

Paul & Companions in Corinth

Acts 18



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4th Sunday of Easter – April 21, 2024

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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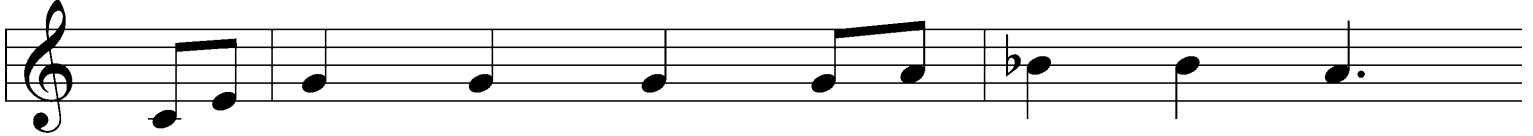
1 CORINTHIANS SERVICE

Worship in a traditional order that uses portions of 1 Corinthians.

Opening Hymn

In Christ There Is No East or West

LSB 653



1 In Christ there is no east or west,
 2 With God there is no tribe or race;
 3 So, broth - ers, sis - ters, praise His name
 4 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith,
 5 In Christ now meet both east and west;



In Him no south or north, But one great fel - low -
 In Him we all are one. He loves us as His
 Who died to set us free From sin, di - vi - sion,
 What - e'er your race may be; Who serves my Fa - ther
 In Him meet south and north. All Chris - tian souls are



ship of love Through - out the whole wide earth.
 chil - dren through Our faith in His dear Son.
 hate, and shame, From spite and en - mi - ty!
 as His child Is sure - ly kin to me.
 one in Him Through - out the whole wide earth.

Invocation (Based on 1 Corinthians 1:2-3)

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

C: Amen.

P: To the church of God, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy,

C: **Together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

P: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Song of Praise

We Fall Down

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It begins with a repeat sign. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases marked with a '7' indicating a seven-measure rest. The lyrics are: "We fall down, we lay our crowns at the feet of Je - sus, the great-ness of mer-cy and love at the feet of Je - sus. And we cry ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, and we cry ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, and we cry ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lamb." The piece concludes with two first and second endings, both leading to a final double bar line.

We fall down, we lay our crowns at the feet of Je -
sus, the great-ness of mer-cy and love at the feet of Je -
sus. And we cry ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, and we cry
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, and we cry ho - ly, ho - ly, ho -
ly is the Lamb.

CCLI Song # 2437367
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Confession and Absolution (Based on 1 Corinthians 10:6-13, 15:56-57, 5:7a)

P: Paul warns the Corinthians from Israel's history: "Do not be idolaters," "we should not test the Lord," and "do not grumble." "So if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." Do you recognize that you are tempted in many ways?

C: Yes.

P: "The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law."

All: **"But thanks be to God!**

He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen."

P: "For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed" for our sins.

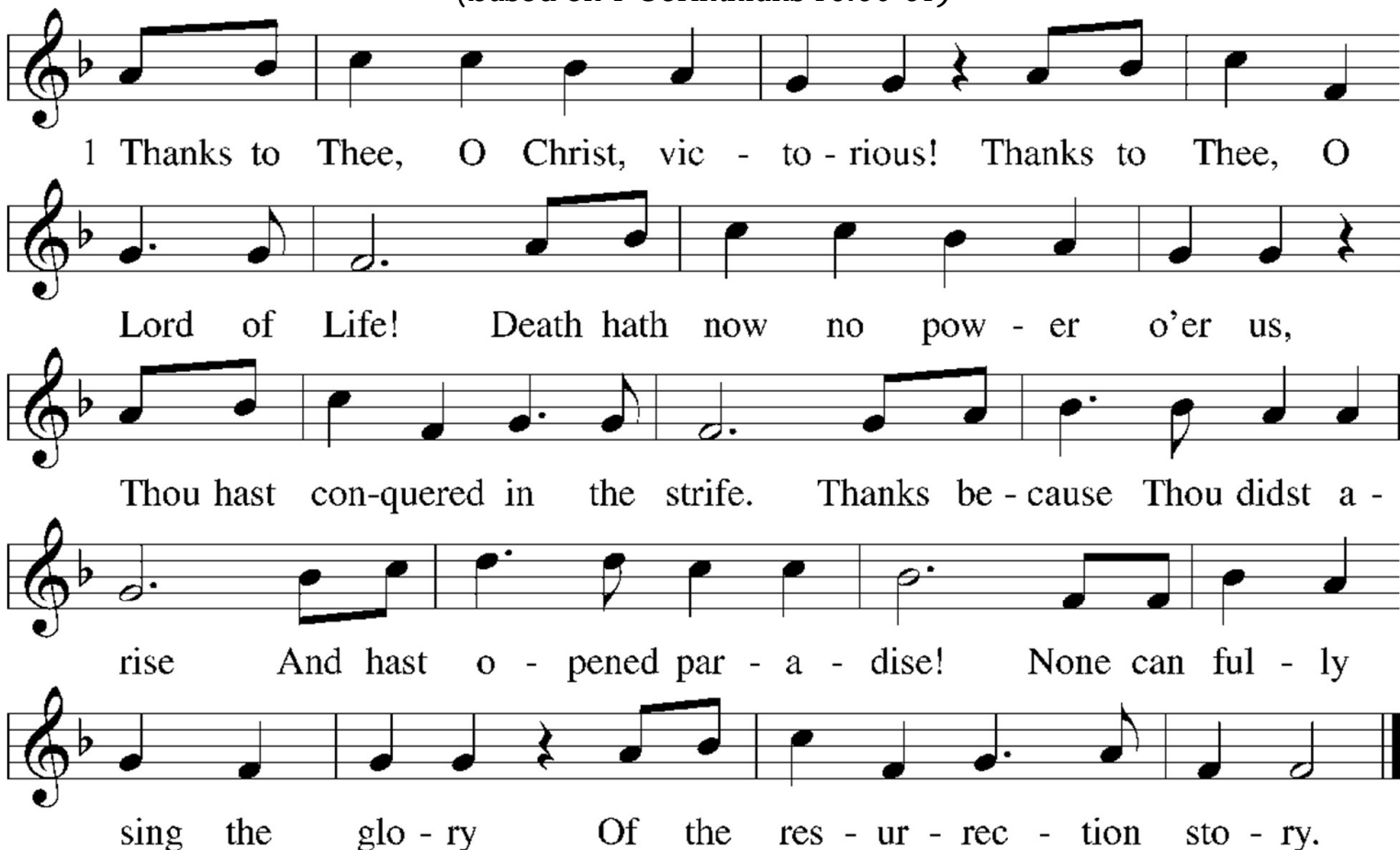
C: **Amen!**

Hymn of Praise

Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious

LSB 548, st. 1

(based on 1 Corinthians 15:56-57)



1 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, vic - to - rious! Thanks to Thee, O
 Lord of Life! Death hath now no pow - er o'er us,
 Thou hast con- quered in the strife. Thanks be - cause Thou didst a -
 rise And hast o - pened par - a - dise! None can ful - ly
 sing the glo - ry Of the res - ur - rec - tion sto - ry.

Anthem

LET'S JUST PRAISE THE LORD

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.

Let's just praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
 Let's just lift our hands to Heaven and praise the Lord!
 Let's just praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
 Let's just lift our hands to Heaven and praise the Lord!

O we thank You for Your kindness, we thank You for Your love,
 We have been in Heavenly places, felt blessings from above;
 We've been sharing all the good things, the family can afford,
 Let's just turn our praise toward Heaven and praise the Lord.

Just the precious name of Jesus is worthy of our praise,
 Let us bow our knees before Him, our hands to Heaven raise;
 When He comes in clouds of glory, with Him we'll ever reign,
 So let's lift our happy voices and praise His name.

Today's Narrative Lectionary Reading

Acts 18:1-17 (VOICE)

From Athens, Paul traveled to Corinth *alone*.² He found a Jewish man there named Aquila, originally from Pontus. Aquila and his wife Priscilla had recently come to Corinth from Italy because Claudius had banished all Jews from Rome. Paul visited them *in their home*³ and discovered they shared the same trade of tent making. He then became their long-term guest and joined them in their tentmaking business.⁴ Each Sabbath he would engage both Jews and Greeks in debate in the synagogue in an attempt to persuade them of his message.

⁵ Eventually Silas and Timothy left Macedonia and joined him in Corinth. They found him fully occupied by proclaiming the message, testifying to the Jewish people that Jesus was God's Anointed, *the Liberating King*.⁶ Eventually, though, some of them stopped listening and began insulting him. He shook the dust off his garments in protest.

Paul: OK. I've done all I can for you. You are responsible for your own destiny before God. From now on, I will bring the good news to the outsiders!

⁷ He walked out of the synagogue and went next door to the home of *an outsider*, Titius Justus, who worshiped God.⁸ *Paul formed a gathering of believers there that included Crispus* (the synagogue leader) and his whole household and many other Corinthians who heard Paul, believed, and were ceremonially washed through baptism.⁹ One night Paul had a vision in which he heard the Lord's voice.

The Lord: Do not be afraid, Paul. Speak! Don't be silent!¹⁰ I am with you, and no one will lay a finger on you to harm you. I have many in this city who are already My people.

¹¹ *After such turmoil in previous cities*, these words encouraged Paul to extend his stay in Corinth, teaching the message of God among them for a year and six months.

¹² [But then] some Jews organized an attack on Paul and made formal charges against him to Gallio, the proconsul of Achaia.

Jews:¹³ This man is convincing people to worship God in ways that contradict our Hebrew Scriptures.

Paul was about to speak, but Gallio spoke first.

Gallio:¹⁴ Look, if this were some serious crime, I would accept your complaint as a legitimate legal case,¹⁵ but this is just more of your typical Jewish squabbling about trivialities in your sacred literature. I have no interest in getting dragged into this kind of thing.

¹⁶ So he *threw out their case and* drove them away from his bench.¹⁷ *They were furious and* seized Sosthenes, the synagogue official; then they beat him in front of the tribunal. Gallio just ignored them.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

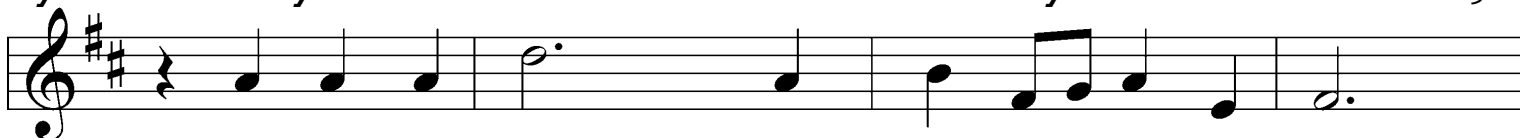
Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: Let us pray. Triune God, whose very name is holy, we praise you for Your servants, Paul, Priscilla, Aquila, Silas, and Timothy, who proclaimed Your Gospel in the synagogues and in the marketplaces as Your Church spread throughout the world. Teach us to be faithful hearers and learners of Your Word, stirred by the Holy Spirit to call many to Your grace and salvation; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever.

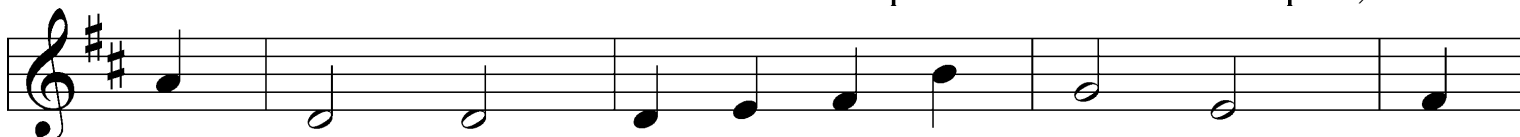
C: Amen.

Hymn of the Day *The Saints in Christ Are One in Every Place*

LSB 838



1 The saints in Christ are one in ev - 'ry place
2 In chains for Christ! His pris'n - ers love to sing,
3 To live is Christ, for us, to die is gain;
4 Lord Je - sus Christ! Heav'n's praise let earth re - peat;



To serve the Gos - pel of His cost - ly grace;
For slaves and free re - jice to praise our King;
Where then shall be our hun - ger, dan - ger, pain?
The work that You be - gan, You will com - plete.



From those first days to this, our hope the same:
What though the Church on earth still suf - fers wrong?
Our joy to preach good news to rich and poor,
By grace let ev - 'ry foe be - come Your friend;



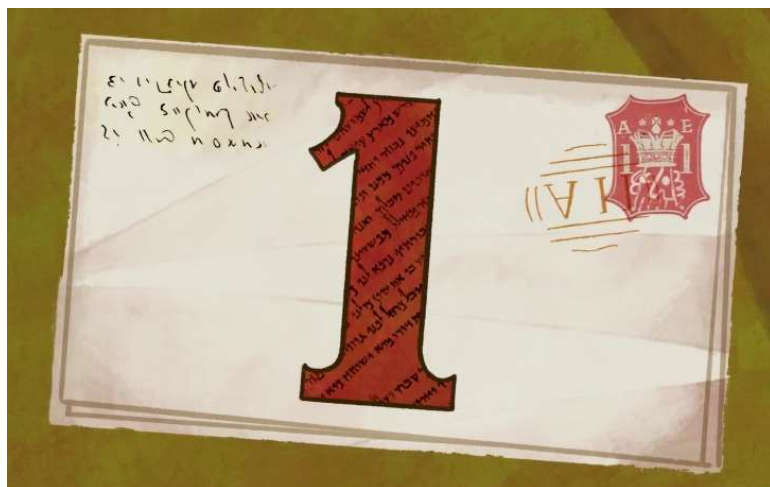
The love of Christ, one Lord, one sav - ing name.
The cross of Christ re - mains our pil - grim song.
Then be with Christ, to live for - ev - er - more.
Your day, O Christ, shall dawn and nev - er end.

Sermon

1 Corinthians 1:1–9, 18–25

[A letter from] ¹Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

²To the church of God that is in **Corinth**, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:



³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

*"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."*

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Confession of Faith

1 Corinthians 15:1-6a,20-22,58

P: Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance:

C: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time. Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. Amen.

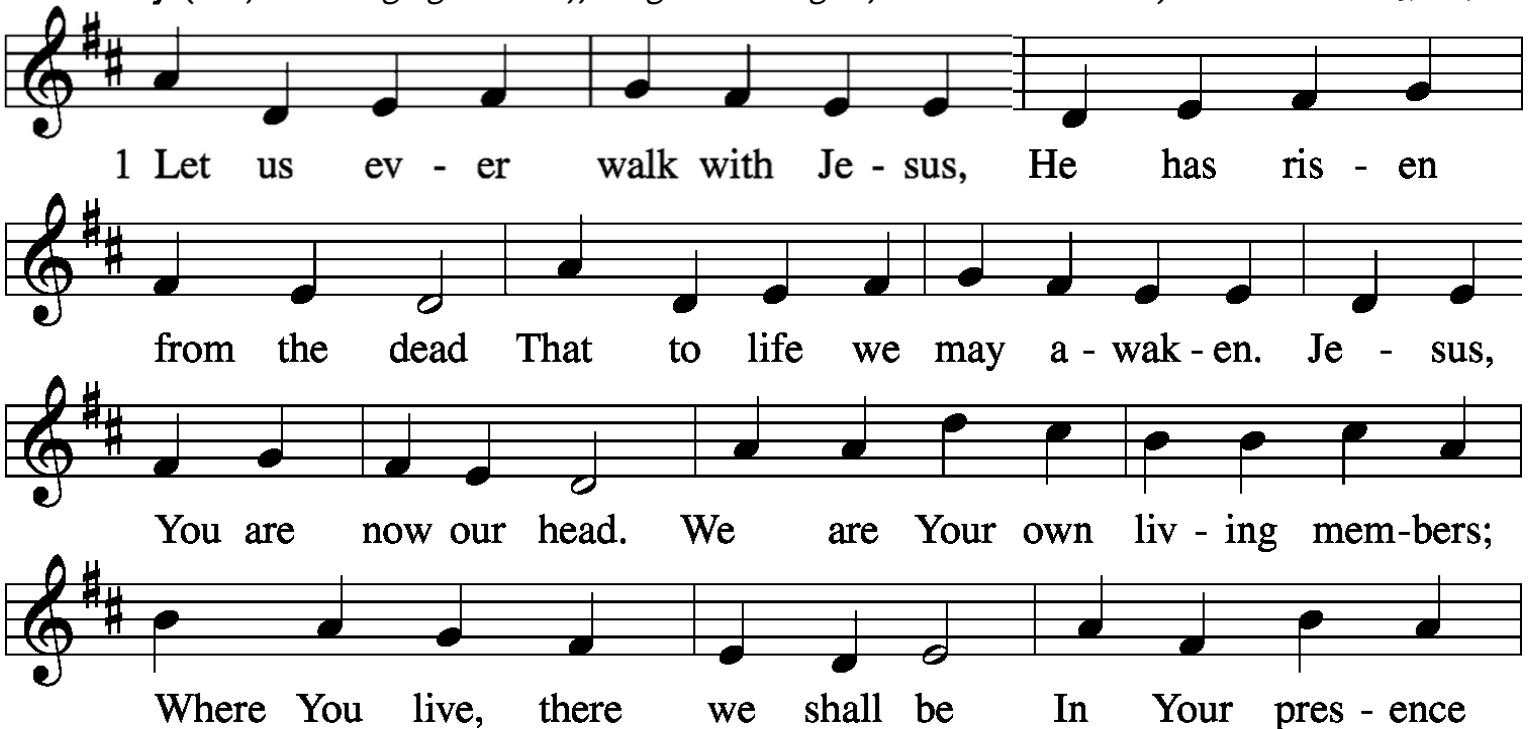
P: Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. Amen.

Offering & Prayer Requests

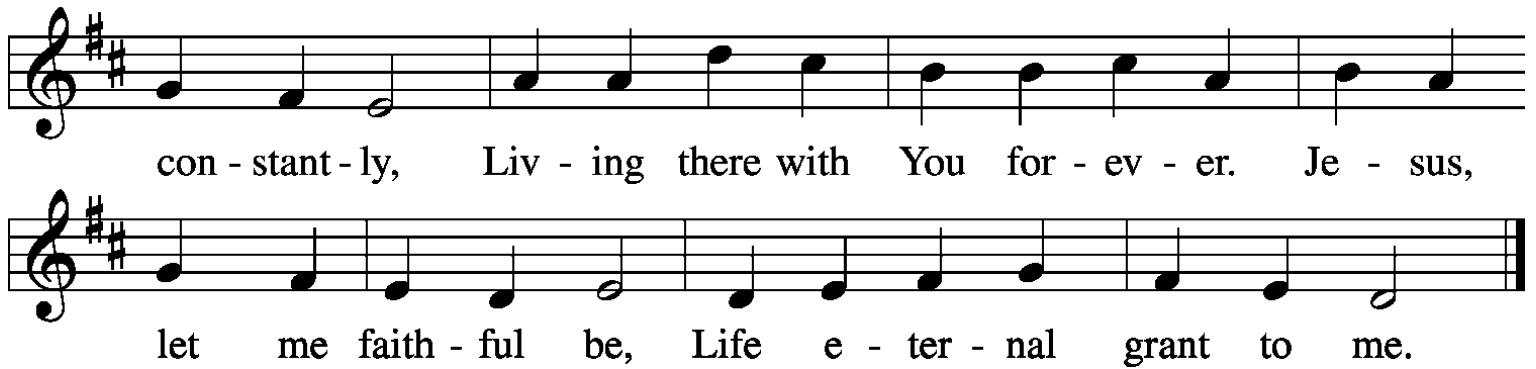
In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

Offertory (we join in singing as the offerings are brought forward to the altar)

LSB 685, st. 4 alt.



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, He has ris - en
from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,
You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;
Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



Prayers

The Lord's Supper: What We Believe

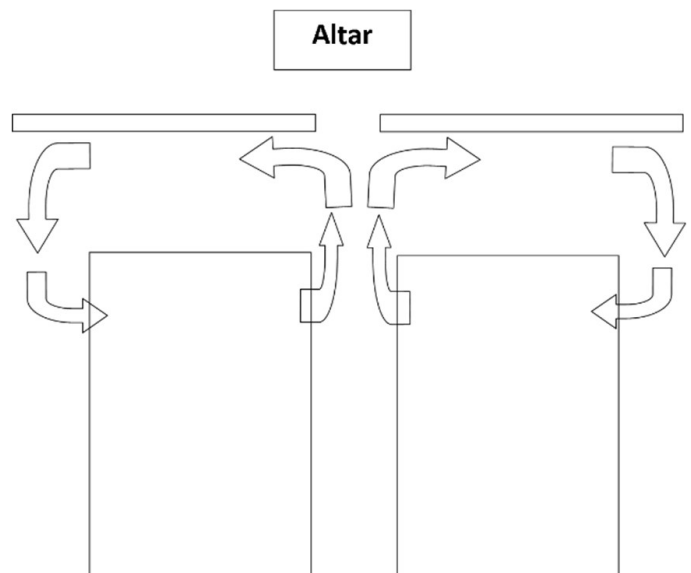
All Christians who are baptized and have been instructed are invited to receive Communion with us if you believe as we do—that the bread is the body of Christ, and the wine is the blood of Christ, truly present for us for the forgiveness of our sins.

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.



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.



Preparation for the Lord's Supper

Liturgy based on 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, 11:26-28, 15:22-23

P: Test your hearts. Recognize that you are sinners in need of God's mercy and forgiveness. And when you have recognized your sin, then eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body of Christ in the meal, eats and drinks judgment on himself, guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: The cup of blessing we bless now

C: is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

P: The bread that we break

C: is a sharing in the body of Christ.

P: Since through man's sin came death,

C: Therefore through a man comes the resurrection of the dead.

P: Since all die because we are Adam's offspring,

C: Therefore also in Christ all will be made alive.

P: Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body,

C: for we all share the one bread.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 209

P: Father, in Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

C: Amen.

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.")

Distribution Song

One Bread, One Body

ELW 496

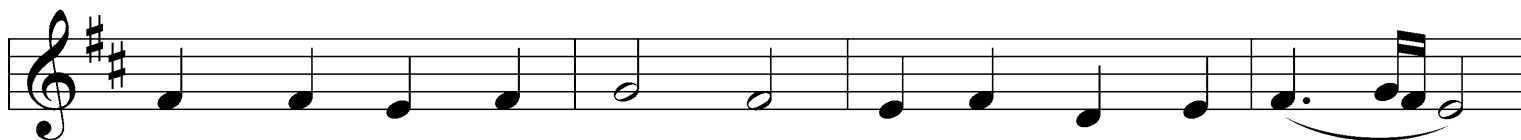
Refrain

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all;
one cup of bless - ing which we bless,
and we, though man-y through-out the earth,
we are one bod - y in this one Lord.
1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,
Refrain
wom-an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath-ered to one for all.

Distribution Hymn

There is a Redeemer

LSB 971



1 There is a Re - deem - er— Je - sus, God's own Son;
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, Name a - bove all names;
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see His face;



Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.
Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Hope for sin - ners slain.
There I'll serve my King for-ev - er In that ho - ly place.

Refrain



Thank You, O my Fa - ther, For giv-ing us Your Son,



And leav - ing Your Spir-it Till the work on earth is done.

Common Dismissal

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

Post-Communion Prayer

LSB 212

P: Let us pray. 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 (Blessing) (Based on 1 Corinthians 1:5,7-9 & 16:23)

P: "In Christ Jesus you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: **God, who has called us into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ, is faithful."**

P: The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Lift High the Cross

LSB 837 sts. ref, 5-6

Refrain



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till



all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.



5 Let ev - 'ry race and ev - 'ry lan - guage tell
6 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell.
Praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Announcements

Acknowledgements

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires. © 2012.

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UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE



SUNDAY, APRIL 21

WORSHIP (IN GYM W/COMMUNION) – 9AM
FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM
EDUCATION HOUR 10:30-11:30AM



SUNDAY, APRIL 28

WORSHIP (IN GYM) – 9AM
FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM
EDUCATION HOUR 10:30-11:30AM

SUNDAY, MAY 5

WORSHIP (IN GYM W/COMMUNION) – 9AM
FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM
EDUCATION HOUR 10:30-11:30AM

SUNDAY, MAY 12

WORSHIP (IN GYM) – 9AM
FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM
EDUCATION HOUR 10:30-11:30AM

SUNDAY, MAY 19

WORSHIP (IN GYM W/COMMUNION) – 9AM
FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM
EDUCATION HOUR 10:30-11:30AM

CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SCHEDULE. USHERS, READERS, AND VARIOUS OTHER VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP AND COMMUNION. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING FOR ONE OF THOSE ROLES, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE AT OFFICE@BETHELGURNEE.ORG.

What Would Happen If You Told the Pastor?

If you come to me and confess your sin of _____,
I will listen.

I may ask why, what led to this,
to see if you understand
the nature of the temptation and consequences.

I will affirm God's Law.

I will APPLY GOD'S FORGIVENESS directly to you.

I will pray for you.

I will offer a blessing for you from God.

I will ask how I can
support, encourage, and hold you accountable.

I will point you towards the work of the Holy Spirit in you
for your transformation day by day.

If you come to me and express your frustration or fear or
confusion or what you think might be an error in our ministry,
I will listen.

I will admit to my own failures and seek your forgiveness.

I will affirm God's Law.

I will affirm God's Gospel.

We will pray together, asking for God's blessing on us
as the Lord calls us to be on His mission together.

I will celebrate that we are brothers and sisters in Christ.

Pastor Ben Squires—224-419-5519 (cell) pastor@bethelgurnee.org

WORSHIP AT BETHEL

Worship at Bethel is a combination of a traditional Lutheran liturgical order with organ-led hymns, but also incorporates one or more praise songs each service, interactive preaching, and an atmosphere that invites people of all ages and all backgrounds to participate and worship the Lord.

“Liturgy” is defined as “public service,” meaning God serving His people through the proclamation of the Gospel and administration of the sacraments. However, we often use “liturgy” to also mean the “order of service.”

Bethel rotates through a series of liturgies (orders of service).

Some are taken directly from *Lutheran Service Book (LSB)*, the hymnal of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Others are adapted from *LSB*. Other liturgies have been developed for use at Bethel, many of which focus on using words taken from a specific book of the Bible or highlighting the focus of a church year season.

Generally, we use a liturgy for 2 weeks in a row, so that the second week has some familiarity. We also try to limit the number of different liturgies in rotation. This means that we are able to become familiar with a variety of liturgies, but that there’s still a returning to words we’ve already heard and said. This helps worship to become more and more our heart language as we hear from God and repeat back to Him the words He gives to us.

A list of some of the liturgies commonly in use at Bethel:

- 1 Corinthians Service
- 500th Anniversary
of the Reformation
- All God’s People Sing
- Luther’s Small Catechism Service
- A Liturgy of Doubt & Hope
- Divine Service & Story
(Narrated Explanation)
- Generosity Service
- LSB Divine Service I
- Gospel of Luke
- Gospel of Mark
- Gospel of Matthew
- Morning Prayer
- Psalm Service
- Spiritual Gifts
- The Word of God Service
(1 & 2 Timothy)

