



SLOW DOWN THIS LENTEN SEASON

SLOW LENT

**MIDWEEK SERMON SERIES
WEDNESDAYS**

“SLOW FOOD” MEANS SAVORING A MEAL.
“SLOW LENT” PAUSES TO REFLECT
ON OUR NEED FOR JESUS TO DIE ON THE CROSS

SOLITUDE

ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2020

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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

Pastor Ben Squires

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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, 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

Elder: Mike Bandman

Asst Elder: Jack Warneke

Ushers: John Kozlik, OPEN

Acolytes: Kelsi Mulley, Annika Chudy

Lay Readers: Ashley Plapp, Joanne Heidlauf

Greeter: Carla Thompson

VESPERS

Adapted from the Lutheran Service Book, "vespers" is a Latin word meaning "evening." Originally one of eight daily offices prayed during the Middle Ages, Vespers was retained at the time of the Reformation as one of two chief daily services, the other being Matins (Morning Prayer). "Sunset marks the end of the day and also the beginning of the next day so that the days roll on without interruption. The hours of darkness are experienced as a time of waiting and watching... the unknown, isolation, fear, death, night... but also stillness, rest, peace, and promise. In Christ, the grave is transformed into the morning of new and unending life"



(quotes from Journey into the Heart of God).

Invocation and Opening Words

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

C: Amen.

P: O Lord, open my lips,

C: and my mouth will declare Your praise.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C: make haste to help me, O Lord.

P: O Lord,

C: have mercy.

P: O Christ,

C: have mercy.

P: O Lord,

C: have mercy.

P: Be gracious to us.

C: Spare us, good Lord.

P: Be gracious to us.

C: Help us, good Lord.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

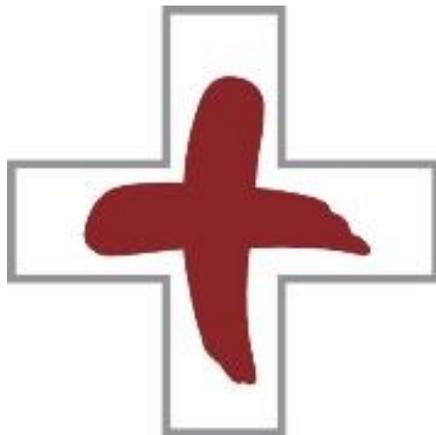
C: have mercy.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: grant us Your peace.



Imposition of Ashes If you desire ashes to be placed on your forehead, please approach the communion rail on either side. Pastor Squires or an Assistant will put ashes on your forehead in the shape of the cross saying, “From dust you are, to dust you shall return.” You may then kneel along the rail for personal reflection or return to your seat.

The choir will sing the anthem during this time followed by the congregational hymn.

Anthem

“Stir the Ashes”

Adult Choir

Stir the ashes, make the sign; mark us with the shadowed cross,
Where our Savior died and suffered, where we gained at his great cost.
Give us wisdom, give us courage, give us power to do what’s right.
And when night’s cold dark is deepest turn our darkness into light....

Opening Hymn

**On My Heart Imprint Your Image /
Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing**

LSB 422, 421



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus,
1 Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing In Your ho - ly
2 Should some lust or sharp temp - ta - tion Fas - ci - nate my
3 If the world my heart en - tic - es With the broad and
4 Ev - 'ry wound that pains or grieves me By Your wounds, Lord,



King of grace, That life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures Nev - er
wounds I find, Ev - 'ry hour that I am feel - ing Pains of
sin - ful mind, Draw me to Your cross and pas - sion, And new
eas - y road, With se - duc - tive, sin - ful vi - ces, Let me
is made whole; When I'm faint, Your cross re - vives me, Grant - ing



may Your work e - rase; Let the clear in - scrip - tion be:
bod - y and of mind. Should some e - vil thought with - in
cour - age I shall find. Or should Sa - tan press me hard,
weigh the aw - ful load You were will - ing to en - dure.
new life to my soul. Yes, Your com - fort ren - ders sweet



Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me, Is my life, my hope's foun -
Tempt my treach - 'rous heart to sin, Show the per - il, and from
Let me then be on my guard, Say - ing, "Christ for me was
Help me flee all thoughts im - pure And to mas - ter each temp -
Ev - 'ry bit - ter cup I meet; For Your all - a - ton - ing



da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!
sin - ning Keep me from its first be - gin - ning.
wound - ed," That the tempt - er flee con - found - ed.
ta - tion, Calm in prayer and med - i - ta - tion.
pas - sion Has pro - cured my soul's sal - va - tion.

Absolution (Assurance of Forgiveness) based on Ezekiel 33:7,10-11,14,16 and Isaiah 12:1-2

P: And the LORD declares,

“None of the sins that you have committed shall be remembered against you.

You have done what is just and right; you shall surely live.”

For the Lord grants you His righteousness; His new life is yours.

Therefore, as His called and ordained servant in Jesus Christ,

I forgive you all your sin

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

C: Amen. I give thanks to You, O LORD.

Even though You were angry with me,

Your anger turned away, so that You might comfort me.

Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid;

for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.

Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:12–19 (ESV)

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³and rend your hearts and not your garments.”

Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him,

a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶gather the people. Consecrate 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 jealous for his land and had pity 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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm Reading

Psalm 51:1–5, 10-13 (ESV)

¹Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Acknowledgments

Adapted from “Vespers” in *Lutheran Service Book*.

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Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21 (ESV)

¹[While teaching His disciples on the mountainside, Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

²“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. . . .

¹⁶“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsory

LSB 230

P: Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth.

C: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

P: Unite my heart to fear Your name that I may walk in Your truth.

C: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

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

C: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Amen.

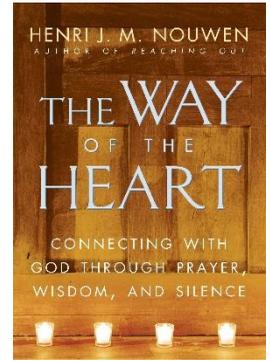
Series Introduction

The Way of the Heart

Connecting with God through Prayer, Wisdom and Silence

by Henri J.M. Nouwen

The Way of the Heart had its genesis in a seminar that Henri Nouwen taught at Yale University. In this short but profound book, published in 1981, Henri turns to the spirituality of the Desert Fathers to show his readers a spiritual path away from the noise, busyness and consumerism of modern life toward a life centered in God. He divides this path into three disciplines: **solitude, silence and prayer**, the practice of which leads the individual from preoccupation with the superficiality of ordinary existence into the depth of life devoted to God.



Hymn of the Day

Be Still, My Soul, before the Lord

LSB 771



1 Be still, my soul, be - fore the Lord, For
2 You need not mul - ti - ply your words Nor
3 Wait, then, in qui - et con - fi - dence, Your
4 Be still, my soul, be - fore the Lord; On



God is al - ways near. Be - fore your mind is
pray with prac - ticed art. Be - yond all speech, God
anx - ious thoughts at rest. God knows your needs be -
God in pa - tience wait. God's love, un - seen, sur -



moved to pray, God lis - tens and will hear.
un - der - stands The hun - ger of your heart.
fore you ask And works for what is best.
rounds your life; God's help will not be late.

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Sermon

“Slow Lent: Solitude”

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Without solitude it is virtually impossible to live a spiritual life. Solitude begins with a time and a place for God, and time alone. If we really believe not only that God exists but also that he is actively present in our lives—healing, teaching, and guiding—we need to set aside a time and a space to give him our undivided attention. Jesus says, “Go to your private room and, when you have shut your door, pray to the Father who is in that secret place” (Matt. 6:6).



In solitude, we come to know the Spirit who has already been given to us. The pains and struggles we encounter in our solitude thus become the way to hope, because our hope is not based on something that will happen after our sufferings are over, but on the real presence of God's healing Spirit in the midst of these sufferings. The discipline of solitude allows us gradually to come in touch with this hopeful presence of God in our lives, and allows us also to taste even now the beginnings of the joy and peace which belong to the new heaven and the new earth.

Offering—followed by the Offertory

Create in Me

LSB 192

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Prayers of the Church

P: Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

C: *and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.*

P: Merciful Father, whose guiding hand has brought us to the completion of this day, we humbly pray You to stay with us and shelter us in quiet hours of this night that we, who are wearied by the changes and chances of this passing world, may rest in Your changeless peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: *hear our prayer.*

P: Eternal God, the hours both of day and night are Yours, and to You the darkness is no threat. Be present, we pray, with those who labor in these hours of night, especially those who watch and work on behalf of others. Grant them diligence in their watching, faithfulness in their service, courage in danger, and competence in emergencies. Help them to meet the needs of other with confidence and compassion; Lord, in Your mercy,

C: *hear our prayer.*

P: Gracious Lord, we give You thanks for the 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. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: *hear our prayer.*

P: Let us pray together.

C: *I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.*

(Silence for meditation)

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 grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow

LSB 880



1 Now rest be - neath night's shad - ow The wood - land,
2 The ra - dian't sun has van - ished, Its gold - en
3 Now all the heav'n - ly splen - dor Breaks forth in
4 Lord Je - sus, since You love me, Now spread Your
5 My loved ones, rest se - cure - ly, For God this



field, and mead - ow; The world in slum - ber lies.
rays are ban - ished From dark - 'ning skies of night;
star - light ten - der From myr - iad worlds un - known;
wings a - bove me And shield me from a - larm.
night will sure - ly From per - il guard your heads.



But you, my heart, a - wak - ing And prayer and mu - sic
But Christ, the Sun of glad - ness, Dis - pel - ling all our
And we, this mar - vel see - ing, For - get our self - ish
Though Sa - tan would de - vour me, Let an - gel guards sing
Sweet slum - bers may He send you And bid His hosts at -



mak - ing, Let praise to your Cre - a - tor rise.
sad - ness, Shines down on us in warm - est light.
be - ing For joy of beau - ty not our own.
o'er me: This child of God shall meet no harm.
tend you And through the night watch o'er your beds.

Announcements



We pride ourselves on the ZCenter experience. Our locations are designed to operate on the principle that a holistic environment, composed of safe, tranquil, and nurturing physical surroundings and compassionate staff, can significantly enhance the healing process so that all survivors can heal, safely, in their own way.

zcenter services

Sexual assault and abuse can happen anywhere and affect anyone. All ages, all races, all genders, all walks of life. Girls, boys, men and women. Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center, also known as ZCenter, is committed to providing free counseling and advocacy services to survivors of sexual abuse and assault, and non-offending loved ones.

It takes courage to ask for help. But we are always here for you. If you or a loved one has been sexually abused or assaulted, we have supportive services to help you on your healing journey.

SURVIVOR SERVICES

24-Hour Support Line

(847) 872-7799

- **Referral Services**
- **Counseling**
 - Adult Counseling (Individual or Group)
 - Children’s Counseling (Individual or Group)
- **Advocacy** (Medical, Court)

It takes courage to bring an often-avoided subject to the forefront of your community. Through awareness and education, ZCenter aims to mobilize a community, change a culture and end sexual violence.

*take the
courageous next step*

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