

*The entire reason Jesus came to earth was so that everyone who trusts in Him can know God personally  
—the relationship we were created to enjoy.*

explore **God**

Can I Know God Personally?

**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
**February 24, 2019**

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**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**

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

**Pastor Ben Squires**

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**Website:** [www.BethelGurnee.org](http://www.BethelGurnee.org)

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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

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### ***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.

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### ***SERVING TODAY***

#### ***Sunday 8:00AM***

***Elders:*** JJ Jones  
***Comm/Asst. Elder:*** Mike Bandman  
***Acolytes:*** Holly Faitsch, Ellie Kreamer  
***Lay Readers:*** Tim Faitsch, Lynn Faitsch  
***Ushers:*** Don Heidlauf, Al Diercks  
***Greeters:*** Al Diercks, Sue Frendreis  
***Fellowship:*** Kozlik Families  
***Feb. Altar Guild:*** Margie Tatgenhorst  
***Feb. Counters:*** Chris Mason

#### ***Sunday 10:45AM***

***Bob Souza***  
***Randy Gifford***  
***Kate Kruse, Jake Kruse***  
***Kelley Dornier, Suzanne Fowler***  
***Scott Mundrick, Jay Souza***  
***Peters Family, Traynor Family***  
  
***Dawn Werfelmann***  
***Diane Sanders***

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### ***ALTAR FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:***

Silasiri family in celebration of Ella's birthday on 2/26 and  
Blasko family in celebration of Elizabeth's birthday on 2/21.

# In Today's Prayers

*If you have something you'd like added,  
please go to one of the Prayer Stands,  
write down your request, & put in the plastic rack.*



In our weekly Worship Prayers, we lift up praises, thanksgivings, requests, and concerns to our Lord. In order to help us pray to God about the wholeness of our lives in the world, we have a schedule for when we will focus on specific areas for prayer. Any immediate needs will always take priority, but in general, we will follow this schedule. Please note that this means on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month, Pastor will speak the names of everyone on our health concerns list, but on other Sundays, this will be lifted up only as a general prayer for health and healing.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

### Local Churches

#### **Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Circuit (area) churches:**

Beautiful Savior-Antioch, Faith-Lake Forest, Good Shepherd-Lake Villa, Immanuel-Glenview, Lord of Glory-Grayslake, St. Matthew-Hawthorn Wood Grace-Northbrook, St. John-Northbrook, Community of Faith-Spring Grove, Redeemer-Waukegan, Prince of Peace-Waukegan

#### **GO! Together partner churches in Gurnee:**

Gurnee Community, Joy!, Lakeland, Life, Village, New Abbey, Immanuel, La Viña, Epicenter, House of Prayer, New Hope

#### **Waukegan Churches participating in the Mosaic Learning Community**

For more info, go to <http://mosaic.tiu.edu>

Christian Neighbors, CityReach, First Presbyterian, Iglesia Emanuel, Journey, Living Waters Cathedral, New Abbey, Shiloh Baptist, Sign of the Dove, Waukegan Baptist Bible, Waukegan Christian Faith Fellowship, Waukegan Community Church

### **Congregation Goal: Missional Living**

Living as disciples among our neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, families, friends, and daily living

## THE GOSPEL OF ST. LUKE SERVICE

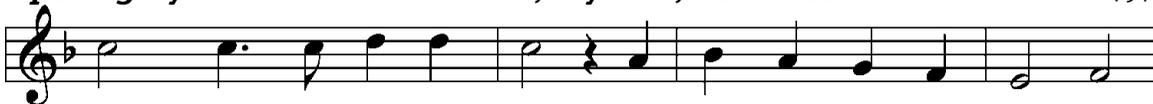
Worship in a traditional order drawing words from Luke's Gospel.

Luke is the focus of Year C Gospel readings in the Lectionary.

### Opening Hymn

### The Lord, My God, Be Praised

LSB 794



1 The Lord, my God, be praised, My light, my life from heav - en;  
2 The Lord, my God, be praised, My trust, my life from heav - en,  
3 The Lord, my God, be praised, My hope, my life from heav - en,  
4 The Lord, my God, be praised, My God, the ev - er - liv - ing,



My mak - er, who to me Has soul and bod - y giv - en;  
The Fa - ther's own dear Son, Whose life for me was giv - en,  
The Spir - it, whom the Son In love to me has giv - en.  
To whom the heav'n - ly host Their laud and praise are giv - ing.



My Fa - ther, who will shield And keep me day by day  
Who for my sin a - toned With His most pre - cious blood  
His grace re - vives my heart And gives my spir - it pow'r,  
The Lord, my God, be praised, In whose great name I boast,



And make each mo - ment yield New bless - ings on my way.  
And gives to me by faith The high - est heav'n - ly good.  
Help, com - fort, and sup - port In sor - row's gloom - y hour.  
God Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the Ho - ly Ghost.

### Invocation (Based on Luke 2:14)

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

C: **Amen.**

P: Glory to God in the highest,

C: **peace to all the Earth,**

P: and goodwill from God in heaven.

C: **Amen.**

## **Confession and Absolution**

*(Based on the Song of Zechariah—Luke 1:68-79 (LSB 238), along with Luke 3:7-8,10; 15:21)*

P: John the Baptist was called the prophet of the Most High,  
for He went before the Lord Jesus to prepare His way,  
confronting the people and us with our sin, saying:  
“Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon?  
Produce fruit that shows you have repented.  
Produce actions that show you have changed your hearts and lives.”  
The crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?”  
And we find ourselves asking this same question.

**C: Lord, we have sinned. What then shall we do?**

P: God calls on us to confess our sin and seek His forgiveness and mercy,  
so that these words from the prodigal son in the parable of Jesus  
become our own words of confession:

**C: Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.  
I am no longer worthy to be called your child.**

P: John the Baptist, the prophet, went before the Lord Jesus  
to give His people knowledge of their salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sin.  
In the tender compassion of our God,  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**C: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;  
He has come to His people and redeemed them.  
He has raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of His servant David.**

P: 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.**

**Gloria in Excelsis (based on Luke 2:14)**

LSB 204



**1** To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

**Explore God Collect (Prayer of the Today's Explore God Question)**

*Collect based on the Prayer for Confirmands on Confirmation*

P: Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing us, Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling us with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, we may continue steadfast and victorious to the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Anthem****“When Morning Gilds the Skies”****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.

*When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries:*

*May Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair:*

*May Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Let earth’s wide circle round in joyful notes resound:*

*May Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Let air and sea and sky from depth to height reply:*

*May Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find:*

*May Jesus Christ be praised!*

*When fades my earthly bliss, my comfort still is this:*

*May Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine:*

*May Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Be this our joyful song through all the ages long;*

*May Jesus Christ be praised! May Jesus Christ be praised!*

**Old Testament Reading****Genesis 45:3–15 (ESV)**

[After many years in Egypt, Joseph’s brothers appeared, asking for help because of a famine. They did not know the official they asked was their brother, Joseph, whom they had sold into slavery].

<sup>3</sup>Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph said to his brothers, “Come near to me, please.” And they came near. And he said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup>And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup>For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup>And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup>So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

<sup>9</sup>Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. <sup>10</sup>You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup>There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.’ <sup>12</sup>And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. <sup>13</sup>You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” <sup>14</sup>Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. <sup>15</sup>And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### ***Psalm Reading***

### ***Psalm 103:1–13 (ESV)***

<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,

and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

<sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,

<sup>3</sup>who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

<sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the pit,

who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

<sup>5</sup>who satisfies you with good

so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

<sup>6</sup>The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.

<sup>7</sup>He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup>He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.

<sup>10</sup>He does not deal with us according to our sins,

nor repay us according to our iniquities.

<sup>11</sup>For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

<sup>12</sup>as far as the east is from the west,

so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

<sup>13</sup>As a father shows compassion to his children,

so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

# Song of Praise

# Word of God Speak

4 I'm find-ing my-self at a loss for words, and the fun-  
my-self in the midst of You, be-yond the

7 ny thing is. it's o - kay. The last thing I need is to -  
mu - ic, be-yond the noise. All that I need is to be -

10 be heard, but to hear what You would say. Word of God speak .  
-with You, and in the qui - et hear Your voice. -

13 - would You pour down like rain. Wash-ing my eyes to see, Your maj-

16 - es-ty to be still and know that You're in this place? Please let me stay .

19 1. and rest in Your ho - li-ness. Word of God, speak. 2.I'm find-ing

22 li - ness. I'm find-ing my self at a loss -

- for words, and the fun - ny thing is, it's o kay.

## **Holy Gospel**

**Luke 6:27–38 (ESV)**

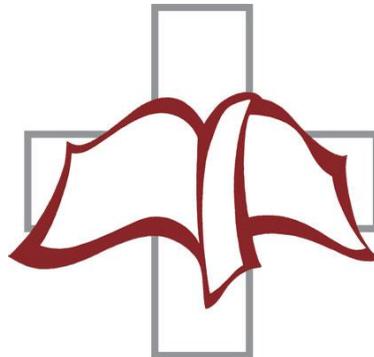
<sup>27</sup>[Jesus continued speaking to the disciples and people on a level plain. He said:]  
“But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,  
<sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>To one who strikes you  
on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not  
withhold your tunic either. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who  
takes away your goods do not demand them back. <sup>31</sup>And as you wish that others  
would do to you, do so to them.

<sup>32</sup>“If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners  
love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>And if you do good to those who do good to you, what  
benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>And if you lend to those from  
whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners,  
to get back the same amount. <sup>35</sup>But love your enemies, and do good, and lend,  
expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of  
the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, even as  
your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup>“Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be  
condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup>give, and it will be given to you. Good  
measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For  
with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**





1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com-fort  
 2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -  
 3 He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to  
 4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; He lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who  
 ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious  
 plead for me a - bove; He lives my hun - gry  
 guide me with His eye; He lives to com - fort



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.  
 in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.  
 soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.  
 me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.

5 He lives to silence all my fears;  
 He lives to wipe away my tears;  
 He lives to calm my troubled heart;  
 He lives all blessings to impart.

6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;  
 He lives and loves me to the end;  
 He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;  
 He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

**Sermon**

***"Can I Know God Personally?"***

### **Confession of Faith from Luke 24:26-27,32; 4:21; 24:44-49**

We confess that Jesus interpreted for us the things written about Himself in all the Scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets, so that our hearts burn within us when He opens the Scriptures to us by His Holy Spirit to reveal His grace and mercy. —As Jesus declared, “Today these words have been fulfilled in your hearing.”—He has opened our minds to understand the Scriptures, and shown us, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you—the Holy Spirit.” 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 (Based on Mary’s Song—the Magnificat—Luke 1:46-55)** LSB 934 sts. 1-2 *(we join in singing as the offerings are brought forward to the altar)*

1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it  
2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -  
leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -  
maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like  
gard, And I am blest for time to come.  
light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.

## **Prayers**

### ***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 (Blessing)***

***(Based on the Beatitudes—Luke 6:20-23 & the Confirmation Blessing)***

P: The Lord Jesus lifts up His eyes on you, His disciples, and says:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you  
on account of the Son of Man!

Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy,

for behold, great is your reward in heaven.”

May you grow in the wisdom of God, seek the Lord in prayer,  
receive His strength and always have the hope of eternal life,  
in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

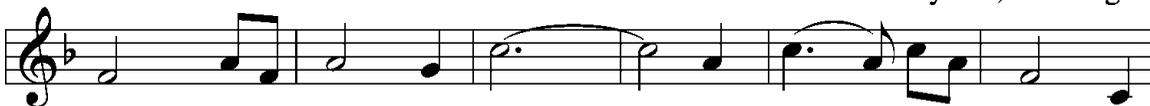
## Closing Hymn

## Amazing Grace

LSB 744 sts. 1-5



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That  
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but  
Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and  
have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me  
mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall  
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!  
por - tion be As long as life en - dures.  
safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.  
then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.  
sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

## Announcements

### Acknowledgements

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

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Luke 3:6-8 used in Confession of Sin and Luke 24:27 used in Confession of Faith are based on Common English Bible (CEB)

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# LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

## The future is in your hands

You, yes...you, are needed. YOUR opinion matters.

If you call Bethel your church home, you can make a difference. Whether you come every week or every once and a while...you are important to the future of Bethel. We are in a position of needing to equip and encourage leaders. In order to successfully move forward, you are invited to attend this summit.

### Essentials

- *Current needs in leadership*
- *Preventing burn-out*
- *Engaging the whole congregation in the vision instead of just a small group*
- *Celebrate where God is already at work*

**March 16, 2019 9:00am – 12:00pm**

**Bethel Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall**

**Katrina@BethelGurnee.org, 224-623-0800**

Please RSVP to <https://tinyurl.com/bethelgurneesummit>

**BETHEL  
PRESCHOOL**

# RUMMAGE SALE



**The rummage sale is Saturday, March 9 at 8:30 a.m.  
& your help is needed.**

Start by weeding out those unwanted items now  
so they are ready for drop off starting Sunday, March 3.  
Volunteers will also be needed Sunday, March 3 & through-out the week.

## **Rummage Drop-off**

**Sunday, March 3** at 10:30 a.m. - Noon or  
Monday - Thursday from: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. & 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(NOT available from 3 -6 p.m. each day and the door to the gym will be locked.)

We ask that all items are dropped off by Thursday to allow for sorting and pricing.

**Accepted Items:** Clothes, baby items, toys, games, knick knacks, linens, kitchen items, books, shoes, etc. (No computers or TV's please.) If you have larger items you wish to donate, such as furniture, contact the Preschool Office at [preschool@bethelgurnee.org](mailto:preschool@bethelgurnee.org) or (847)244-9672, to make sure the items will be accepted.

## **Volunteers Needed**

**There are many ways to pitch in:**

- **Sunday, March 3**—starting at 10:30 a.m. set up tables and bring rummage from basement.
- **Monday, March 4 - Friday March 8**—pricing, sorting, folding, and organizing rummage.
- **Saturday, March 9 - Rummage Sale Day!** Free lunch for workers!

We will need cashiers, baggers, people to carry items, people to fold and organize, people to direct shoppers, and a clean-up crew at the end of the day.

## **Sign up**

<http://tinyurl.com/preschoolrummage2019> or in the preschool hallway.

**Volunteers are critical & make a huge impact to the success of the sale!**