



*Lent
Midweek
February 28
2018*

*We receive
each other's
benedictions as
the benediction
of the Lord
Jesus Christ.*

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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

Pastor Ben Squires

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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 Diver – 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: Mike Bandman

Acolyte: Nathan Faitsch

Asst Elder: Bob Souza

Greeter: Morrie & Carol Cook

Ushers: Monte & Jake Stoltzman

Lay Readers: Bill Schwartz & Tony Young

VESPERS

Adapted from the Lutheran Service Book, “*vespers*” is a Latin word meaning “evening.” Originally one of eight daily offices prayed during the Middle Ages, Vespers was retained at the time of the Reformation as one of two chief daily services, the other being Matins (Morning Prayer). “Sunset marks the end of the day and also the beginning of the next day so that the days roll on without interruption. The hours of darkness are experienced as a time of waiting and watching... the unknown, isolation, fear, death, night... but also stillness, rest, peace, and promise. In Christ, the grave is transformed into the morning of new and unending life” (quotes from *Journey into the Heart of God*).



Opening 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.

Opening Words

P: O Lord, open my lips,

C: and my mouth will declare Your praise.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C: make haste to help me, O Lord.

**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.**

P: Praise to You, O Christ,

C: Lamb of our salvation.

Psalm Reading (Responsive)

Psalm 133:1-3a (ESV) with added glosses

P: Behold, how good and pleasant it is

C: when the family of God dwells in unity!

P: It is like the precious oil of consecration poured on the head,
running down on the beard of Aaron, the first high priest,
running down on the collar of his robes!

C: Unity is blessed poured by God upon the family of God!

P: Mount Hermon, 117 miles north of Zion—the city of Jerusalem,
And a south wind picks up moisture from the snowy heights,
Carrying it south to fall on the mountains of Zion,
Bringing water and life for God’s people in His Temple city.

C: Unity is blessed poured by God upon the family of God!

**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.**

Psalm Prayer

P: Grant to your people, good Lord, the spirit of unity, that they may dwell together
in your love, and so bear to the world the ointment of your healing and the dew
of your blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

P: O Lord, we remember that life alone is nothing without life together, and life together is nothing without life in you. Praise be to you, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! You have given us new birth into a living hope, an inheritance that can never perish! And this is our Unity in Christ—all One before you as sinners in need of forgiveness and salvation. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *Amen.*

Holy Gospel

Luke 22:7–23, 39–46 (ESV)

⁷Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it.” ⁹They said to him, “Where will you have us prepare it?” ¹⁰He said to them, “Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters ¹¹and tell the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ ¹²And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there.” ¹³And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁴And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” ¹⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” ¹⁹And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁰And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. ²¹But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. ²²For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!” ²³And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

³⁹And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰And when he came to the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” ⁴¹And he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, ⁴²saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” ⁴³And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. ⁴⁴And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. ⁴⁵And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Series Reading from 1 Peter

1 Peter 1:3–5 (ESV)

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsory

LSB 230

P: Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth.

C: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

P: Unite my heart to fear Your name that I may walk in Your truth.

C: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

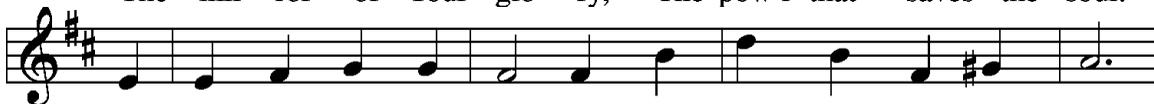
C: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Amen.



1 Pre-serve Your Word, O Sav - ior, To us this lat - ter day,
 2 Pre-serve, O Lord, Your hon - or, The bold blas - phem - er smite;
 3 Pre-serve, O Lord, Your Zi - on, Bought dear - ly with Your blood;
 4 Pre-serve Your Word and preach - ing, The truth that makes us whole,



And let Your king - dom flour - ish; En - large Your Church, we pray.
 Con - vince, con - vert, en - light - en The souls in er - ror's night.
 Pro - tect what You have cho - sen A - gainst the hell - ish flood.
 The mir - ror of Your glo - ry, The pow'r that saves the soul.



O keep our faith from fail - ing; Keep hope's bright star a - glow.
 Re - veal Your will, dear Sav - ior, To all who dwell be - low,
 Be al - ways our de - fend - er When dan - gers gath - er round;
 Oh, may this liv - ing wa - ter, This dew of heav'n - ly grace,



Let noth - ing from truth turn us While liv - ing here be - low.
 Great light of all the liv - ing, That all Your name may know.
 When all the earth is crum - bling, Safe may Your Church be found.
 Sus - tain us while here liv - ing Un - til we see Your face.

5 Preserve in wave and tempest
 Your storm-tossed little flock;
 Assailed by wind and weather,
 May it endure each shock.

Stand at the helm, our pilot,
 And set the course aright;
 Then we will reach the harbor
 In Your eternal light.

Sermon

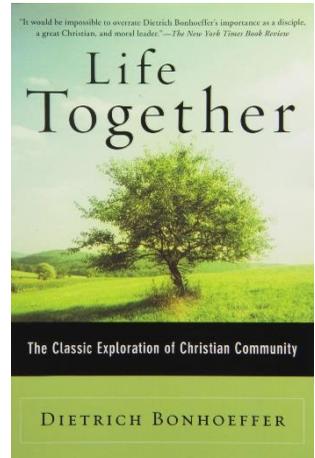
**“Meeting Together During the Quiet Hours of the Week
For Common Life Under the Word”**

1 Peter 1:3-5

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for [brothers and sisters in the Lord] to dwell together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1). ...It is by the grace of God that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly in this world to share God’s Word and sacrament. Not all Christians receive this blessing. The imprisoned, the sick, the scattered lonely, the proclaimers of the Gospel in heathen lands stand alone. They know that the visible fellowship is a blessing....

The believer therefore lauds the Creator, the Redeemer, God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for the bodily presence of a [brother or sister]. The prisoner, the sick person, the Christian in exile sees in the companionship of a fellow Christian a physical sign of the gracious presence of the triune God. Visitor and visited in loneliness recognize in each other the Christ who is present in the body; they receive and meet each other as one meets the Lord, in reverence, humility, and joy. They receive each other’s benedictions as the benediction of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Among earnest Christians in the Church today there is a growing desire to meet together with other Christians in the rest periods of their work for common life under the Word. Communal life is again being recognized by Christians today as the grace that it is, as the extraordinary...[in] the Christian life....It is grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in community Christian brothers and sisters (p. 17,18,20,21).



Offering

Offertory *Lord Jesus Christ, With Us Abide*

LSB 585; tune: 902

(Sung as the offerings are brought forward to the altar)



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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Offertory Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

C: Amen.

Prayers of the Church

P: Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

C: *and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.*

P: Merciful Father, whose guiding hand has brought us to the completion of this day, we humbly pray You to stay with us and shelter us in quiet hours of this night that we, who are wearied by the changes and chances of this passing world, may rest in Your changeless peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: *hear our prayer.*

P: Eternal God, the hours both of day and night are Yours, and to You the darkness is no threat. Be present, we pray, with those who labor in these hours of night, especially those who watch and work on behalf of others. Grant them diligence in their watching, faithfulness in their service, courage in danger, and competence in emergencies. Help them to meet the needs of other with confidence and compassion; Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious Lord, we give You thanks for the day, especially for the good we were permitted to give and to receive. The day is now past, and we commit it to You. We entrust to You the night and rest in Your peace, for You are our help, and You neither slumber nor sleep. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Let us pray together.

C: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. 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: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

Chief of Sinners Though I Be

LSB 611



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
 heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
 wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
 all to me; All my wants to Him are known,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
 Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—
 Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
 All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
 won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
 walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.
 hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.

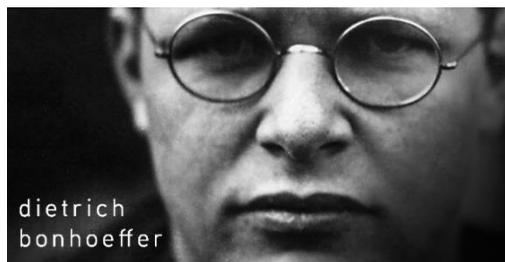
5 O my Savior, help afford Keep me in the narrow way;
 By Your Spirit and Your Word! Grace in time of need supply
 When my wayward heart would stray, While I live and when I die.

Announcements

Acknowledgments

Adapted from "Vespers" in *Lutheran Service Book*.
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Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945) was executed in a Nazi prison on April 9, 1945, for his role in a conspiracy to assassinate Adolf Hitler and bring the Second World War to an end. His involvement in the conspiracy was grounded in his conviction that discipleship to Jesus Christ required Christians to stand in solidarity with the oppressed by standing for and with the oppressed against the oppressor.



Life Together puts into words a description of what Bonhoeffer and others set to create in their Confessing Church illegal seminary at Finkenwalde. The retreat-like atmosphere at the seminary built upon an appreciation for the best of the monastic practices. The outcome is a book that raises up the vision of what it means to be the Church, to be disciples of Jesus who are drawn together in Community around God's Word.

Copies of the book are available on the Hub so that you can experience Bonhoeffer's insight and wisdom into what it means to share life together as disciples of Jesus. (Suggested donation \$11)



PRAYER ROOM

The GO TOGETHER prayer room is a place for individuals and ministry groups to go to the Lord in prayer on behalf of friends, families, neighbors, the greater Gurnee Community and the nation. This is a tremendous blessing to our GO! Together churches and our community. The room is located on Old Grand Ave (next to Dairy Queen) and is available through the sign-up below, 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, 365 days of the year.

Sign up for a time at:

[http:// http://go-together.org/get-involved/prayer-room](http://go-together.org/get-involved/prayer-room)

Then contact the church office for the door code.