

And the angel said, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, the Lord has heard your long-commute, middle-of-the-work-week, stressed-out-and-anxious, stuck-in-the-doldrums, stuck-in-winter-weather-traffic prayer.”

Sunday, December 29, 2019

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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

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.



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.

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

<i>Elders:</i>	JJ Jones	
<i>Comm/Asst. Elder:</i>	Monte Stoltzman	
<i>Acolytes:</i>	Holly Faitsch, Kelsi Mulley	
<i>Lay Readers:</i>	David Lubega, Monte Stoltzman	
<i>Ushers:</i>	John Schultz, Lance Rasmussen	
<i>Greeters:</i>	Lahera Family, Rae Noice	
<i>Fellowship:</i>	Susan Squires	
<i>Dec. Altar Guild:</i>	Kathy Schwartz	Sheila Bunnell
<i>Dec. Counters:</i>	Chris Mason	Diane Sanders

5th Sunday Praise Prayers

On 5th Sundays in a month, we focus on Praise & Thanksgiving for the Prayers of the Church.

Use the Praise Request sheets provided and post your Praise on the communion rail anytime during the service, which will then be offered by Pastor as our Worship Prayers.

Other prayer requests can be written down here at the Prayer Stations or 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



SERVICE OF PRAYER & PREACHING

Adapted from the Lutheran Service Book, this order of worship focuses our attention on prayer—a conversation with God. We receive His Word, speak those words back to Him, and present our thanksgivings, joys, and requests at His feet in the Name of Jesus.

Opening Psalm for Meditation

Joel 2:15–19 (ESV, alt.)

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;

sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation; assemble the elders;

gather the children, even nursing infants.

Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar

let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say,

“Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach,
a byword among the nations.

Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

¹⁸Then the LORD became zealous for his land and had compassion on his people.

¹⁹The LORD answered and said to his people,

“Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied;
and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.”

Silent Prayer and Opening Prayer from Pastor

Confession and Absolution

P: God’s strong name is our help,

C: the same God who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

P: If you kept a record of our sins, O Lord, no one could survive.

C: But you forgive us, and so we worship you.

Psalm 130:3-4

P: We have come together today to hear God’s Word, pray to Him and praise Him, and receive the gifts of His forgiveness. So let us first admit that we’re not worthy of His love. Let us confess to God and confess to each other that we’ve sinned. We are sinners in what we think, what we do, what we don’t do, and there’s no way out of this by our own actions. All we can do as God’s people is to seek His mercy and forgiveness that comes to us through Jesus Christ.

C: O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.

Luke 18:13

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Opening Hymn

Let All Together Praise Our God

LSB 389 sts. 1-2, 6-7



ALL 1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
Women 2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
Men 6 He is the key and He the door To bless - ed
ALL 7 Your grace in low - li - ness re - vealed, Lord Je - sus,



ALL glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
Women in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
Men par - a - dise; The an - gel bars the way no more. To
ALL we a - dore And praise to God the Fa - ther yield And



ALL give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
Women in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
Men God our prais - es rise, To God our prais - es rise.
ALL Spir - it ev - er - more; We praise You ev - er - more.

Text (sts. 1, 6-7): © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001267

Invocation

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

Opening Sentences

P: This is the day which the Lord has made; **C: let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

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

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

P: Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

**C: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

P: Make me to know Your ways, O Lord. **C: Teach me Your paths.**

P: Sanctify us in Your truth. **C: Your Word is truth.**

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.**

Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. 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.**

Scripture Hymn

Sing Praise to the God of Israel

LSB 936 sts. 1, 3-4



1 Sing praise to the God of Is - ra - el! Sing praise for His
3 You, child, will go on be - fore the Lord As proph - et, His
4 O bright, ris - ing Sun, now shine on us In need of il -



vis - i - ta - tion! Re - deem - ing His peo - ple from their sin,
way pre - par - ing; To speak on be - half of God Most High,
lu - mi - na - tion; Come scat - ter the shades of sin and death



Ac - com - plish - ing their sal - va - tion, Up - rais - ing a
His coun - sel of truth de - clar - ing: Rich mer - cy and
And shat - ter their dom - i - na - tion. Be guid - ing our



might - y horn with - in The house of His ser - vant Da - vid!
grace for all where - by In - iq - ui - ty is for - giv - en.
foot - steps on the path Of peace, in Your pres - ence dawn - ing!

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Holy Gospel

Luke 1:5–25 (ESV)

⁵In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

⁸Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. ¹¹And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. ¹⁶And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

¹⁸And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” ¹⁹And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.” ²¹And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. ²²And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. ²³And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, ²⁵“Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

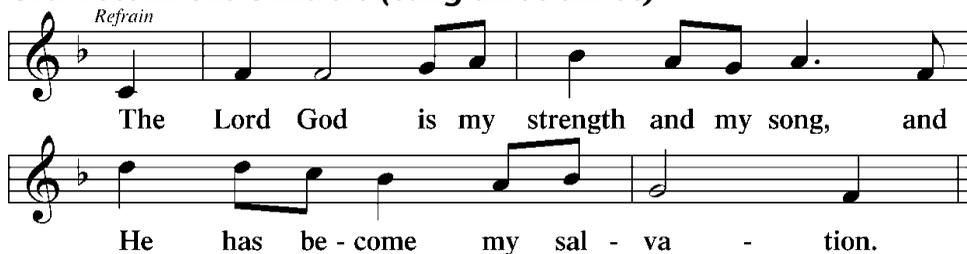
P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Old Testament Canticle (sung three times)

from LSB # 261

Refrain



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

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 25:1-9 (ESV)

- ¹O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
- ²For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin;
the foreigners' palace is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt.
- ³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
- ⁴For you have been a stronghold to the poor,
a stronghold to the needy in his distress,
a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat;
for the breath of the ruthless is like a storm against a wall,
⁵like heat in a dry place.
You subdue the noise of the foreigners; as heat by the shade of a cloud,
so the song of the ruthless is put down.
- ⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.
- ⁷And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations.
- ⁸He will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
- ⁹It will be said on that day,
"Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.
This is the LORD; we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsory

P: Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

C: Lord, I love to be in Your house, the place where Your glory dwells.

P: Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C: Lord, I love to be in Your house, the place where Your glory dwells.

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

C: Lord, I love to be in Your house, the place where Your glory dwells.

Hymn of the Day

In Thee Is Gladness

LSB 818



1 In Thee is glad - ness A - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus,
2 Since He is ours, _____ We fear no pow - ers, Not of



sun - shine of my heart. By Thee are giv - en The gifts of
earth nor sin nor death. He sees and bless - es In worst dis -



heav - en, Thou the true Re - deem - er art. Our souls Thou
tress - es; He can change them with a breath. Where - fore the



wak - est, Our bonds Thou break - est; Who trusts Thee sure - ly Has built se -
sto - ry Tell of His glo - ry With hearts and voic - es; All heav'n re -



cure - ly; He stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are
joic - es In Him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for



pin - ing To see Thy shin - ing, Dy - ing or liv - ing
glad - ness, Tri - umph o'er sad - ness, Love Him and praise Him



To Thee are cleav - ing; Naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
And still shall raise Him Glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

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

5th Sunday Praise Prayers

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(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).

Offertory

What Child Is This

LSB 370 sts. 1,3

(Sung as the offerings are brought forward to the altar)



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y’s lap is
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the

Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Prayers

The Lord’s Supper: What We Believe

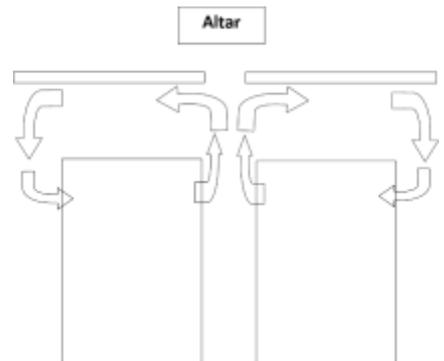
All Christians who are baptized and have been instructed are invited to receive Communion with us if you believe as we do—that the bread is the body of Christ, and the wine is the blood of Christ, truly present for us for the forgiveness of our sins.



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: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus (Holy)

LSB 507, st. 2

2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore Thee,
Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,
Which wert and art and ev - er - more shalt be.

The image shows a musical score for the Sanctus (Holy) in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore Thee,". The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: "Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;". The third staff continues with the lyrics: "Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,". The fourth staff concludes the phrase with the lyrics: "Which wert and art and ev - er - more shalt be.".

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.")

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

LSB 434, st. 1

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer, Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer. All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us: Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!"

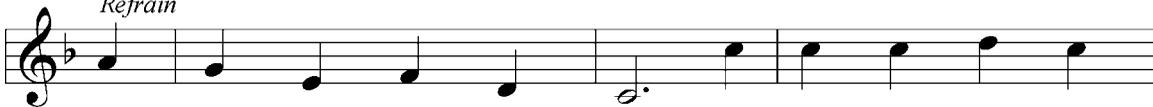


1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
 2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
 3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,
 4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,
 5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
 And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
 Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
 The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
 And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

Acknowledgements

This service is based on Service of Prayer & Preaching in *Lutheran Service Book*, arranged by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires.

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Second Distribution Hymn**Angels from the Realms of Glory**

LSB 367



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in
 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
 beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
 hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
 Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
 Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
 Ye have seen His na - tal star.
 In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.
 To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Post-Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Pastor's Charge

P: In response to the forgiveness that you have received through Christ: Go forth into the world in peace—the peace of your forgiveness in the cross. Be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good—the love of God. Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint hearted. Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Honor all God's children. Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Benediction

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Go Tell It on the Mountain

LSB 388

Refrain



ALL Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



ALL Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



Women {
1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si-lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



Men {
Be - hold, through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an-gel cho-rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Announcements