

Images of the Nativity

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Louis Legrand
French, 1863-1951

**Son of
the Carpenter**
c. 1892
Charcoal drawing



**First Sunday after Christmas
December 31, 2023**

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

Cindy Daluga, Disciple Care Coordinator
Cindy.daluga@bethelgurnee.org

Ben Sanders, Mission Facilitator
office@bethelgurnee.org

Website: www.BethelGurnee.org

Christmas Refrains Liturgy

Call to Worship

Psalm 51:15, liturgical text

P: O Lord, open my lips,

C: *and my mouth shall declare Your praise.*

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. Alleluia, alleluia!

P: Give glory to God, our light and our life.

C: *Oh, come, let us worship Him.*

Opening Hymn

A Great and Mighty Wonder

LSB 383, sts. 1-2

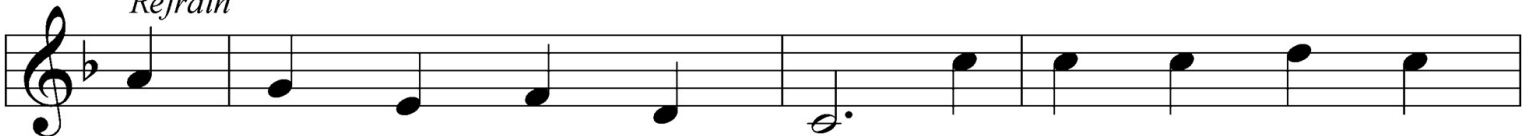


1 A great and mighty wonder, A full and holy cure:
2 The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high,



The virgin bears the infant With virgin honor pure!
And cherubim sing anthems To shepherds from the sky.

Refrain



Proclaim the Savior's birth: "To God on high be



glory And peace to all the earth!"

Introit (Entrance Verses)

Psalm 98:1-4; antiphons (repeated verses): Psalm 98:1 & Isaiah 9:6

P: 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 Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

C: *Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!*

Oh, sing a new song!

P: His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.
The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

C: **Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!**
Oh, sing a new song!

Opening Hymn (continued)

A Great and Mighty Wonder

LSB 383, sts. 1-2



4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,



The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

Introit (continued)

P: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!
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 Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

C: **Oh sing to the LORD a new song:**
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.
Oh, sing a new song!

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.

Confession of Sins

P: Jesus has indeed come to restore us from our sinful condition. So on this morning as we praise the Father for sending His Son, we are bold and confident to approach the Lord, admitting our sin, and clinging to His forgiveness.... Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed.

Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Absolution (Forgiveness)

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Gospel Reading

Mark 6:1-6 (ESV)

¹[Jesus then] came to his hometown [of Nazareth], and his disciples followed him. ²And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.

⁴And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.” ⁵And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching.

(Response next page)



from LSB 933 st. 1

P My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es—

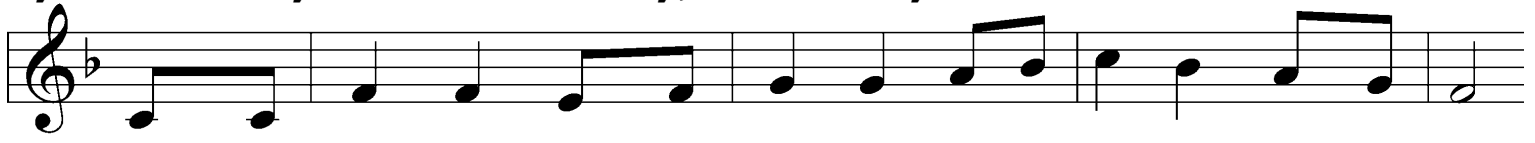


C Sing the great - ness of the Lord!

Hymn of the Day

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

LSB 393



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Versicles

Isaiah 9:2a; John 1:15; Isaiah 9:2b; John 1:14b, Isaiah 9:6; John 1:14

P: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

C: *The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.*

P: On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

C: *We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son who came from the Father.*

P: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: *In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.*

Sermon



Offering

Offertory

Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn

LSB 391

Re - joice, re - joice 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!

Praying Over the New Year

****The congregation will share in reading aloud these prayers for 2024.****

****If you are willing, please read aloud the next prayer.****

- As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends.
- O God, your days are without beginning and without end. We dedicate this coming year to you.
- Our Father and our God, as we stand at the beginning of this new year we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future.
- Come, Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Risen Christ, be with us today and always.
- Be our Light, our Guide, and our Comforter.
- Be our Strength, our Courage, and our Sanctifier.
- May this new year be a time of deep spiritual growth for us,
- A time of welcoming your graces and gifts,
- A time for forgiving freely and unconditionally,
- A time for growing in Your ways and growing as disciples.
- Come, Holy Spirit, Be with us today and always.
- O Lord, you have mercy on all. Take away our sins, and mercifully kindle in us the fire of your Holy Spirit.
- Take away our hearts of stone and give us hearts of flesh, hearts to love and adore you, hearts to delight in you, to follow and to enjoy you.
- Give us such prosperity as you know is good for us, and make us abound in doing whatever is pleasing to you
- Empower us to release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. And thank You, Jesus, that you have freed us from chains.
- Hear the prayers of your Church, that we may joyfully serve you here, and see your glorious presence in all its joy in the life to come; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Confession of Faith

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.

Nicene Creed

Preparation for the Lord's Supper

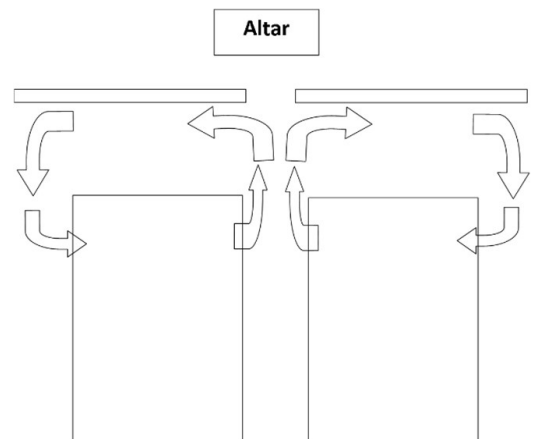
All Christians who are baptized and have been instructed are invited to receive Communion with us if you believe as we do—that the bread is the body of Christ, and the wine is the blood of Christ, truly present for us for the forgiveness of our sins.

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.



Communion Distribution

- Pastor distributes the bread, and the Elders distribute the wine—with individual cups or common cup. The individual trays also contain alcohol-removed wine in the center of each tray in the purple cups.
- Each side will be ushered from the center aisle to the communion rail, row by row, starting with the front.
- Go to the rail on your side of the sanctuary, filling in starting with the outside wall towards the center.
- Once you have received the elements, you may remain at the rail for prayer and leave at your own pace.
- Return to your seat using the outside aisle.
- Use the distribution time to prepare yourself for communion, sing the hymns as prayers to God, and maintain this as meditative time.



Preface Verses

Let All Together Praise Our God

LSB 389 sts. 1, 4



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.

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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.")

Acknowledgments

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires.
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First Distribution Hymn

O Sing of Christ

LSB 362 (altered rhythm)



1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord,
2 What Ad-am lost, none could re - claim, And Par - a - dise was barred
3 He came to that which was His own, But He was not re - ceived;
4 Lord Je - sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A - mong us here on earth



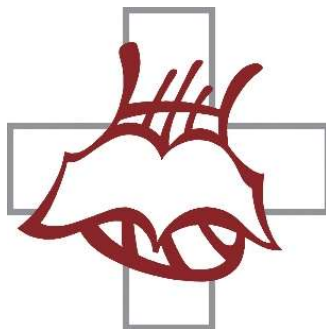
E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored.
Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had marred.
Yet still through Him God's glo - ry shone, And some His name be - lieved.
As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



Up - on our frail hu - man - i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace
For when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly Son;
To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n a - bove,
Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,



The full-ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace.
He came to us as life and light And our re - demp-tion won.
Born not of hu - man an - ces - try But born of God in love.
That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!



Second Distribution 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!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859-1933 Tune: Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae, 1582, Griefswald

Common Dismissal

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

C: Amen.

Prayer of Thanks

P: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benediction



from LSB 933 st. 1

P My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es—



C Sing the great - ness of the Lord!

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

Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368 sts. 1, ref, 3



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Announcements