thy face so meek and mild,



See, the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.
Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this!
Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee In Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.



Hail, O ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!



Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: ***Amen.***



Confession and Absolution (Forgiveness)

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: ***But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

1 John 1:8-9

P: We pause in silence to reflect on our personal sins that trouble us.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:

C: ***Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.***

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: ***Amen.***

Kyrie (Lord, Have Mercy)

LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**


This Is the Feast

LSB 155

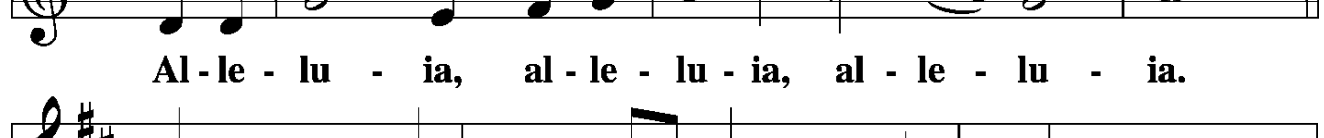
Refrain




C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*

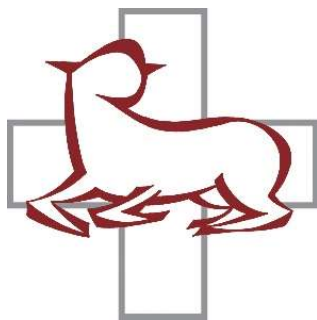
Final Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Acknowledgments

This order of worship is from the *Lutheran Service Book*, Divine Service, Setting One.

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Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

P: 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, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *Amen.*

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:10—62:3(ESV)

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your righteousness,
and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Anthem**Once in Royal David's City****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.

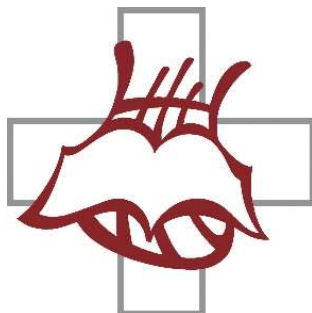
Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly, cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above,
He shall lead His children on
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Once in royal David's city, once in royal David's city,
Once in royal David's city He was born!



Epistle (New Testament Letter)

Galatians 4:4–7(ESV)

⁴When 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 2:22–35(ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

²²And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him 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 him 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 him. 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.”

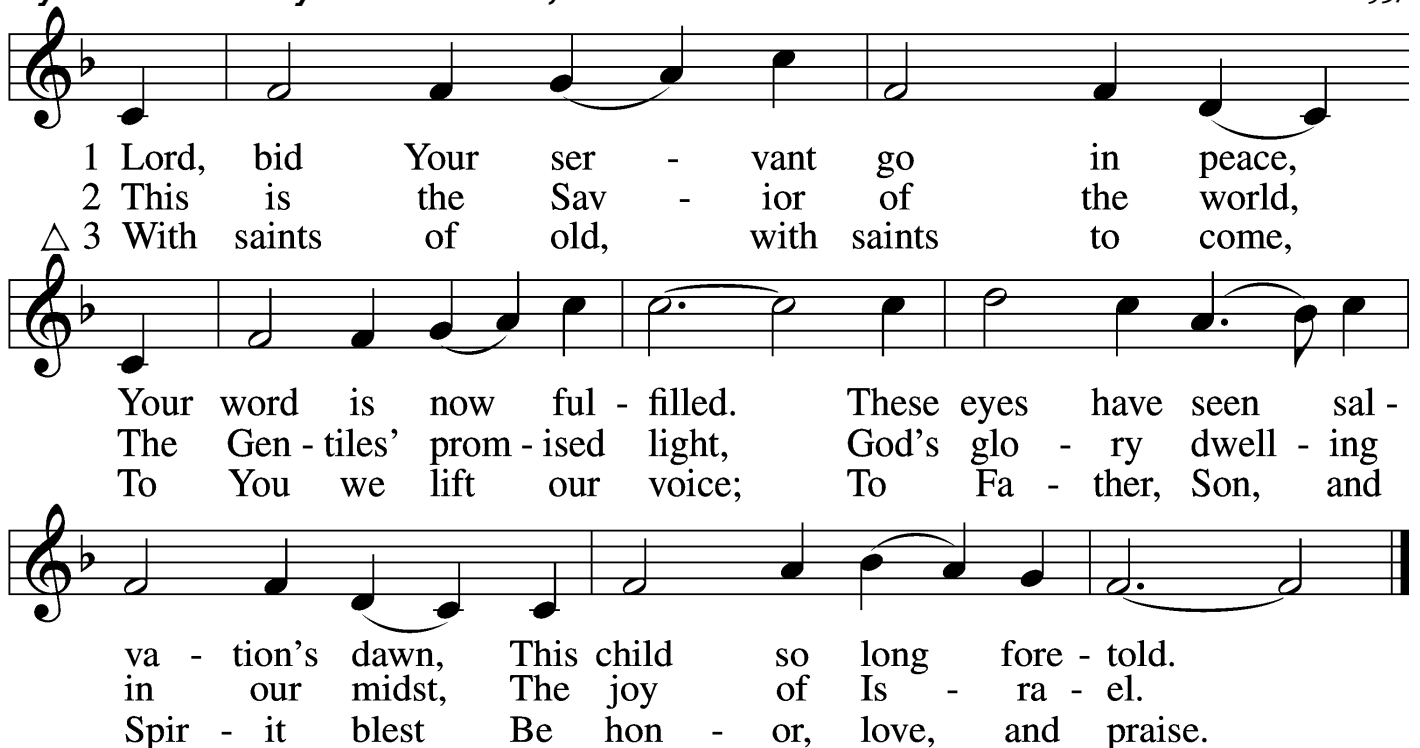
P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day

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 - tiles' 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

Sabbatical Practices: Writing

Luke 2:22-35

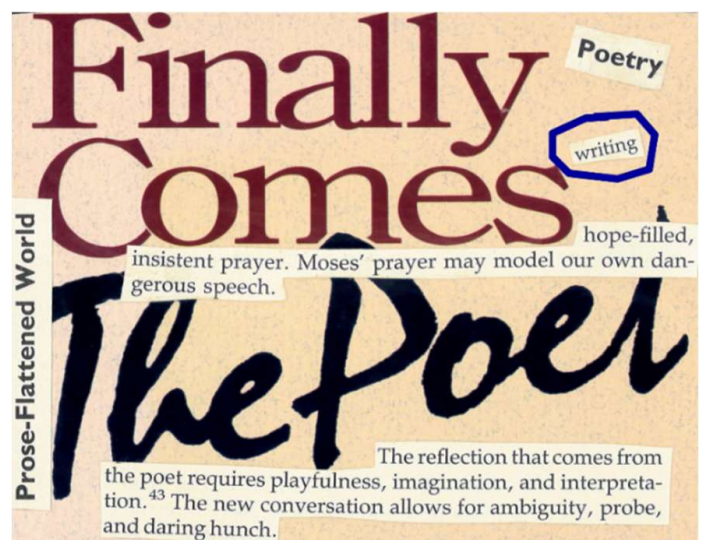
Simeon Wrote a Poem to Reveal What Hearts Will Say When They Know Jesus as Revelation

SABBATICAL PRACTICES:

Poetry, Reflection, Prayer, Writing: The Things Might Scare You About Sabbatical

WRITING

You likely would not pass by the incredible grandeur of a National Park without at least thinking that you should take a picture (especially with a very good camera in many people's pockets in our smartphones). Whether a snapshot of the landscape or a hastily assembled group photo, you likely would not hesitate, thinking, "But I am not a professional photographer."



Why, though, if when you pass through an incredible moment of God at work in your life would you tell yourself, “I’m not a writer,” and so avoid recording the moment in some words scratched on paper or typed on a device?

Writing is taking a snapshot of thoughts, words, images, moments, insights, observations that occur to you at the time. A snapshot does not need to be polished, edited, enhanced, enlarged, and framed in order for it to bring back a rush of emotions and memories.

So, too, your writing does not have to be legible to anyone else, consistent with all rules of good grammar, or any specific length. It may even be more doodling than words. But your writing ought to be a snapshot of the truth that God has shown you or reminded you of that day. Perhaps begin by simply copying out a verse or two of Scripture, and allowing your hand to linger on the paper after you are done, linger to see if you have a few words of reflection of your own about what God has said. That is the beginning of the spiritual discipline of writing.

“[The ancient church father] Augustine practiced writing during the act of prayer and meditation for this very reason: ‘[I] prevent forgetfulness from running away with my meditations by tying them down to paper.’ This discipline of writing-tying meditations down to paper-was for him a way of ‘trusting in God’s mercy’ in order to persevere ‘in all the truths’ of which he was sure” (Peter Schemm, “The Writing Pastor: An Essay on Spiritual Formation”, *Themelios* Vol. 37, Issue 3, quoting Augustine from *The Trinity* (trans. Edmund Hill; The Works of St. Augustine; Brooklyn: New City, 1991), 68).

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/themelios/article/the-writing-pastor-an-essay-on-spiritual-formation/>

(Accessed July 23, 2020).

Confession of Faith

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.—And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.---And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

Refrain

Go Tell It on the Mountain

LSB 388



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.

Announcements



Thank You for Beautifying our Worship Areas with Poinsettias

Norm Ballet – To the glory of God;

Joan Blasko – (2 plants) In memory of parents Elizabeth & Edward Yarusinsky and to the glory of God;

Sheila Bunnell – (2 plants) To the glory of God;

Jim Franz – (2 plants) In memory of his mother, father, brother, sister and grandparents;

The Henkel & Molinaro Families – In memory of Mavis Henkel;

Paul & Linda Groh – In appreciation of family;

John & Karen Kozlik – (2 plants) To the glory of God;

Maria Kube – (3 plants) In memory of Maria's parents Max & Ivanka Kopac, Cal's parents Edwin & Beulah Kube, and husband Calvin;

Chris Mason – (3 plants) In memory of Christine Roberts, Noreen Heyde, Helen Mason and Earl Mason;

George & Suzy Lietzau McCahey – (2 plants) In memory of Donna & Roger Lietzau and River & George McCahey Sr.;

Bill & Lynda Oesterreich – To the glory of God;

Rasmussen, Souza, & Kazarian Families – (3 plants) In memory of Grace Gibson, Art & Evelyn Rasmussen, Bill & Alice Souza and Mark Souza;

David & Cheryl Ross – (3 plants) In memory of Gordon & Carol Gillings and George & Jean Ross and to the glory of God;

Dawn Werfelmann – (2 plants) To the glory of God.

Please call the office at 847-244-9647 to pick up your Poinsettia. If you do not want your poinsettia let us know and we will find it a good home!

January Bible Class Schedule



In January, the sabbatical team invites you to join the Sunday morning Bible class from 10:15AM until 11AM! Each week, Pastor Squires will share a bit about his sabbatical experience. Then, Bethel members will have the opportunity to share with him what we experienced in the Animate series. Here is the schedule:

January 3: Prayer and Worship

January 10: Sacraments and Food

January 17: Service and Money

January 24: Community and a special presentation

Please join us each Sunday at 10:15AM even if you were not able to participate in the Animate series. It is never too late to reflect on your Faith and what God is doing in your life!

(Zoom information will be shared prior to the first class.)