

Connected Community

Summer Sermon Series on Ephesians

Protecting

Unity

in times of

Discontentment

Sunday, August 15, 2021

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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ALTAR FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:

MARI KUBE IN MEMORY OF CALVIN KUBE

THE KAZARIAN FAMILY



A LITURGY OF DOUBT AND HOPE

Worship in a traditional order drawing on along with words of doubt and hope from Scripture, poets, and writers.

Opening Hymn

Come, Thou Almighty King

LSB 905



1 Come, Thou al - might - y King, Help us Thy
 2 Come, Thou in - car - nate Word, Gird on Thy
 3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, Thy sa - cred
 4 To Thee, great One in Three, E - ter - nal



name to sing; Help us to praise; Fa - ther all -
 might - y sword; Our prayer at - tend. Come and Thy
 wit - ness bear In this glad hour! Thou, who al -
 prais - es be Hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign



glo - ri - ous, O'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
 peo - ple bless, And give Thy Word suc - cess,
 might - y art, Now rule in ev - 'ry heart,
 maj - es - ty May we in glo - ry see,



Come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 And let Thy righ - teous - ness On us de - scend.
 And ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
 And to e - ter - ni - ty Love and a - dore.

Invocation

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

C: **Amen.**

P: To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:
May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

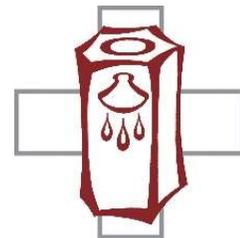
C: **To the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord,
be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority,
before all time and now and forever. Amen.**

P: We come to be built up in our most holy faith,
building one another up through the Word of God.
God the Father calls on us to have compassion on one another:

C: **“Have mercy on those who doubt.”**

P: God the Son calls on us to support one another
as we wait for His mercy that leads to eternal life:

C: **Jesus is able to keep us from stumbling
and to present us blameless before the presence of his glory
with great joy. Amen.**



Baptism of Noah Kazarian, son of Nick and Alicia

Anthem

Father Welcomes

- 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.

Father welcomes all his children to his family through his Son.
Father giving his salvation, Life forever has been won.

Little children, come to me, for my kingdom is of these.
Life and love I have to give, Mercy for your sin.

Father welcomes all his children to his family through his Son.
Father giving his salvation, Life forever has been won.

In the water, in the Word, in his promise, be assured:
Those who are baptized and believe, Shall be born again.

Father welcomes all his children to his family through his Son.
Father giving his salvation, Life forever has been won.

Let us daily die to sin; let us daily rise with him
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord, Live in the peace of God.

Father welcomes all his children to his family through his Son.
Father giving his salvation, Life forever has been won.

Confession of Sins

P: Can we just admit together that we're not fine?

C: **Because I'm not fine, and you're not fine.**

P: Can we just admit together that we're afraid?

C: **Because I'm afraid, and you're afraid.**

P: Can we just admit together that we have doubts?

C: **Because I have doubts, and you have doubts.**

P: Can we just admit together that we're not free?

C: **Because I'm not free, and I want to be.**

P: If you're not free, then call out to God with me:

C: **Emmanuel,**

God with us today,

We humbly call out Your Name:

Emmanuel,

As near as our need,

As close as the air that we breathe,

Emmanuel.

Lord, have mercy.

P: Can we just admit together that we have failed?

C: **Because I have failed, and you have failed.**

P: Can we just admit that our hands aren't clean?

C: **And our hearts aren't clean, and they'll never be.**

P: Until we're freed, and mercy sings.

C: **Emmanuel,**

God with us today,

We desperately cling to Your Name:

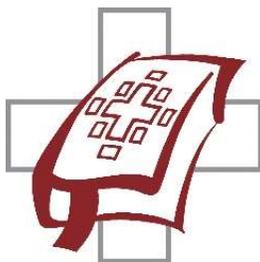
Emmanuel,

As near as our need,

As close as the air that we breathe.

Emmanuel.

Lord, have mercy. Amen.



Absolution (Forgiveness)

Based on liturgy by Bernie Seter and "Emmanuel" by Aaron Niequist

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, which means He does not desire your death. But rather He calls you to turn from your wicked ways and find life in the life of Christ. He has had mercy upon you. He graciously forgives your sins through the death and resurrection of Your Lord Jesus Christ. He strengthens you by the power of the Holy Spirit to amend your sinful lives according to His will, and will keep you in His grace until that day when He will take you to be with Him for eternity. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, in His stead and by His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: ***Amen.***

Emmanuel,

God with us today,

In thanksgiving we praise Your Name:

Emmanuel,

Who came near so we are freed,

As close as the Word that we hear.

Emmanuel.

The Lord has had mercy on us.

P: Now we can admit together that we've failed,

C: ***Because I am forgiven, and you are forgiven.***

P: Now we can admit together that our hands aren't clean,

C: ***Because Jesus made me clean, and He made you clean.***

P: If you're now free, then call out to God with me:

C: ***Emmanuel,***

God with us today,

In thanksgiving we praise Your Name:

Emmanuel.

The Lord has had mercy on us. Amen.



Song of Praise

Once Again

Je - sus Christ, _ I think up-on Your sac - ri - fice; You be-came noth - ing,
poured out to death. _ Man - y times _ I've won-dered at Your gift of life, and
I'm in that place _ once a-gain. _ I'm in that place _ once a-gain. _
Once a-gain I look up - on the cross where You died. _ I'm hum-bled by Your mer-cy and I'm
bro - ken in - side. _ Once a - gain I thank You,
once a - gain I pour out my life. _
Thank You for the cross. Thank You for the cross.
Thank You for the cross, my Friend. Friend.

Collect (Prayer of the Day – Based on Ephesians 4:3)

P: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we pray that we may show forth the grace of Christ, the love of the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, in thought word and deed, towards all who are the called according to Your purpose, so that in unity of spirit we may honor Your name, through our earthly witness. In Jesus name we pray,

C: Amen.

Series Reading from Ephesians

Ephesians 2:22-3:12; 4:1-7 (ESV)

²² In [Christ] you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

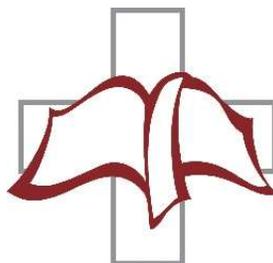
¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—
²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

¹I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Hymn of the Day If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee

LSB 750 sts. 1-3, 7



1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee And hope in
2 What can these anx - ious cares a - vail thee, These nev - er -
3 Be pa - tient and a - wait His lei - sure In cheer - ful
7 Sing, pray, and keep His ways un - swerv - ing, Per - form thy



Him through all thy ways, He'll give thee strength, what - e'er be -
ceas - ing moans and sighs? What can it help if thou be -
hope, with heart con - tent To take what - e'er thy Fa - ther's
du - ties faith - ful - ly, And trust His Word; though un - de -



tide thee, And bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in
wail thee O'er each dark mo - ment as it flies? Our cross and
plea - sure And His dis - cern - ing love hath sent, Nor doubt our
serv - ing, Thou yet shalt find it true for thee. God nev - er



God's un - chang - ing love Builds on the rock that naught can move.
tri - als do but press The heav - ier for our bit - ter - ness.
in - most wants are known To Him who chose us for His own.
yet for - sook in need The soul that trust - ed Him in - deed.

Reading from the History of the Early Church

Acts 6:1-7 (ESV)

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a

proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Sermon *Protecting Unity in Times of Discontentment*

Ephesians 3:1-12 & 4:1-7



Hymn of Response *Just as I Am, without One Plea* LSB 570, sts. 1,3,5



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
 5 Just as I am, Thou wilt re - ceive, Wilt wel - come,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
 con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
 par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; Be - cause Thy prom - ise I be -



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Confession of Faith (adapted from the Apostles' Creed)

First Nations Version

Our Father and Creator, the One Above Us All,
made all things in the world above and the earth below.

Jesus, his special born Son,
was fathered by the Holy Spirit
and was born into this world through a virgin named Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, a ruler of the Roman people,
who had him nailed to a tree pole, the cross, where he bled to death.
He was buried and then went down to the world of the dead.
On the third day he came back to life, never to die again.
He returned to his Father in the world above
and sat down at his powerful right hand.
One day he will return to this earth to make the final decision
about the eternity of the living and the dead.

After he went to the world above,
Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to us from the Father,
to live in and through us.

There is only one holy and world-wide group of believers in Jesus
—a Sacred Family called his Church.

All of the Holy Spirit's holy people sit together equally in this Family
and share his Sacred Food at his table.

He has forgiven us and set us free from all of our broken ways,
and all who trust in him, even though they cross over to death,
will be brought back to life again,
to a life that will never end. Amen.

Acknowledgements

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Prayers of the Church

based on Langston Hughes' poem "Prayer [2]"

P: Gather up
in the arms of your mercy

C: **The sick, the depraved
The desperate, the tired,**

P: All the scum
of our weary city.
Gather up

C: **In the arms of your mercy.**

P: Gather up

C: **In the arms of your love—**

P: Those who expect

C: **No love from above.**

P: For them—for us—

C: **We pray now.**

Pastor then offers the Prayers of the Church

* Jesus reached out to people considered by others to be "scum". We reach out to all people. And we ourselves may even feel like "scum" sometimes. But look at how God responds with love.

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

- Ushers on either side will indicate when it is your time to approach one of the railings on your side of the Gym.
- Family members may be at the same railing.
- Individuals commune at their own railing.
- Pastor will give you the bread, gently dropping it into your outstretched hand.
- The Elder will place an individual cup of wine on the railing. Please indicate if you prefer alcohol removed wine.
- After you have received the bread and wine, Pastor will speak a short dismissal.
- You may then return to your seat.

Preface

Based on "God's Children" and "Changed" by Aaron Niequist

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

P: We come to the altar of God. Let us pray:

Father of the beaten down

Lover of the strong and proud

God of every class, from the greenest grass to the underpass

You're the Maker of us all

Father of each citizen

Lover of each immigrant

God of everyone who has ever been an alien

You're Creator of us all

Father of the most oppressed

Lover of the least impressed,

C: *Thank You for seeing our need,*

Loving us, crying for us,

dying for us, rising for us,

feeding us, returning for us.

P: We were all once aliens,

And we're all so full of sin,

But in Jesus' name we are welcomed in, as citizens,

A brand new family, old and young,

From every nation, faith, and tongue,

A new creation has begun.

C: *In Jesus' name I've been changed, I've been filled,*

I've been found, I've been freed, I've been saved!

In Jesus' blood I've been loved, I've been cleansed,

And redeemed and released and rearranged.

In Jesus' name we are changed, we are called,

We are chosen, adopted, and named!

In Jesus' blood we are loved, we are healed,

We're forgiven and free of our shame!

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 The Gifts Christ Freely Gives

LSB 602 sts. 1-3, 5



1 The gifts Christ free - ly gives He gives to you and me
2 The gifts flow from the font Where He calls us His own;
3 The gifts of grace and peace From ab - so - lu - tion flow;
5 The gifts are in the feast, Gifts far more than we see;



To be His Church, His bride, His cho - sen, saved and free!
New life He gives that makes Us His and His a - lone.
The pas - tor's words are Christ's For us to trust and know.
Be - neath the bread and wine Is food from Cal - va - ry.



Saints blest with these rich gifts Are chil - dren who pro - claim
Here He for - gives our sins With wa - ter and His Word;
For - give - ness that we need Is grant - ed to us there;
The bod - y and the blood Re - move our ev - 'ry sin;



That they were won by Christ And cling to His strong name.
The tri - une God Him - self Gives pow'r to call Him Lord.
The Lord of mer - cy sends Us forth in His blest care.
We leave His pres - ence in His peace, re - newed a - gain.

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Second Distribution Hymn Jesus Comes Today with Healing LSB 620 sts. 1-5



1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, Knock - ing at my
 2 Christ Him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, Yet in bread and
 3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the
 4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er, Gives Him - self to
 5 Let me praise God's bound - less fa - vor, Whose own feast of



door, ap - peal - ing, Of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.
 wine a - bid - ing In this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,
 Sav - ior ho - ly, Blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,
 me this hour_____ In this or - di - nar - y sign.
 love I sa - vor, Bid - den by His gra - cious call.



He Him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, And I hear His
 Gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, And the cup, the
 Ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, Who to bit - ter
 On my tongue His pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept His
 Wed - ding gar - ments He pro - vides me, With a robe of



in - vi - ta - tion: "Come and taste the bless - ed feast."
 pre - cious to - ken Of His sa - cred cov - e - nant.
 death was giv - en, Hung up - on the curs - ed tree.
 grace, be - liev - ing That I taste His love di - vine.
 white He hides me, Fits me for the roy - al hall.

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Post-Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray. Thank You, Jesus, for seeing our need, giving us Your body and blood for our forgiveness and salvation. Thank You for loving us, crying for us, dying for us, rising for us, feeding us, and one day returning for us. Keep us believing until that day.

C: Amen.

Benediction (Blessing)

Colossians 1:19-20

P: God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Jesus Christ, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross. You are reconciled to God the Father, through the work of God the Son, and kept in this faith by God the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

The Church's One Foundation

LSB 644 sts. 1-5



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more
And mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,
O bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.
That we, like saints be - fore us, May see You face to face.

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 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 in-person worship there will be Live liturgy, readings, sermon, singing and prayers.

