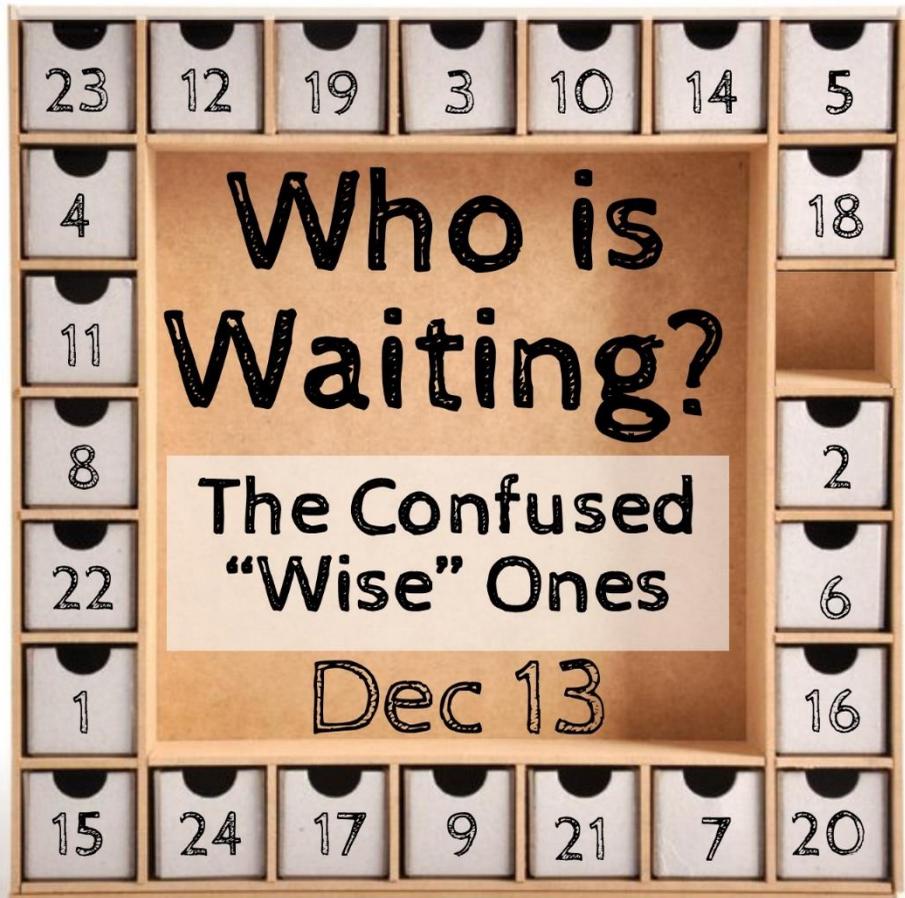


An Advent Midweek Series



Wednesday, December 13, 2017

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

5110 Grand Avenue, Gurnee, Illinois 60031 – (847) 244-9647

Pastor Ben Squires

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Website: www.BethelGurnee.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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
Communion Elder:	Rich Arnold
Acolyte:	Logan Rosenthal, OPEN
Lay Readers:	Stephanie Bunnell, OPEN
Ushers:	OPEN, OPEN
Greeters:	Norm Balliet

Acknowledgments

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

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The Liturgy of the Hours © 1973, 1974, 1975, ICEL; *Franciscans at Prayer* (1982), and
<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/texts/daily2/prayers/prayers.aspx#advent>

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

Savior of the Nations, Come

LSB 332 sts. 1-4, 7-8



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
God was there up - on His throne.
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.

8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

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.



Hymn of Response

Once He Came in Blessing

LSB 333, sts. 1,4



1 Once He came in blessing, All our sins re -
4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -
dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,
lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,
Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -
save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

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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. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *Amen.*

A Reading from an Advent Prophet

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (ESV)

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;

to comfort all who mourn;

³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—

to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning,

the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;

that they may be called oaks of righteousness,

the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong;

I will faithfully give them their recompense,

and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations,

and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;

all who see them shall acknowledge them,

that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Epistle (New Testament Letter)

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24 (ESV)

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Preparation for the Gospel

Lord Jesus Christ, With Us Abide

LSB 585, sts. 1,6; tune: 902



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, with us a - bide, For round us
6 Stay with us, Lord, and keep us true; Pre - serve our



falls the e - ven - tide. O let Your Word, that
faith our whole life through— Your Word a - lone our



sav - ing light, Shine forth un - dimmed in - to the night.
heart's de - fense, The Chur - ch's shield - ing con - fi - dence.

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Holy Gospel

John 1:6–8, 19–28 (ESV)

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

¹⁹And this is the testimony of John [the Baptist], when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.”

²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked [John], “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -



day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your
 best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this
 high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty
 side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed



sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The
 heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The
 soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That
 Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come



truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
 low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
 heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
 now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
 glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

Sermon

“Who is Waiting? The Confused ‘Wise’ Ones”

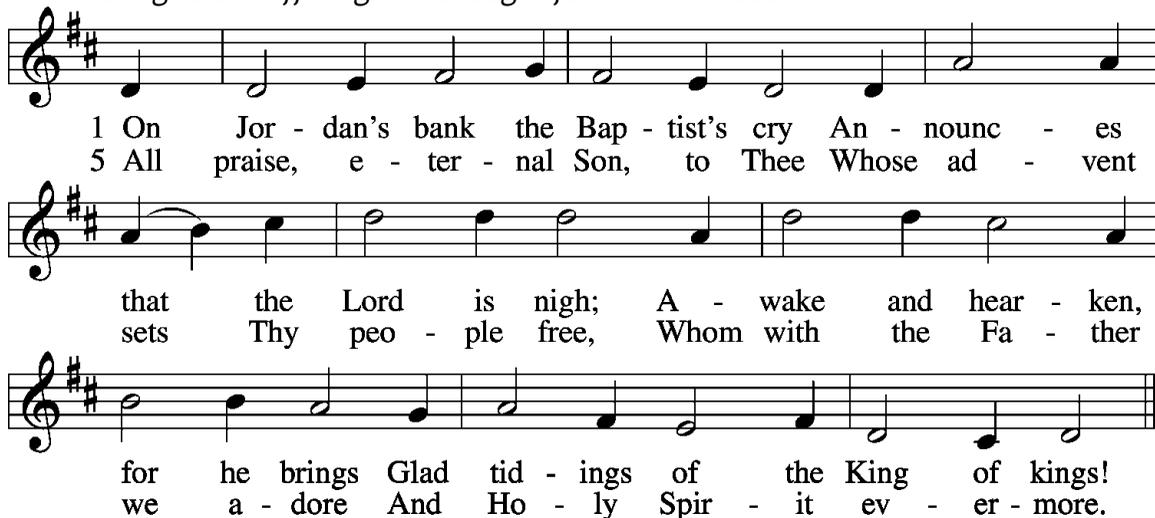
Offering

Offertory

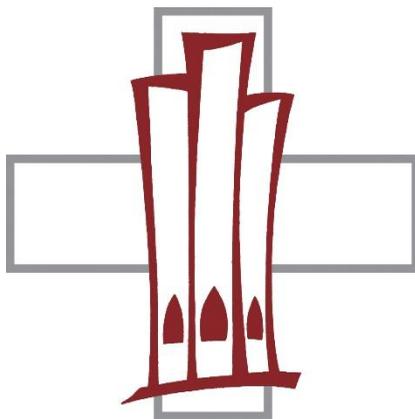
On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

LSB 344, sts. 1,5

Sung as our Offerings are brought forward to the Altar



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent
that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther
for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.



Prayers

- P: In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications,
with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death,
and he was heard because of his reverent submission. *Hebrews 5:7*
Brothers and sisters, let us pray to the God of peace. *Hebrews 13:20*
O Wisdom, O holy Word of God,
you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care;
- C: Come and show your people the way to salvation.**
- P: O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, you showed yourself
to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the holy law on Mt. Sinai;
- C: Come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.**
- P: O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice;
- C: Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.**
- P: O King of the nations, the only joy of every heart;
O Keystone of the mighty arch of humankind;
- C: Come and save the creatures you fashioned from the dust.**
- P: O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people.
- C: Come and set us free, Lord our God.**
- P: To Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, the way, the truth, and the life,
let us make our humble prayer:
- C: Come and stay with us, Lord.**
- P: Son of the Most High, Your Advent was announced to the Virgin Mary by Gabriel,
- C: Come and rule over your people forever.**
- P: Holy One of God, in your presence John the Baptist leapt in Elizabeth's womb,
- C: Bring the joy of salvation to all the earth.**
- P: Jesus the Savior, the angel revealed your name to Joseph,
- C: Come and save your people from their sins.**
- P: Light of the world, for whom Simeon, Anna, and all the faithful waited,
- C: Come and comfort us.**
- P: Watchful at all times, we pray for strength to stand with confidence before our
Maker and Redeemer. May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and
bring us to everlasting life.
- 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 King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

LSB 348



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo-ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

Announcements

Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule

Advent Worship:

- Wednesday, 11/29 at 6:30pm in Sanctuary
- Wednesday, 12/6 at 6:30pm in Sanctuary
- Wednesday, 12/13 at 6:30pm in Sanctuary
- Wednesday, 12/20 at 6:30pm in Sanctuary

Children's Christmas Worship:

- Sunday, 12/10 at 4:00pm in Gym
- Christmas Eve Worship-Sunday, December 24:

-ONE service at 10am

There will be a short devotion and video

- 6pm: Candlelight service in Gym
- 11pm: Candlelight service in Sanctuary

Christmas Day Worship

- 10am Festival in Gym

Sunday 12/31:

Communion at 10am in Gym, followed by fellowship

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." Luke 2:10