



SLOW DOWN THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

**SUNDAY & CHRISTMAS DAY
SERMON SERIES**

SLOW ADVENT

AS SLOW FOOD IS TO FAST FOOD,
SO SLOW ADVENT IS
TO MOST PEOPLE'S FAST SEASON OF ADVENT

**GATHERING
FOR THE
ADVENT
ASCENDING**

4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT DECEMBER 22, 2019

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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

Pastor Ben Squires

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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: Mike Bandman
Comm/Asst. Elder: JJ Jones
Acolytes: Owen Squires, Kate Kruse
Lay Readers: Jude Squires, Karla Stewart
Ushers: Don Heidlauf, OPEN
Greeters: Roxanne Hopkins,
Katrina Johns
Fellowship: Bunnell
Dec. Altar Guild: Kathy Schwartz
Dec. Counters: Chris Mason

Sunday 10:45 AM

Bob Souza
Jack Warneke
Cameron Fleming, ***OPEN***
Sheila Bunnell, Ellen Dalrymple
Scott Mundrick, Lee Mundrick
The Nuechterlein Family,
Diane Perkins
Sheila Bunnell
Diane Sanders

ADVENT LECTIONARY

This service carries the themes of the Advent Lectionary—the selected readings for this season in the Church Year, as we anticipate the birth of Christ who brings salvation to all.



Thank You for Beautifying our Worship Areas with Poinsettias

Norman Balliet – to the glory of God;

Joan Blasko – (2 plants) in memory of parents Elizabeth & Edward Yarusinsky and to the glory of God;

Paul & Susan Boardman – to honor Julia our granddaughter;

Sheila & Stephanie Bunnell – (2 plants) to the glory of God;

Matt & Michelle Chudy – (2 plants) in memory of Paul Myrdal;

Ralph & Donna Danielsen – in memory of their parents;

Jim Franz – (2 plants) in memory of his father, mother, sister, brother & grandparents;

Steve & Jann Freehling – to the glory of God;

Sue Frendreis – (2 plants) In memory of Michael Frendreis;

Paul & Linda Groh – (2 plants) in appreciation of family;

John & Karen Kozlik – (2 plants) to the glory of God;

Maria Kube – (3 plants) in memory of Maria's parents Max & Ivanka Kopac, Cal's parents Edwin & Beulah Kube, and husband Calvin;

Tim & Linda Moran – In memory of Linda's mother Evelyn Kovac;

Bill & Lynda Oesterreich – to the glory of God;

Eugenie Onepre – to the glory of God;

Rasmussen, Souza, & Kazarian Families – (3 plants) in memory of William, Alice and Mark Souza, Arthur & Evelyn Rasmussen, Grace Gibson;

David & Cheryl Ross – (4 plants) in memory of Gordon & Carol Gillings and George & Jean Ross;

Tom & Marilyn Robinson – (2 plants) in memory of their parents;

Muriel & Sue Schmidtke – (2 plants) in memory of Ted & Steven Schmidtke;

Wendell Weger & Grandchildren – in memory of Norma Sehr;

Ted & Margie Tatgenhorst – In memory of parents Erna, Ted, Ruth & Richard;

Dawn Werfelmann – (2 plants) to the glory of God;

Paul Werfelmann – In memory of Paul & Bonnie Werfelmann;

Ziegler Family – to the glory of God

Introit for the 4th Sunday in Advent

Psalm 130:5-8; antiphon (repeated verse): Isaiah 64:1

P: Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,

C: that the mountains might quake at your presence.

P: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, **C: and in his word I hope;**

P: my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,

C: more than watchmen for the morning.

P: O Israel, hope in the LORD! **C: For with the LORD there is steadfast love,**

P: and with him is plentiful redemption.

C: And he will redeem Israel from all their sins.

**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: Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,

C: that the mountains might quake at your presence.

Opening Hymn

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

LSB 341



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the
2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot
3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the
4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a
5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to



King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing
is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -
rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py
tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -
Thee; here, Lord, a - bid! O en - ter with Thy grace di -



near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -
ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of
homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less
play, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your
vine; Thy face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly



va - tion He doth bring; There-fore re - joice and glad - ly sing.
 all our woe He brings; There-fore the earth is glad and sings.
 sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.
 Sov - 'reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.
 Spir - it guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won.



To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
 To Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
 To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
 To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!
 E - ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

Invocation and Call to Worship

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

C: Amen.

P: This is the day which the Lord has made;

Psalm 118:24

C: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

Psalm 113:3

C: the name of the Lord is to be praised.

P: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

Psalm 50:2-3a, Isaiah 40:3, 45:8

C: Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.

P: Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: Make His paths straight.

P: Shower, O heavens, from above,
 and let the skies rain down righteousness.

C: Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.

P: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C: the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**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.**

Song of Praise

Come to Us



1. Scat - tered and bro - ken, — bent in our way, we are Your
2. Come, Lord, our) day-spring, — come from on high, as we Your



peo - ple — gath - ered to praise You. A vine - yard up - root - ed, —
peo - ple — gath - er to praise You. Un - wor - thy to taste from —



nar - row in sight. Come, Lord of glo - ry! — Come, Lord of
Your heav - en - ly vine, but Your word will heal us. — Come, light di -

CHORUS



light! (Advent) Come to us, O Lord of glo - ry and shine — in our hearts.
-vine.



Come to us, O Lord of glo - ry and make — us a - new. Lord, we wait — for



You. Lord, we wait — for You. Lord, we wait — for You. Come, Lord of



glo - ry. — You. Come, Lord of glo - ry. —

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Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Anthem

“Long-Awaited One”

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.

Come now, Child of promise, hope of all the earth.
This broken world will be healed by Your most humble birth.
Come now, Child of mercy, Prince of Peace and grace.
Your life will silence our fears and all our sins erase.
Long-awaited One we will find rest in Your love.
We have walked in darkness; let us see light from above.
Emmanuel, God with us, hope has begun,
Emmanuel, You are the Light, God’s only Son.
You will come to save us all, O long-awaited One.

Come now, Child of heaven, Savior, King and Friend.
O living Word of the Father now to us descend.
Come now, Child of wonder, reign in majesty.
Awaken all of creation, set our spirits free,
Long-awaited One, we will find rest in Your love.
We have walked in darkness, let us see light from above.
Emmanuel, God with us, hope has begun.
Emmanuel, You are the light, God’s only Son.
You will come to save us all, O long-awaited One.

Come now, Child of promise, long-awaited One.
Come now, Child of promise, long-awaited One.
Come now, come now, come now, come now, come.

Psalm Reading

Psalm 24 (ESV)

¹The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein,

²for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

³Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?

And who shall stand in his holy place?

⁴He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

⁵He will receive blessing from the LORD

and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

⁶Such is the generation of those who seek him,

who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

⁷Lift up your heads, O gates!

And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

⁸Who is this King of glory?

The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!

⁹Lift up your heads, O gates!

And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

¹⁰Who is this King of glory?

The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Old Testament Canticle (sung three times)

from LSB # 261

Refrain

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Epistle (New Testament Letter)

Romans 1:1-7 (ESV)

[A letter from] ¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the

sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

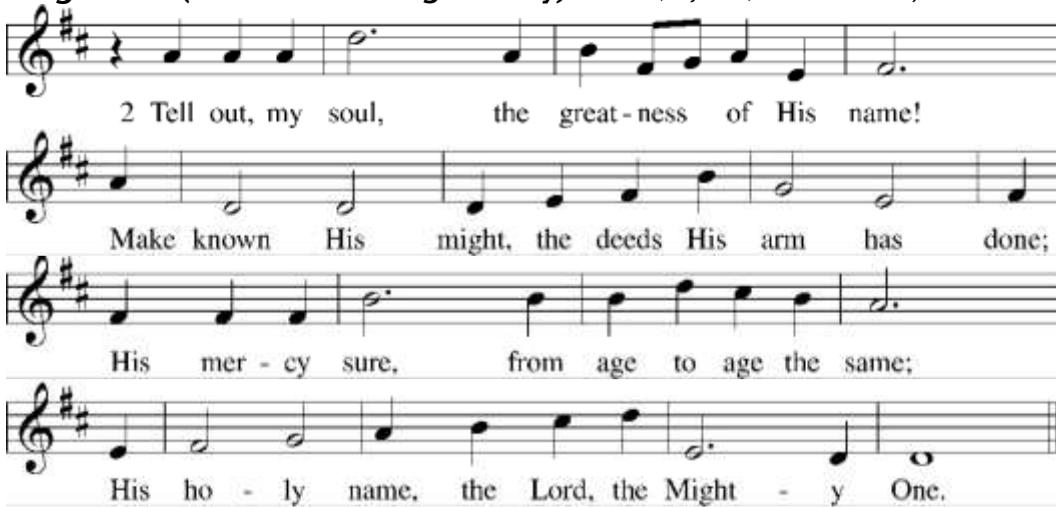
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Magnificat (based on the Song of Mary) Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord LSB 935, st. 2



2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of His name!
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
His mer-cy sure, from age to age the same;
His ho-ly name, the Lord, the Might-y One.

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Responsory

Jeremiah 23:5a,6

P: Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord,
when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

**C: This is the name by which He will be called:
The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P: He shall reign as king and deal wisely,
and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

**C: This is the name by which He will be called:
The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

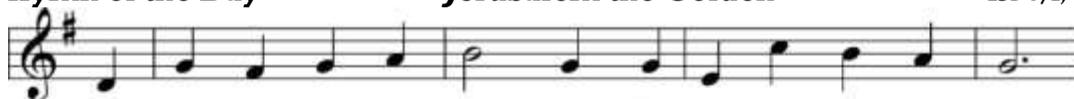
P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**C: This is the name by which He will be called:
The Lord Is Our Righteousness. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day

Jerusalem the Golden

LSB 672; tune: 915



1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With milk and hon - ey blest—
2 With-in those walls of Zi - on Sounds forth the joy - ful song,
3 A - round the throne of Da - vid, The saints, from care re - leased,
△ 4 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try, The home of God's e - lect!



The prom - ise of sal - va - tion, The place of peace and rest—
As saints join with the an - gels And all the mar - tyr throng.
Raise loud their songs of tri - umph To cel - e - brate the feast.
O sweet and bless - ed coun - try That faith - ful hearts ex - pect!



We know not, oh, we know not What joys a - wait us there:
The Prince is ev - er with them; The day - light is se - rene;
They sing to Christ their lead - er, Who con - quered in the fight,
In mer - cy, Je - sus, bring us To that e - ter - nal rest



The ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, The bliss be - yond com - pare!
The cit - y of the bless - ed Shines bright with glo - rious sheen.
Who won for them for - ev - er Their gleam - ing robes of white.
With You and God the Fa - ther And Spir - it, ev - er blest.

Sermon

“Gathering for the Advent Ascending”

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.

New Member Welcome (8AM)

David Lubega, Veronica Marotta, Tim and Linda Moran

Offertory (based on the Song of Mary) Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord LSB 935, st. 1
Sung as our Offerings are brought forward to the Altar



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "I Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord! Un - num - bered bless - ings, give my spir - it voice; Ten - der to me the prom - ise of His Word; In God my Sav - ior shall my heart re - joice."

Prayers

Prayer for the Word

P: Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives on reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **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.

Benediction

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

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357 sts. 1, ref, 4-5, 7



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y
wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Announcements

Acknowledgments

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