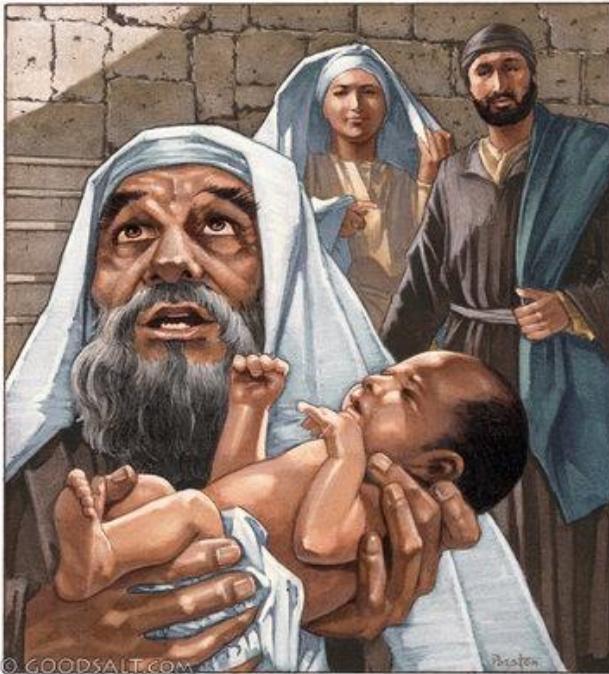


5th Sunday Praise Prayers

Use the Praise Request sheets provided and put your Praise in the Gift Box anytime during the service. These will then be read aloud by Pastor as our Worship Prayers.

(Other prayer requests can be submitted on the attendance cards to be included in the full Prayer List which is sent out by email on Monday. If you don't receive our emails, send an email to office@bethelgurnee.org).



**1st Sunday
after Christmas
Presentation of
Our Lord at the Temple
December 30, 2018**

**TODAY'S PREACHER: Seminarian Jacob Stoltzman
Bethel member, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN**

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

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper is celebrated according to the Lutheran Confessions based on the teaching Jesus gave his disciples and us that he is truly present in this meal. Confident that our sins are forgiven, we experience our oneness with him and each other as he gathers us at his table. His true body and blood, given and shed for us, we share in this meal as he invites in Matthew 26:26-28, "Take and eat; this is My Body ... This is My Blood..." Baptized Christians sharing these beliefs are invited to receive Communion. All others are invited to the altar rail for a blessing. Wine can be taken by common chalice, individual cup, or by dipping your wafer into the chalice. Please address questions to the Elders or the Pastor. ***Non-alcoholic wine is in purple-colored cups.***

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

Sunday 8:00AM

Elders: JJ Jones
Comm/Asst. Elder: Al Diercks
Acolytes: Owen Squires, Ashley Plapp
Lay Readers: Joanne Heidlauf, Thor Peplow
Ushers: Don Heidlauf, ***Open***
Greeters: The Wuethrick Family,
Marilyn Schill
Fellowship: Post Christmas Cookies
Dec. Altar Guild: Kathy Schwartz
Dec. Counters: Dave Ross

Sunday 10:45AM

Bob Souza
Jack Warneke
Amanda Adams, Open
Dave Ziegler, Randy Gifford
John Schultz, Open
The Traynor Family,
The Groh Family

Sheila Bunnell
Cheryl Ross

TODAY'S FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:

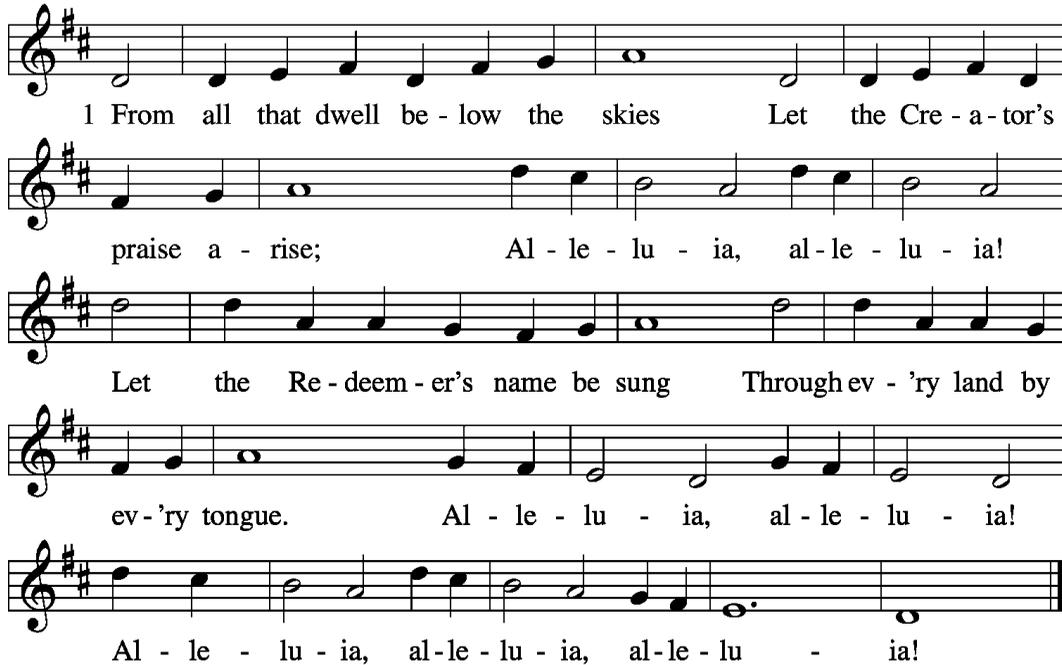
Monte and Nancy Stoltzman in celebration of their 39th wedding anniversary.

DAILY PRAYER

This service is based on Morning Prayer and Matins in Lutheran Service Book.

Invocation Verse

LSB 816, st. 1



1 From all that dwell be - low the skies Let the Cre - a - tor's
praise a - rise; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Let the Re - deem - er's name be sung Through ev - 'ry land by
ev - 'ry tongue. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Invocation and Opening Sentences

LSB 219

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

C: **Amen.**

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.
Praise to You, O Christ. Alleluia.**

Venite Verse ("O Come, Let Us Worship")

LSB 816, st. 3

3 All praise to God the Fa - ther be, All praise, e - ter - nal
 Son, to Thee. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Whom with the Spir - it we a - dore For - ev - er and for -
 ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Te Deum ("You are God")

LSB 939

P: All of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ.

C: *Alleluia. You are God; we praise You. You are the Lord; we acclaim You. You are the eternal Father; all creation worships You.*

P: Father, of majesty unbounded; Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship; and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the king of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.

When You became man to set us free, You overcame the sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.

We believe that You will come and be our judge.

Come, then, Lord, and help Your people, bought with the price of Your own blood, and bring us with Your saints to glory everlasting.

O God, for our redemption You gave Your only Son to suffer death on the cross, and by His glorious resurrection You delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin so that we may rise to live with Christ forever; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *Amen.*

Verse of Praise by Those Delivered from Sin

LSB 816, st. 2

2 E - ter - nal are Thy mer - cies, Lord; E - ter - nal truth at -
tends Thy Word. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore Till suns shall rise and
set no more. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Greeting and Luther's Morning or Evening Prayer

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

P: Let us pray together.

C: *I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. 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.*

Prayer of the Day

P: 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.*



1 Now sing we, now re - joice,	Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me;	I can - not rise to Thee.
3 Now through His Son doth shine	The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found?	Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



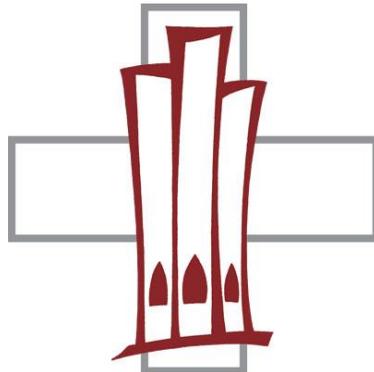
He from whom joy stream - eth	Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it,	O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us	Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing	With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth	The sun in yon - der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it,	Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
Till He o - pened for us	A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing	In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art!	Thou my Sav - ior art!
Draw me un - to Thee!	Draw me un - to Thee!
May we praise Him there!	May we praise Him there!
Oh, that we were there!	Oh, that we were there!



Old Testament Reading**Exodus 13:1–3a, 11–15 (ESV)**

¹The LORD said to Moses, ²“Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.”

³Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten.

¹¹“When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, ¹²you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD’s.

¹³Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem.

¹⁴And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’”

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle (New Testament Letter)**Colossians 3:12–17 (ESV)**

¹²Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:22–40 (ESV)

²² 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.”

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day**See Amid the Winter's Snow**

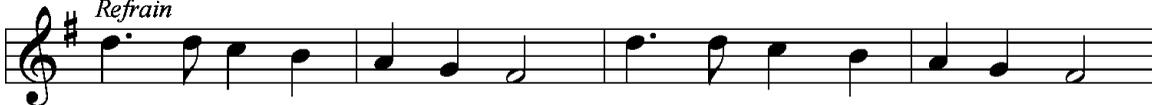
LSB 373



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.

Refrain

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!"

Sermon**Luke 2:22-40****Canticle (Luke 1:68-69 in song) Sing Praise to the God of Israel**

LSB 936 st. 1



1 Sing praise to the God of Is - ra - el! Sing praise for His



vis - i - ta - tion! Re - deem - ing His peo - ple from their sin,



Ac - com - plish - ing their sal - va - tion, Up - rais - ing a



might - y horn with - in The house of His ser - vant Da - vid!

Confession of Faith

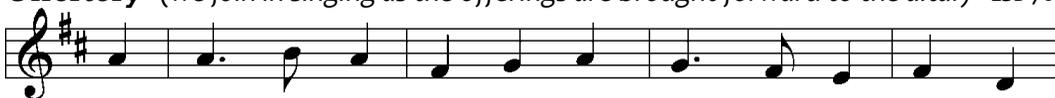
Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.—And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. —I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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 785, sts. 1&3



1 We praise You, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



In grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
And glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore You, we kneel and a - dore You;
With You, Lord, be - side us, Your strong arm will guide us.



We bless Your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
To You, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Prayers

The Lord's Supper: What We Believe

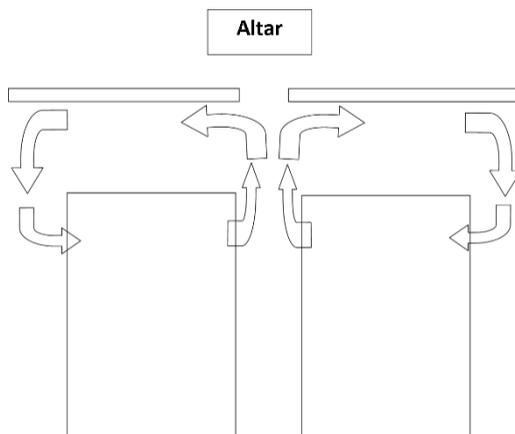
All Christians who are baptized and have been instructed are invited to receive Communion with us if you believe as we do—that the bread is the body of Christ, and the wine is the blood of Christ, truly present for us for the forgiveness of our sins.

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.
- Use the distribution time to prepare yourself for communion, sing the hymns as prayers to God, and maintain this as meditative time.



Preparation for the Lord's Supper

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ***And also with you.***

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: ***We lift them to the Lord.***

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: ***It is right to give Him thanks and praise.***

P: We pray: Holy God, mighty Lord,

C: ***gracious Father:***

P: Endless is Your mercy and eternal Your reign.

You have filled all creation with light and life;

C: ***Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.***

P: Through Abraham, You promised to bless all nations.

Through the prophets, You renewed Your promise.

C: ***And now in these last days, You have sent Your Son.***

P: Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup,

C: ***We remember the life our Lord offered for us.***

P: And believing the witness of His resurrection and His promise to return again,

C: ***We wait to share in the great and promised feast.***

P: Send now, we pray,

C: ***Your Holy Spirit,***

P: So that we who receive the Lord's body and blood,

C: ***May receive Him with a living faith. 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.")

First 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!



1 Let us all with glad - some voice Praise the God of heav - en,
2 To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sad - ness,
3 We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a won - der?
4 Christ, our Lord and Sav - ior dear, Be Thou ev - er near us.



Who, to bid our hearts re - joice, His own Son hath giv - en.
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in glad - ness.
There - fore praise God ev - er - more Here on earth and yon - der.
Grant us now a glad new year. A - men, Je - sus, hear us.

Common Dismissal

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

C: Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

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

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace

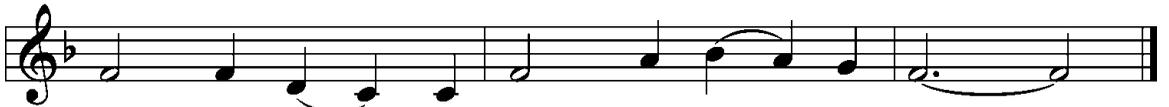
LSB 937



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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Announcements

Acknowledgements

This service is based on Morning Prayer & Matins in *Lutheran Service Book*.

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Preparing to Explore God!

www.exploreGod.com/chicago

*In January-February 2019, Bethel will join with churches across Chicagoland to focus on **7 Big Questions** for a sermon series and discussion groups in each of our congregations & in the community.*

The goal?

Help people in our communities have safe places to explore what it means to believe in God. The sermons will examine these questions through the Bible, but the discussion groups are designed to be safe places where people of all backgrounds can share their thoughts, hear from others, and ultimately consider these questions from the perspective of Jesus Christ.

How can you get involved?

- *Pray. Pray that God will use this series across Chicagoland to lead many people to consider or reconsider faith in Jesus.*
- *Join us for one of our training sessions in December (see below).*
- *Attend Sunday worship in January-February beginning January 13 and invite a friend or family member to join you for this series. You could say something like, "I know you haven't been interested in attending church in the past, but I wonder if you'd be my guest for this really intriguing series."*
- *Participate in the discussion groups which will be held as part of Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study, Middle School & High School Sunday School, and more.*
- *Participate in one of the public discussion groups that Pastor, Katrina, and others will be planning. More info to come.*
- *Ask Pastor or Katrina about how to use this series to host your own discussion group with your friends, family, or neighbors. A group can be as small as 2 people or could be larger like 12 people. We'll help you know how to host the discussion.*