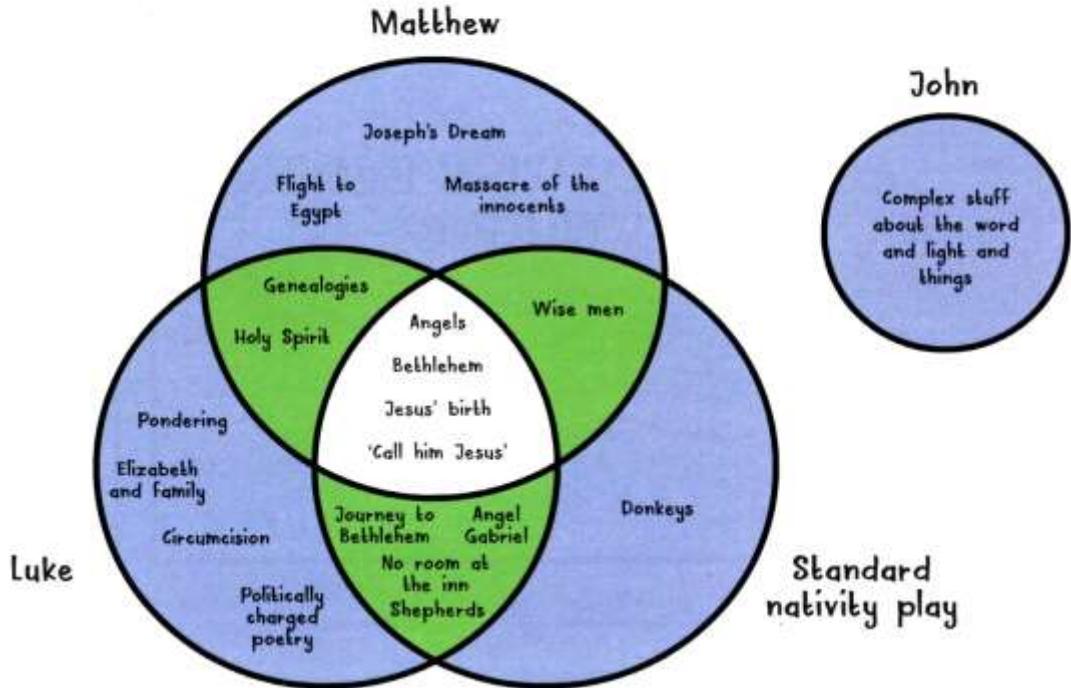


Midweek Advent & Christmas Eve Series Based on a drawing by Rich Wyld

# Theologygrams: Stories of Jesus' Birth



## Midweek Advent Worship – Wednesday, December 18, 2019

---

### **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](mailto:pastor@bethelgurnee.org)

**Katrina Johns, Equipping Coordinator**

Direct line: 224-623-0800 or email: [katrina@bethelgurnee.org](mailto:katrina@bethelgurnee.org)

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

---

## ***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***

<b><i>Elders:</i></b>	<i>Mike Bandman</i>
<b><i>Comm/Asst. Elder:</i></b>	<i>JJ Jones</i>
<b><i>Acolytes:</i></b>	<i>Dylan Love, Kaylee Leicht</i>
<b><i>Lay Readers:</i></b>	<i>Dave Hoffmeister</i>
<b><i>Ushers:</i></b>	<i>Don Heidlauf, OPEN</i>
<b><i>Greeters:</i></b>	<i>Dave &amp; Sue Hoffmeister, The Kaiser Family</i>

## **ADVENT PROPHETS**

This service draws from readings often used for the weeks of Advent, the Old Testament prophets who pointed to the first Advent of Jesus, His birth, and His Second Advent still to come.

### **Entrance Words and Invocation**

based on Jeremiah 33:14-16

P: "Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD.

**C: When He will fulfill the promise He made to all of His people.**

P: In those days and at that time

the LORD will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David.

**C: That Branch is a son of David. That Branch is Jesus, the Son of God.**

P: The Branch shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

**C: In those days the LORD's people will be saved and His Church will dwell securely.**

P: And this is the name by which the Church will be called:

**C: The LORD is our righteousness.**

P: What does that name mean?

**C: We, His people, are righteous through His righteousness.  
We are holy because He makes us holy through His Son.**

P: Let us remember our baptisms,

when the Lord became our righteousness...

in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen!**

---

### **Acknowledgments**

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

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

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

Scripture quotations in the liturgy are from

*The Holy Bible, English Standard Version,*

copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers.

This series based on a drawing taken from *Theologygrams* by Rich Wyld. Copyright ©2017 by Rich Wyld.

Used by permission of InterVarsity Press, P.O. Box 1400, Downers Grove, IL 60515, USA. [www.ivpress.com](http://www.ivpress.com).

And by permission of Rich Wyld and Darton, Longman and Todd, Ltd.

**Opening Hymn**

**Son of God, Eternal Savior**

LSB 842



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and  
2 As You, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for  
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and  
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us  
oth - ers live. Free - ly have Your gifts been grant - ed;  
Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion,  
truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in  
Free - ly may Your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and Yours the  
Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease. By Your pa - tient years of  
Hal - lows all our hu - man race: By Your pray - ing, by Your



glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your  
sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stew - ards  
toil - ing, By Your si - lent hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered  
will - ing That Your peo - ple should be one, Grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.  
of Your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.  
thirst of plea - sure, Stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth Your will be done.

## **Preparation for God's Word**

based on Malachi 3:1-7b

P: "Behold, I send my messenger

and he will prepare the way before me," says the Lord.

**C: This is John the Baptist who announced that the Messiah is Jesus.**

P: Shall we rejoice that the LORD has sent His messenger,  
that the Messiah Jesus has come into our midst?

**C: Yes, we shall rejoice; but our sin causes us to fear His coming.**

P: The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.

**C: But who can endure the day of his coming,  
and who can stand when he appears?**

**For he is like a refiner's fire**

**burning away the worthless material in us.**

**He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver,**

**and he will purify us from all our sin.**

P: And the LORD declares to you today

that His mercies are new every morning. He says:

"I the LORD do not change;

therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

From the days of your fathers

you have turned aside from my statutes

and have not kept them.

Return to me, and I will return to you,"

says the LORD of hosts.

Your LORD has drawn you back to Himself

through His Son, Jesus.

You have returned to the LORD

through the work of the Holy Spirit.

You have returned and find forgiveness for all of your sins

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

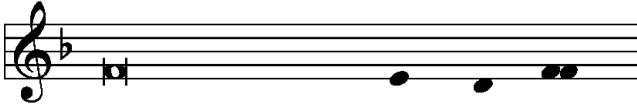
**C: Amen.**

P: And this is the name by which the Church will be called:

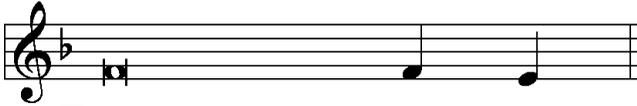
**C: The LORD is our righteousness. Amen.**

**Versicles**

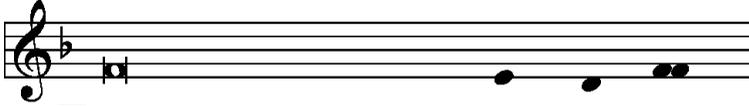
(Advent)



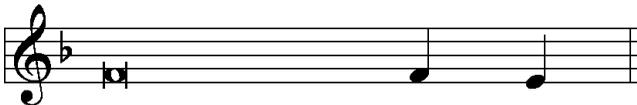
**L** The Spirit and the Church cry out:



**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.



**L** All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.



**L** The whole cre - a - tion pleads:



**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.

**Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

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

**P:** Let us pray. Most merciful God, You gave Your eternal Word to become incarnate of the pure Virgin. Grant Your people grace to put away sinful passions, that they may be ready for Your visitation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** *Amen.*

**Magnificat ("Magnify"—Mary's Song)**

**My Soul Rejoices**

LSB 933



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the  
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me  
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bless - ing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and  
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy  
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,  
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!  
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

## Christmas Gospel

*John 1:1-18 (ESV)*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

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

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) <sup>16</sup>And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.



**P:** My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es—



**G:** Sing the great - ness of the Lord!

from LSB 933 st. 1



1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord,  
 2 What Ad-am lost, none could re - claim, And Par - a - dise was barred  
 3 He came to that which was His own, But He was not re - ceived;  
 4 Lord Je - sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A - mong us here on earth



E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored.  
 Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had marred.  
 Yet still through Him God's glo - ry shone, And some His name be - lieved.  
 As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



Up - on our frail hu - man - i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace  
 For when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly Son;  
 To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n a - bove,  
 Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,



The full-ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace.  
 He came to us as life and light And our re - demp-tion won.  
 Born not of hu - man an - ces - try But born of God in love.  
 That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: © 1996 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 11001267

## Sermon

# The Birthday of Jesus Theologygram - Gospel of John

## 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**

### **Offering Prayer**

P: Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life. We give You thanks for this 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. Hear us for the sake of Jesus. **C: Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Church**

P: Lord, we ask Your blessings on this congregation, that we may be drawn closer together around Your Word and Sacraments and closer to You as we celebrate the coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Lord, we ask You to open our eyes to see all who do not yet have reason to celebrate this season of joy. Many do not know Your love in Christ. Enable us to see those in our midst who are hurting that we might be used by You to touch and change their lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: When many will be experiencing great amount of stress, bring peace, O Lord, and unity and comfort that we may be prepared to celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in joy, not weariness. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: We pray, O Father, for the elderly in our midst, the homebound and hospitalized, that during this season we may be aware of their need for companionship and fellowship. Move us, O Lord, to make time for those who have been a blessing to us over the years. Use us, O Lord, to be a blessing to them. Lord, in Your mercy,

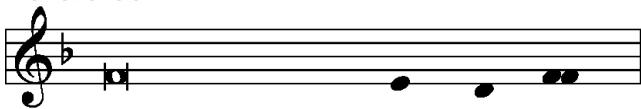
**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Lord, we entrust all for whom we pray to Your mercy,  
asking You to hear us for Jesus' sake. **C: Amen.**

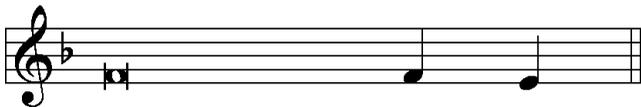
P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

**Versicles**



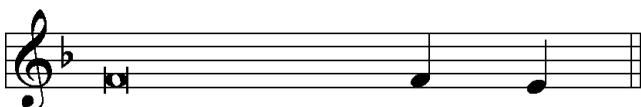
**L** The Spirit and the Church cry out:



**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.



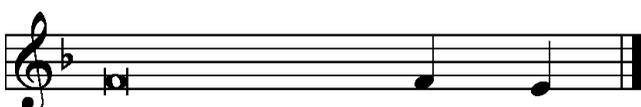
**L** All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.



**L** The whole cre - a - tion pleads:



**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.

**Benediction**

*based on Micah 5:2-5a*

P: Jesus shall stand and shepherd his flock  
in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And you, His flock, shall dwell secure,  
for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth.  
And He shall be your peace.  
The almighty and merciful Lord,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
bless you and always watch over you.

**C: Amen.**



1 Lift up your heads, you ev - er - last - ing doors,  
 2 Who is this King of great and glo - rious fame?  
 3 Who may as - cend Mount Zi - on's ho - ly hill  
 4 "Wor - thy is Christ!" The Lamb who once was slain



And weep no more! O Zi - on's daugh - ter, sing,  
 What is His name? Lord God of Sab - a - oth,  
 To do God's will? The One whose un - stained hands  
 Now lives to reign. He rules our earth - ly ways



To greet your com - ing King; Now wave the vic - tor's  
 Of whom the proph - ets wrote, Whose cho - sen, hum - ble  
 Can meet the Law's de - mands, Whose pu - ri - ty with -  
 As Lord of An - cient Days— O join the end - less



palm And sing the an - cient psalm: "Lift up your  
 steed De - clares Him king in - deed! Ho - san - na,  
 in Re - veals One free from sin. Come, praise this  
 song Sung by the ran - somed throng: "Wor - thy is



heads, you ev - er - last - ing gates!" Your King a - waits!  
 Lord! Mes - si - ah, come and save From sin and grave.  
 King who claims the cross as throne— Praise Him a - lone!  
 Christ!" The Lamb be praised a - gain! A - men! A - men!

Text: © 2003 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001267  
 Tune: © 1970 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001267

**Announcements**