

The

Advent of Justice

**For Whom
Will
the Lord
Come ?**

Week #3

**How Shall
I Live This Out
Now?**

**Jesus brings His justice and righteousness
NOW to work in our lives and
on the LAST DAY to reign forever and ever**

Advent Midweek Devotional Worship Wednesday, December 15, 2021

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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Entrance Words and Invocation

based on Isaiah 2:3,5, 61:10

P: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,

C: **to the house of the God of Jacob,**

P: to His Church, the ones gathered around Jesus Christ,

C: **that he may teach us his ways**

P: and that we may walk in his paths.

O house of Jacob, O people of Jesus,

come, let us walk in the light of the LORD,

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

C: **Amen! I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;**

my soul shall be overjoyed because of my God,

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness.

Opening Hymn

When All the World Was Cursed

LSB 346



1 When all the world was cursed By Mo - ses' con - dem - na - tion,
2 Be - fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy - ful meet - ing,
3 Be - hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans - gres - sion,
4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re - ceive, re - joic - ing,



Saint John the Bap - tist came With words of con - so - la - tion.
Con - fess - ing Him as Lord Whose moth - er he was greet - ing.
Whose sac - ri - fice re - moves The dev - il's dread op - pres - sion.
The word pro - claimed by John, Our true re - pen - tance voic - ing,



With true fore - run - ner's zeal The great - er One he named,
By Jor - dan's roll - ing stream, A new E - li - jah bold,
Be - hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a - way our sin,
That glad - ly we may walk Up - on our Sav - ior's way



And Him, as yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.
He tes - ti - fied of Him Of whom the proph - ets told:
Who for our peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.
Un - til we live with Him In His e - ter - nal day.

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Confession of Sin

based on Isaiah 64:5-6,8-9

P: We confess to the Lord that we have been in our sins a long time;
Shall we be saved?

We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

C: **O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and You are our potter;
we are the work of your hand.
Be not so terribly angry, O LORD,
And do not remember our sin forever.
Behold, please look, we are Your people.
Come, Lord Jesus, and save us. Amen.**

Absolution (Forgiveness) & Thanksgiving

based on Zephaniah 3:14-15,17

P: Sing aloud, O children of God; shout, O Church of Christ!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O children of the Lord's Kingdom!

The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing.

Jesus Christ is the Mighty One who has opened the way of salvation.

Your sins are forgiven

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

C: **Amen.**



Response to the Lord's Forgiveness

Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349, sts. 2-3

inspired in part by Zephaniah 3:15

2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.

Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

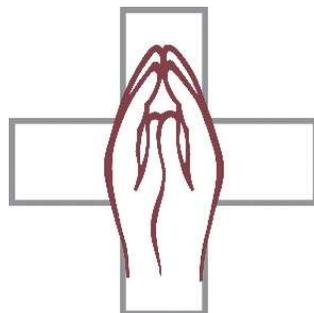
Epistle (New Testament Letter)

Philippians 4:4-7 (ESV)

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Holy Gospel

Luke 7:18–28 (ESV)

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

²⁴When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written, “‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’

²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Introit for the 3rd Sunday in Advent Psalm 146:5-8; antiphon (repeated verse): Philippians 4:4

P: Rejoice in the Lord always;

C: **again I will say, Rejoice.**

P: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

C: **whose hope is in the LORD his God,**

P: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,

C: **who keeps faith forever;**

P: who executes justice for the oppressed,

C: **who gives food to the hungry.**

P: The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

C: **The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

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: Rejoice in the Lord always;

C: **again I will say, Rejoice.**

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Hymn of the Day

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

LSB 334 sts. 1, 3-5



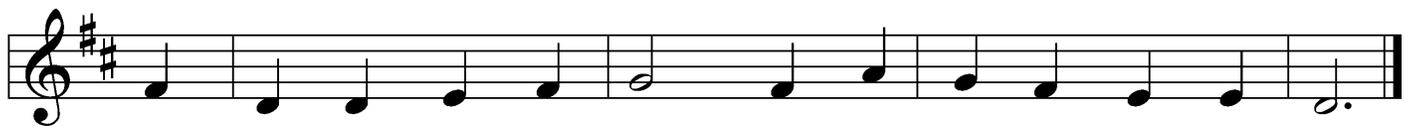
1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?
3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; You came to set me free.
4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.
5 Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, Can - not His love e - rase;



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
Your guilt the Lord will par - don And cov - er by His grace.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast
A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace
He comes, for you pro - cur - ing The peace of sin for - giv'n,



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.
That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.
In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.
His chil - dren thus se - cur - ing E - ter - nal life in heav'n.

Reading from an Advent Prophet

Zephaniah 3:14-20 (ESV)

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

“Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.

¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors.
And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

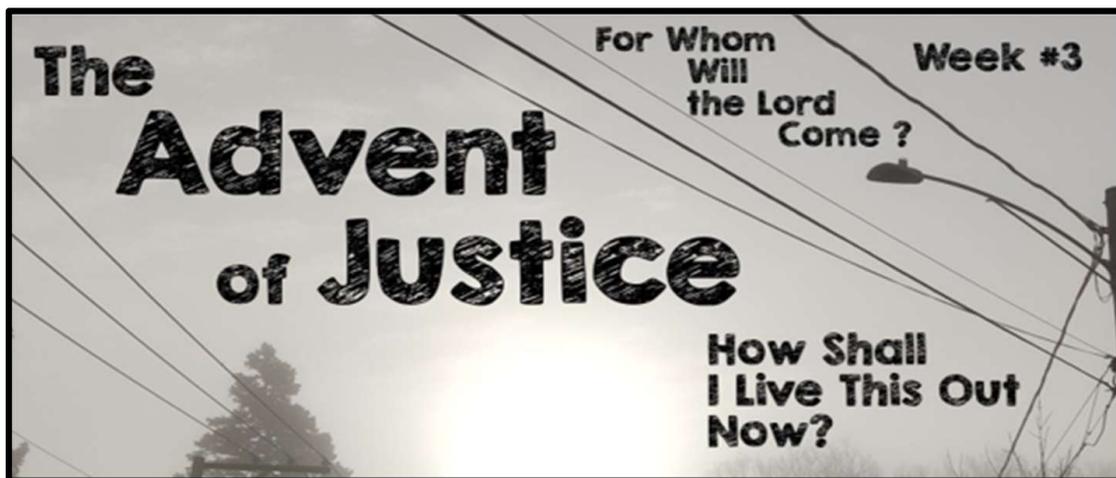
²⁰At that time I will bring you in,
at the time when I gather you together;
for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the LORD.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

Zephaniah 3:14-20



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.

Prayers

- P: In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications,
with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death,
and he was heard because of his reverent submission. *Hebrews 5:7*
Brothers and sisters, let us pray to the God of peace. *Hebrews 13:20*
O Wisdom, O holy Word of God,
you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care;
- C: Come and show your people the way to salvation.**
- P: O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, you showed yourself
to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the holy law on Mt. Sinai;
- C: Come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.**
- P: O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice;
- C: Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.**
- P: O King of the nations, the only joy of every heart;
O Keystone of the mighty arch of humankind;
- C: Come and save the creatures you fashioned from the dust.**
- P: O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people.
- C: Come and set us free, Lord our God.**
- P: To Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, the way, the truth, and the life,
let us make our humble prayer:
- C: Come and stay with us, Lord.**
- P: Son of the Most High, Your Advent was announced to the Virgin Mary by Gabriel,
- C: Come and rule over your people forever.**
- P: Holy One of God, in your presence John the Baptist leapt in Elizabeth's womb,
- C: Bring the joy of salvation to all the earth.**
- P: Jesus the Savior, the angel revealed your name to Joseph,
- C: Come and save your people from their sins.**
- P: Light of the world, for whom Simeon, Anna, and all the faithful waited,
- C: Come and comfort us.**
- P: Watchful at all times, we pray for strength to stand with confidence before our
Maker and Redeemer. May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and
bring us to everlasting life.
- C: Amen.**

(Silence for meditation)

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

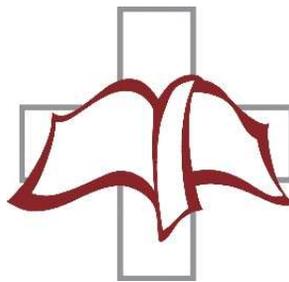
All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

based on Isaiah 61:1-3,8

P: The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Jesus,
because the LORD has anointed Him to bring good news to you;
he has sent Jesus to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God against sin, death, and the devil;
to comfort all who mourn; giving them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit.
So that you may be called oaks of righteousness.
The Lord says to you: I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.



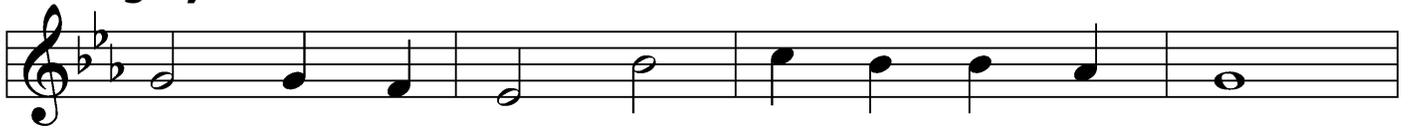
Acknowledgments

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

Abide with Me

LSB 878 sts. 1-4



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 I need Thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,
4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
But kind and good, with heal - ing in Thy wings;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea.
Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.
Come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bide with me.
O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.

Announcements

Bethel Youth Group is a BYG Deal!



About 10-12 teens attend each youth group meeting. We are looking for more adults who want to get involved, **especially men**, because we are blessed with lots of teenage guys in the group. Curious? Join us in January for a time of encouragement and training for adults involved in youth ministry. Contact Susan Squires for details at susan@musicspectrum.org.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Wednesday, December 15

In-Person Worship*(In Sanctuary) – 6:30PM

Sunday, December 19

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

Fellowship 10-10:30AM

Sunday School 10:30-11:30AM

Friday, December 24

In-Person Worship*(In Gym) – 6:30PM

Saturday, December 25

In-Person Worship*(In Gym w/Communion) – 10AM

Sunday, December 26

In-Person Worship*(In Gym) – 10AM

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 and sanctuary, 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. whenever possible, we will livestream through Facebook each week and will post the recording to the Bethel website.

The 5th Annual Christmas Music Game

Sunday Morning Adult Class & High School & Middle School
December 19 - 10:30-11:30AM

Everyone Plays!

Even if you don't normally attend Bible Study, this is the Sunday to be there!

The Sunday Morning Bible Study for Adults, the High School Study, and the Middle School class will play Pastor's Christmas Music Game. Bring your holiday knowledge & competitive spirit!

Pastor will DJ a selection of obscure, strange, and mixed up Christmas tunes. Teams will compete to "name that tune" correctly. ***Prizes will be awarded!***

Begin RECRUITING your Team now, encouraging friends & family to join you for this event--especially if they're musically inclined. Each team will need 2 or more youth!

OR recruit during Fellowship so that your team is ready to rock!

There will be at least SIX teams. We'll be using a smartphone app for teams to submit their answers (no running your answers up to the front this year).

