

Connected Community

Summer Sermon Series on Ephesians

Intentional,
Spiritual
Relationships

August 1,
2021



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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THE EPHESIANS SERVICE

Worship in a traditional order drawing on words from
 Paul's Letter to the Christians in Ephesus.

Opening Hymn

Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng

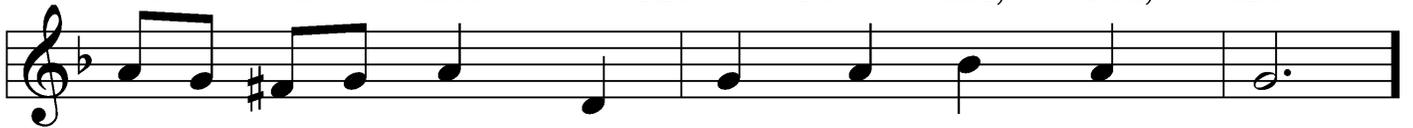
LSB 813 sts. 1, ref, 2-3, 7



1 Re - joice, O pil - grim throng! Re - joice, give
 2 With voice as full and strong As o - cean's
 3 With all the an - gel choirs, With all the
 Δ 7 Praise Him who reigns on high, The Lord whom



thanks, and sing; Your fes - tal ban - ner
 surg - ing praise, Send forth the stur - dy
 saints on earth Pour out the strains of
 we a - dore: The Fa - ther, Son, and

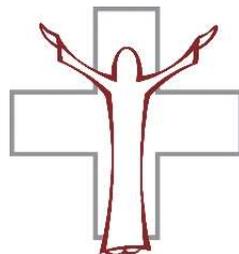


wave on high, The cross of Christ your king.
 hymns of old, The psalms of an - cient days.
 joy and bliss, True rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
 Ho - ly Ghost, One God for - ev - er - more.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!



Invocation and Opening Words (Based on Ephesians 1:2,17-19)

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

C: ***Amen.***

P: May God the Father and the Lord Jesus the Anointed surround you with grace and peace.

C: ***Yes, Lord Jesus.***

P: God of our Lord Jesus the Anointed, Father of Glory: I call out to You on behalf of Your people. Give them minds ready to receive wisdom and revelation so they will truly know You.

C: ***Yes, Lord Jesus.***

P: Open the eyes of their hearts, and let the light of Your truth flood in. Shine Your light on the hope You are calling them to embrace. Reveal to them the glorious riches You are preparing as their inheritance.

C: ***Yes, Lord Jesus.***

P: Let them see the full extent of Your power that is at work in those of us who believe, and may it be done according to Your might and power.

C: ***Yes, Lord Jesus. To You be the glory forever and ever. Amen.***

Confession (Ephesians 1:3-4,2:1-3)

P: God chose us to be in a relationship with Him even before He laid out plans for this world; He wanted us to live holy lives characterized by love, free from sin, and blameless before Him, not because of anything we have done, but because of what He has done for us. But through our foreparents, Adam and Eve, and by our own actions,

C: ***We have sinned against the Lord.***

P: You were corpses, dead in life, buried by transgressions, wandering the course of this perverse world. You were the offspring of the prince of the power of air—Satan—oh, how he owned you, just as he still controls those living in disobedience. We were all guilty of falling headlong for the persuasive passions of this world; we all have had our fill of indulging the flesh and mind, obeying impulses to follow perverse thoughts motivated by dark powers. As a result, our natural inclinations led us to be children of wrath, just like the rest of humankind.

C: ***We have sinned against the Lord.***

Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.

Forgive us and save us from sin, death, and Satan.

Yes, Lord Jesus, be our Savior. Amen.

Absolution (Forgiveness) (Ephesians 1:5-10)

P: He destined you to be adopted as His children through the covenant Jesus the Anointed inaugurated in His sacrificial life. This was His pleasure and His will for us. Ultimately God is the one worthy of praise for showing you His grace; He is merciful and marvelous, freely giving you these gifts in His Beloved. Visualize this: His blood freely flowing down the cross, setting you free! You are forgiven for your sinful ways by the richness of His grace, which He has poured all over 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. Thank You, Lord Jesus.

P: With all wisdom and insight, He has enlightened you to this great mystery of the Gospel at the center of His will. With immense pleasure, He laid out His intentions through Jesus, a plan that will be fulfilled when the time is right as He returns to create order and unity—both in heaven and on earth—when all things are brought together under the Anointed’s royal rule on the Last Day.

C: Thank You, Lord Jesus. To You be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Response of Praise (Ephesians 1:7)

LSB 686, st. 1a,2b



1 When to our world the Sav - ior came The sick and
4 Of long a - go: yet liv - ing still, Who died for
5 His sov - 'reign pur - pose still re - mains Who rose in



help - less heard His name, And in their weak - ness
us on Cal - v'ry's hill; Who tri - umphed o - ver
pow'r, and lives and reigns; Till ev - 'ry tongue con -



longed to see The heal - ing Christ of Gal - i - lee.
cross and grave, His heal - ing hands stretched forth to save.
fess His praise, The heal - ing Christ of all our days.

Collect (Prayer of the Day — based on Ephesians 5:21)

P: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we long to walk the godly path in Christ Jesus and be filled with the Spirit moment by moment... for the right reasons - so that our lives may praise and glorify You, for You alone are worthy. We pray that

our lives may be those of self-sacrifice and humble praise, for the benefit of our brothers and sisters in Christ and to the praise and glory of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 6:4–9 (ESV)

[Moses spoke these words of God to the people]: ⁴“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Song of Praise

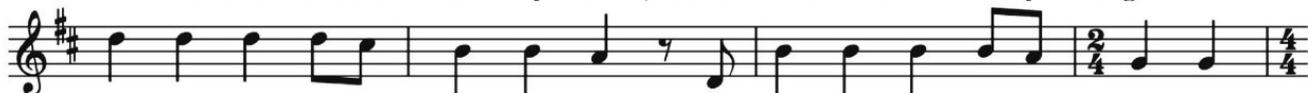
As The Deer



1. As the deer pant-eth for the wa-ter, so my soul long-eth af - ter Thee.
2. You're my friend and You are my broth-er e-ven though You _ are a King.



You a - lone are my heart's de - si - re, and I long to wor - ship Thee.
I love You more than an - y oth-er, so much more than an - y - thing.



You a - lone are my strength, my shield; To You a - lone may my spir - it



yield. You a - lone are my



heart's de - si - re, and I long to wor - ship Thee.

Series Reading from Ephesians

Ephesians 4:25, 32; 5:1–21 (ESV)

²⁵...having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another...³²Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ²And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not associate with them; ⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

¹⁵Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, ²⁰giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

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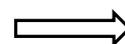
L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: ***Thanks be to God.***

Confession of Faith (Ephesians 1:15-16,2:8-22)

P: When I heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus that is present in you, our connected community gathered in this place, and of your great love for all God’s people, I thank Him for you, speaking to Him on your behalf in my prayers. Declare your faith now and praise Him with His True Word.

C: ***It is by God’s grace that we have been saved.
We receive it through faith. It was not our plan or our effort.
It is God’s gift, pure and simple.
We didn’t earn it, none of us did,
so our Creed and Confession of Faith isn’t bragging.
We are the product of His hand, His workmanship, His poetry,
created in the Anointed Jesus,
to accomplish the good works God arranged long ago.
God gathered us who were so far away from the Lord
and brought us near to Him***



by the royal blood of our Liberating King.
 And so we are no longer called outcasts and wanderers
 but citizens with God's people, members of God's holy family,
 and residents of His household.
 We are being built on a solid foundation:
 the message of the prophets and the voices of God's chosen emissaries
 with Jesus, the Anointed Himself, the precious cornerstone.
 The building is joined together stone by stone—
 all of us chosen and sealed in Him,
 rising up to become a holy temple in the Lord.
 In Him we are being built together,
 creating a sacred dwelling place among us
 where God can live in the Spirit. Amen.

Hymn of the Day

In Christ There is No East or West

LSB 653; tune: 733

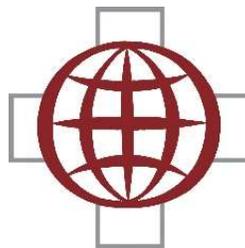


1 In Christ there is no east or west, In Him no south or north,
 2 With God there is no tribe or race; In Him we all are one.
 3 So, broth - ers, sis - ters, praise His name Who died to set us free
 4 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, Wha - e'er your race may be;
 5 In Christ now meet both east and west; In Him meet south and north.



But one great fel - low - ship of love Through - out the whole wide earth.
 He loves us as His chil - dren through Our faith in His dear Son.
 From sin, di - vi - sion, hate, and shame, From spite and en - mi - ty!
 Who serves my Fa - ther as His child Is sure - ly kin to me.
 All Chris - tian souls are one in Him Through - out the whole wide earth.

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from Bethel's Strategic Initiatives:

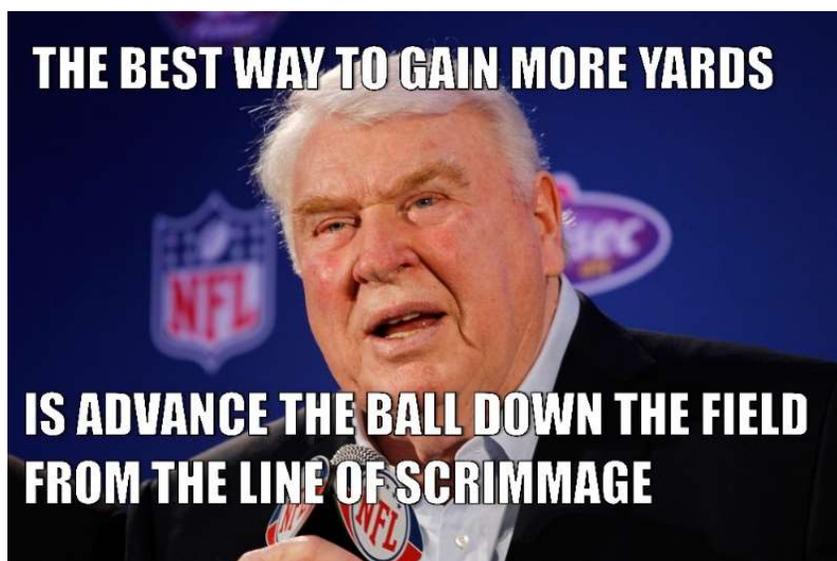
INTENTIONAL SPIRITUAL OUTREACH

We will intentionally go into our community to provide places to begin, develop and deepen spiritual conversations that lead toward the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These conversations will not only happen in the church, but also in the community: homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, coffee shops and pubs. We will work cooperatively with all Christians in our community to build spiritual connections and conversations.



Intentional

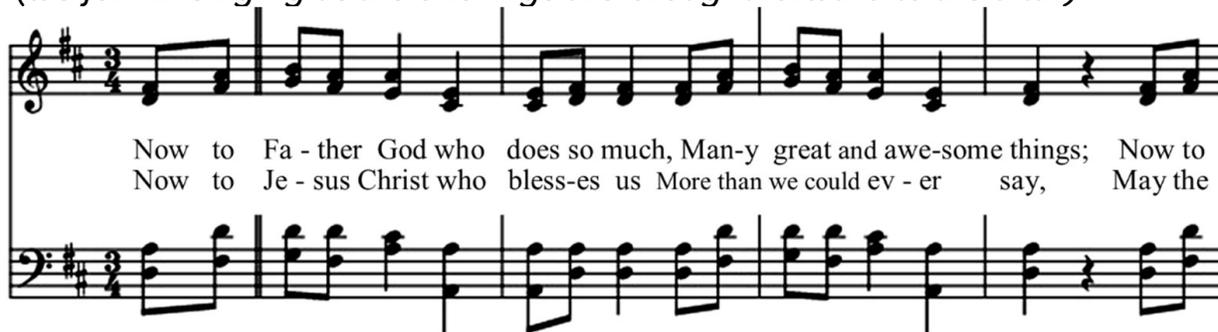
we will not simply speak *about* God's mission for the Church;
we are taking a step forward;
we are moving off of the starting block;
we are getting out of the garage and driving the car;
we are getting out of the kitchen and serving dinner;
we aren't going to call fair catch—we're going to advance the ball.



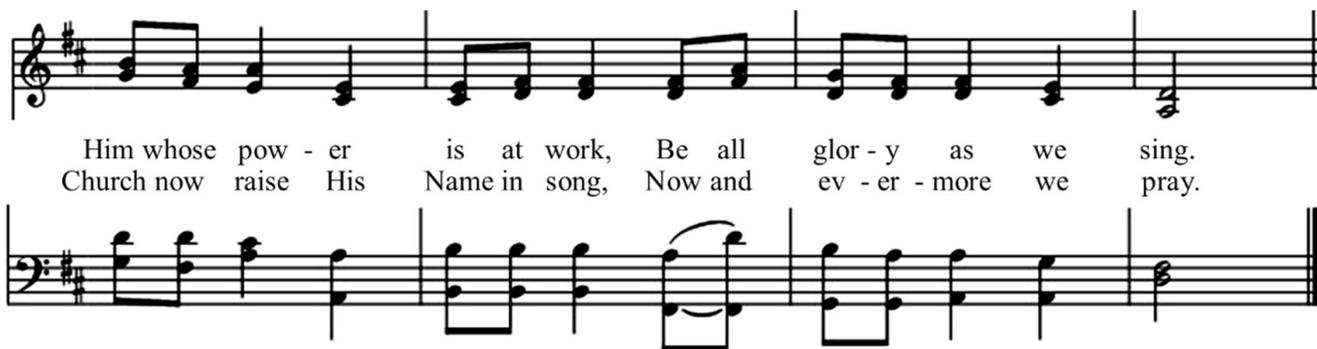
Hymn of Response (Ephesians 3:20-21)

LSB

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



Now to Fa - ther God who does so much, Man-y great and awe-some things; Now to
Now to Je - sus Christ who bless-es us More than we could ev - er say, May the



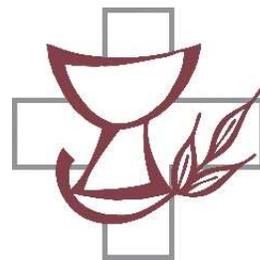
Him whose pow - er is at work, Be all glor - y as we sing.
Church now raise His Name in song, Now and ev - er - more we pray.

Prayers

Preparation for the Lord's Supper

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.



Preface of the Lord's Supper (Ephesians 1:19-23,2:4-7)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

P: The Father used His might and resurrection power in the Anointed One to raise Him from the dead and to position Him at His right hand in heaven.

C: *There is nothing above the Lord Jesus.*

P: He's above all rule, authority, power, and dominion; over every name invoked, over every title bestowed in this age and the next. God has placed all things beneath His feet.

C: *There is nothing above the Lord Jesus.*

P: God anointed Him as the head over all things for His church. This church is His body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

C: *We are His body. We are His Church.*

P: God, with the unfathomable richness of His love and mercy focused on us, united us with the Anointed One and infused our lifeless souls with life—even though we were buried under mountains of sin—and saved us by His grace. He raised us up with Him and seated us in the heavenly realms with our beloved Jesus the Anointed, the Liberating King He did this for a reason: so that for all eternity we will stand as a living testimony to the incredible riches of His grace and kindness that He freely gives to us by uniting us with Jesus the Anointed.

C: *We are His body. We are His Church. Amen.*

Acknowledgements

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires. © 2021.

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Collect (Prayer of the Connected Community): Originally published by the Church of Scotland.

Prayer of Thanksgiving: Portions adapted from Jan Richardson's poem "So That You May Know the Hope"

<http://paintedprayerbook.com/2014/11/19/so-that-you-may-know-the-hope/>

Song of Response: "Now to the God (Ephesians 3:20-21)"

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Tune: CCLI Song # 19038. Twila Paris

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Sanctus (Inspired by Ephesians 2:4-5)

LSB 504, sts. 1,4; tune: 950

1 Fa - ther most ho - ly, mer - ci - ful, and ten - der;
△ 4 Lord God Al - might - y, un - to Thee be glo - ry,

Je - sus, our Sav - ior, with the Fa - ther reign - ing;
One in three per - sons, o - ver all ex - alt - ed!

Spir - - it of com - fort, ad - vo - cate, de -
Glo - - ry we of - fer, praise Thee and a -

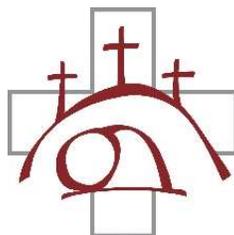
fend - er, Light nev - er wan - ing;
dore Thee, Now and for - ev - er.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving (Inspired by Ephesians 1:18)

P: Almighty God, thank You for sending Your dear Son to die on the cross and rise again for us, sharing His body and blood with us in this meal for the forgiveness of our sins and strengthening of our faith. By this, may we know the hope that is not just for someday but for this day—here, now, in this moment that opens to us: hope not made of wishes but of substance, hope made of flesh and blood, hope that has breath and a beating heart, hope that knows how to sing when there seems little cause, hope that raises us from the dead—not someday but this day, every day, again and again and again, until that Last Day when we shall be raised once for all and for ever. Amen.

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.

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.")

First Distribution Hymn I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

LSB 618



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and
2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners
3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I
4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my
5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in
have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt
soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -
bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.
ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:
ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.

Refrain



Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

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Second Distribution Hymn At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing LSB 633 sts. 1-4, 8



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal
△ 8 Fa - ther, who the crown shall give, Sav - ior,



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - umphant go
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love
by whose death we live, Spir - it, guide through all our days:



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!
Three in One, Your name we praise. Al - le - lu - ia!

Common Dismissal (When all have received the Supper and returned to their seats)

P: Now may this true body and true blood of our Lord.... C: Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer (Collect adapted; Inspired by Ephesians 2:19)

P: Let us pray. O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith through this gift of Your body and blood, so that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power and be strengthened in our connection to You and to one another as Your Church; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benediction (Blessing) (Ephesians 3:20-21,6:23-24)

P: Now to the God who can do so many awe-inspiring things, immeasurable things, things greater than we ever could ask or imagine through the power at work in us.

C: **To Him be all glory in the Church.**

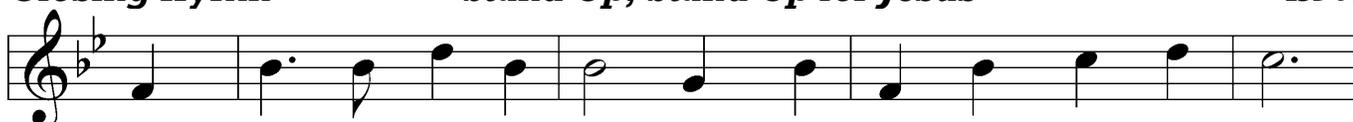
P: You are brothers and sisters with Christ and with one another. May peace and love with faith be yours from God the Father and the Lord Jesus the Anointed. May His grace surround all who love our Lord Jesus the Anointed with a never-ending love.

C: **To Him be all glory in our lives. Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

LSB 660



1 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, Ye sol - diers of the cross.
2 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The trum - pet call o - bey;
3 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; Stand in His strength a - lone.
4 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The strife will not be long;



Lift high His roy - al ban - ner; It must not suf - fer loss.
Stand forth in might - y con - flict In this His glo - rious day.
The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own.
This day the din of bat - tle, The next the vic - tor's song.



From vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry His ar - my He shall lead
Let all His faith - ful serve Him A - gainst un - num - bered foes;
Put on the Gos - pel ar - mor; Each piece put on with prayer.
The sol - diers, o - ver - com - ing, Their crown of life shall see



Till ev - 'ry foe is van - quished, And Christ is Lord in - deed.
Let cour - age rise with dan - ger And strength to strength op - pose.
Where du - ty calls or dan - ger, Be nev - er want - ing there.
And with the King of Glo - ry Shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

Announcements



UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE



For all in-person worship a reservation will be required.

Currently, a link to reserve in-person seats will be emailed at least one week prior to that week's service. Services will be recorded, and a link to the recorded service will be provided on Monday.

Sunday, August 8

In-Person Worship*(In Gym) – 9AM

Outdoor Fellowship Near Gym 10-10:30AM

Sunday, August 15

In-Person Worship*(In Gym w/Communion) – 9AM

Outdoor Fellowship Near Gym 10-10:30AM

Sunday, August 22

In-Person Worship*(In Gym) – 9AM

Bethel Tailgate Party in Parking Lot 10AM-?

Sunday, August 29

In-Person Worship*(In Gym w/Communion) – 9AM

Quarterly Voters Meeting - 10AM

(No Outdoor Fellowship)

Contact the office if you have any questions about the schedule. Ushers, Readers, and various other volunteers are always needed for in-person worship and communion. If you are interested in volunteering for one of those roles, please contact the office at office@bethelgurnee.org.

*For in-person worship and/or communion in the gym, seating and/or communion will be physically distanced with masks required for those who are not COVID vaccinated. For in-person worship there will be Live liturgy, readings, sermon, singing and prayers.