



## ***WORSHIP SCHEDULE***

Sunday 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, David Ziegler - Handbell Director

---

### ***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***

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

***Elders:*** JJ Jones  
***Comm/Asst. Elder:*** Mike Bandman  
***Acolytes:*** Kelsi Mulley, Ellie Kreamer  
***Lay Readers:*** Jose Rayos, Owen Squires  
***Ushers:*** Al Diercks, ***OPEN***  
***Greeters:*** Sue & Chris Frendreis,  
Jim & Donna Gerken  
***Fellowship:*** Ellwein & Hautzinger  
***Dec. Altar Guild:*** Kathy Schwartz  
***Dec. Counters:*** Chris Mason

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

***Bob Souza***  
***Jack Warneke***  
***Cameron Fleming, OPEN***  
***Suzanne Fowler, Lori Hoornstra***  
***John Schultz, Karen Kailer***  
***Paul & Linda Groh,***  
***The Mason Family***  
***Sheila Bunnell***  
***Diane Sanders***

---

***ALTAR FLOWERS ARE TO THE GLORY OF GOD***

# 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.

## **Our District Partners**

Northern Illinois District  
Concordia University—Chicago

Walcamp—outdoor ministry  
Lutheran Church Charities

## **Our Seminaries**

Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne  
and Bethel member, Jacob Stoltzman, on his vicarage (internship year)  
at Redeemer Lutheran, Highland, IN  
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

## **Congregation: Discipleship**

Help us continue to see what it means to have a “heart life,” daily lives for Jesus

## **Our Loved Ones in the Armed Forces** *Let Pastor know if you have someone to add.*

Victoria Wuethrick, Bethel member, Air Force  
Lt. Colonel Michael Ridley, USAF, Minot AFB, ND – Steve Best’s brother  
Jason Lucker, Navy, had been at Great Lakes, now in school in Virginia  
Marshall King, Army—son of Deb Pellettieri’s friend  
David Mrnak, Army—Deb Pellettieri’s friend’s future son-in-law  
Allison Luzwick, Lt., Navy—Great Lakes  
Bradley Abbitt, Army—Susan Squires’ cousin  
Steven Furman, Air Force—Margie Tatgenhorst’s nephew  
Andrew Waala, Air Force—Brian & Sherri Waala’s son  
Jonathan Grana, Navy, stationed in Bahrain—Shelly Adams’ cousin  
Justyn Koster, Marines—Jeff and Mary Kay Ams’ nephew

# THE GOSPEL OF ST. MATTHEW SERVICE

Worship in a traditional order drawing words from Matthew's Gospel.  
Matthew is the focus of Year A Gospel readings in the Lectionary.

## Opening Hymn

## Prepare the Royal Highway

LSB 343



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!  
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001267

**Invocation (Based on Matthew 11:28-30)**

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

**C: Amen.**

P: Jesus says, “Come to Me all who are weary, and I will give You rest.

Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me.

For I am gentle and lowly in heart.”

**C: For You have promised we will find rest for our souls.**

P: For His yoke is easy, and His burden is light.

**C: Amen.**

**Confession and Absolution (Matthew 22:34-40;19:16-26;18:13-14,19-20;20:28)**

P: When asked “Teacher, what is the great commandment in the Law?”, Jesus said,

**C: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart**

**and with all your soul and with all your mind.**

**And you shall love your neighbor as yourself.**

P: Jesus said, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor,  
and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

**C: This brings us sorrow, Lord,**

**Because we treasure many things which are not focused on You.**

**Who then can be saved?**

P: Jesus declares, “With people this is impossible,  
but with God all things are possible.”

He rejoices more over finding one lost sheep than over the ninety-nine that  
never went astray. It is not His will that one of you should perish.

**C: For the Lord has promised:**

**Where two or three are gathered in His Name,**

**He is among us with His forgiveness.**

P: Indeed, He is here in the power of His forgiveness for you today.

He comes not to be served

but to serve, to give His life as a ransom for you.

Therefore, 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 Matthew 20:28)**

LSB 971, st. 2

2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, Name a - bove all names;  
Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Hope for sin - ners slain.  
*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.

Tune and text: © 1982 Birdwing Music, admin. EMI. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001267

**Collect (Prayer of the Day)**

P: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

**Anthem "The Race That Long In Darkness Pined" 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.

*The race that long in darkness pined Have seen a glorious light;  
The people dwell in day who dwelt in death's surrounding night.*

*To us a Child of hope is born, To us a Song is given;  
Him shall the tribes of earth obey, Him all the hosts of heaven.*

*His name shall be the Prince of Peace, Forevermore adored,  
The wonderful, the Counselor, the great and mighty Lord.*

### **Psalm Reading**

**Psalm 72:1–7 (ESV)**

- <sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the royal son!  
<sup>2</sup>May he judge your people with righteousness,  
and your poor with justice!  
<sup>3</sup>Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness!  
<sup>4</sup>May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
give deliverance to the children of the needy,  
and crush the oppressor!  
<sup>5</sup>May they fear you while the sun endures,  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!  
<sup>6</sup>May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,  
like showers that water the earth!  
<sup>7</sup>In his days may the righteous flourish,  
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle (New Testament Letter)**

**Romans 15:4–9,13 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

<sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

*“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,  
and sing to your name.”*

<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



## **Holy Gospel**

## **Matthew 3:1–12 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,  
<sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” <sup>3</sup>For this is he who was spoken of  
by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist,  
and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the  
region about the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in  
the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he  
said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?  
<sup>8</sup>Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup>And do not presume to say to yourselves,  
‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise  
up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every  
tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is  
mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the  
Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his  
threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with  
unquenchable fire.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

---

### **Acknowledgements**

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires;  
with the assistance of the Pastors of Circuit 1 of the Northern Illinois District (LCMS).

Portions used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 000013448.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*,  
copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.

The “Slow Advent” series is inspired by Rev. Bosco Peters (<http://www.liturgy.co.nz>).

Cover photo: “Sproutings #3”

Bong State Recreation Area, Kansasville, WI © 2019 BiCS Pics.

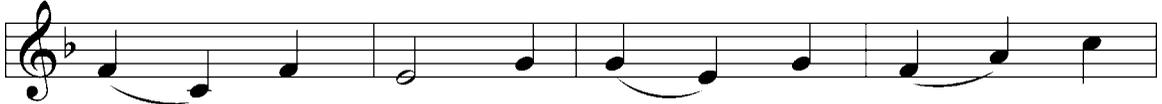
**Hymn of the Day**

**Blest Be the Tie That Binds**

LSB 975



1 Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in  
 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne We pour our  
 3 We share our mu - tual woes, Our mu - tual  
 4 When here our path - ways part, We suf - fer  
 5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, And sin we



Chris - tian love; The fel - low - ship of  
 ar - dent prayers; Our fears, our hopes, our  
 bur - dens bear, And of - ten for each  
 bit - ter pain; Yet, one in Christ and  
 shall be free And per - fect love and



kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove.  
 aims are one, Our com - forts and our cares.  
 oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
 one in heart, We hope to meet a - gain.  
 friend - ship reign Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

**Sermon**

**“Slowing Down for Harmony”**

**Confession of Faith from Matthew 11:2-6; 16:13-16**

P: When John the Baptist heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?”

C: **Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”**

P: Jesus asked His disciples, using the title “Son of Man” to speak about Himself,  
 “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”  
 And the disciples said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah,  
 and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”  
 Then He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?”  
 And I also ask you, disciples here today, “Who do you say that Jesus is?”

C: **Simon Peter replied,**  
**and we also say,**  
**“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 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 Matthew 19:28, 12:18-21)**

LSB 920 sts.2,5; tune: 616

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

2 King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings; King - ship with  
 5 We are the Church: Christ bids us show That in His  
 Him His ser - vants gain; With Christ the Ser - vant  
 Church all na - tions find Their hearth and home where  
 - Lord of all, Christ's world we serve to share Christ's reign.  
 Christ re - stores True peace, true love to all man - kind.

© 1969, 1987 James Quinn; admin. Selah Publishing Co., Inc. Used by permission.  
 © 2003 Kurt E. Reinhardt. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100013448.

### **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 Matthew 28:18-20)***

P: As Jesus said to His disciples before He ascended into heaven, He says to you,  
“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.  
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.  
And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

**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***