

---

**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**

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

**Pastor Ben Squires**

Cell phone: 224-419-5519 or email: [pastor@bethelgurnee.org](mailto:pastor@bethelgurnee.org)

**Cindy Daluga, Disciple Care Coordinator**  
[Cindy.daluga@bethelgurnee.org](mailto:Cindy.daluga@bethelgurnee.org)

**Ben Sanders, Mission Facilitator**  
[office@bethelgurnee.org](mailto:office@bethelgurnee.org)

**Website:** [www.BethelGurnee.org](http://www.BethelGurnee.org)

---

# **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 Song**

## ***I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord***

CHORUS



I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for - ev - er, I will sing, I will sing. I will

VERSE



sing of the mercies of the Lord for - ev - er, I will sing of the mercies of the Lord. With my



mouth \_\_\_\_\_ will I make known Thy faith - ful - ness, Thy faith - ful - ness. With my



mouth \_\_\_\_\_ will I make known Thy faith - ful - ness to all gen - er - a - tions.

CCLI Song # 23316  
© Words: Public Domain | Music: Public Domain  
For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com  
CCLI License # 11157642

## **Invocation**

*Jude 1-2, 20-22, 25*

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.***

### ***Confession of Sins***

Based on "Emmanuel" by Aaron Niequist

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:

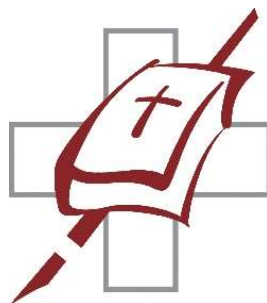
C: ***Emmanuel,***

***God with us today,***

***In thanksgiving we praise Your Name:***

***Emmanuel.***

***The Lord has had mercy on us. Amen.***



**Verses for Lent Psalm 57:1–3a, c (ESV); antiphon (repeated verses): Liturgical Text**

You have mercy on all, O Lord,

and abhor nothing you have made.

You look past the sins of men that they may repent.

You spare them all because you are our Lord, our God.

Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,

for in you my soul takes refuge;

in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge,

till the storms of destruction pass by.

I cry out to God Most High,

to God who fulfills his purpose for me.

He will send from heaven and save me.

God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness!

**C: 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.**

**You have mercy on all, O Lord,**

**and abhor nothing you have made.**

**You look past the sins of men that they may repent.**

**You spare them all because you are our Lord, our God. Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading**

**Isaiah 58:1–12 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>“Cry aloud; do not hold back; lift up your voice like a trumpet;

declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup>Yet they seek me daily and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that did righteousness

and did not forsake the judgment of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments; they delight to draw near to God.

<sup>3</sup>“Why have we fasted, and you see it not?

Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?”

Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure,

and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup>Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist.

Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high.

<sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself?

Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?

Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup>Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry

and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover him,

and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

<sup>8</sup>Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,

and your healing shall spring up speedily;

your righteousness shall go before you;

the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9</sup>Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;

you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.'

If you take away the yoke from your midst,

the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,

<sup>10</sup>if you pour yourself out for the hungry

and satisfy the desire of the afflicted,

then shall your light rise in the darkness

and your gloom be as the noonday.

<sup>11</sup>And the LORD will guide you continually

and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong;

and you shall be like a watered garden,

like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

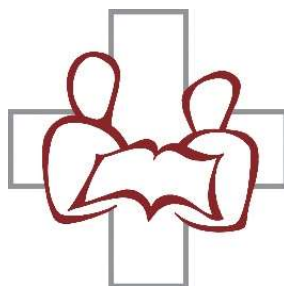
<sup>12</sup>And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;

you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;

you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

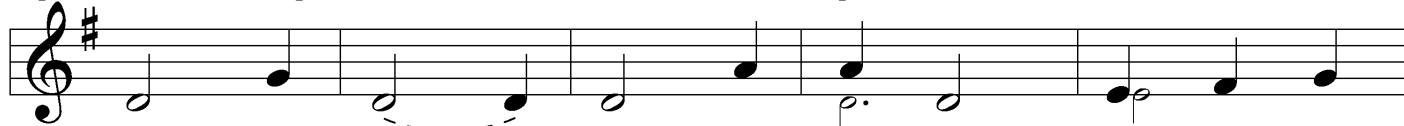
C: **Thanks be to God.**



**Hymn of the Day**

**Blest Are They**

LSB 982 sts. 1-3



1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; Theirs is the  
2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; They shall in -  
3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; Mer - cy



king - dom of God. Blest are they, full of  
her - it the earth. Blest are they who hun - ger and  
shall be theirs. Blest are they, the pure of



sor - row; They shall be con - soled.  
thirst; They shall have their fill.  
heart; They shall see God!

*Refrain*



Re - joice and be glad! Bless-ed are you,



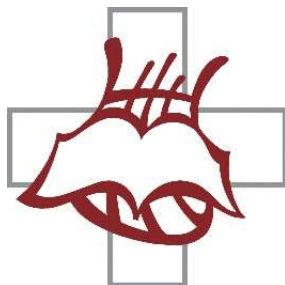
ho-ly are you. Re - joice and be glad! Yours is the



king - dom of God.

Text and tune: David Haas, 1957

Text and tune: © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001267



**Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, God of grace, thank You for reaching out to us with Your mercy, wherever we have been, whatever we have done. Help us now to reach out in mercy—with Your mercy—to those around us. Give us courage to enter places that seem unknowable, even unsafe. Enable us to be people with open hearts and open arms. May shame and blame give way to mercy and peace. And so, in Jesus’ Name, may Your Kingdom come, and Your will be done..

C: **Amen.**

**Verses for Lent**

2 Corinthians 6:2b; Psalm 85:4; 4:6; 37:6; 113:7

P: Now is the time of God’s favor;

C: **now is the day of salvation.**

P: Turn us again, O God of our salvation,

C: **that the light of Your face may shine on us.**

P: May Your justice shine like the sun;

C: **and may the poor be lifted up. Amen.**

**Sermon      JESUS + JUSTICE IN CONVERSATION :  
MERCY IS GOD’S JUSTICE**

*Isaiah 58:1-12*



## Song of Response

## Micah 6:8

He has shown thee, O man, what is  
good, and what the Lord re-quires of thee; He has  
But to do just-ly, and to love mer-cy,  
and to walk hum-bly with thy God.



### Acknowledgements

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires. © 2019.  
Portions adapted from Aaron Niequist's songs and texts for A New Liturgy (Nos. 1, 2, & 3).  
© Aaron Niequist. [www.anewliturgy.com](http://www.anewliturgy.com)

"Absolution" adapted from LCMS World Relief Lenten Series, by Rev. Bernie Seter.

"Confession of Faith" by Rainsong/First Nations Version. © 2013 Rain Ministries, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

"Prayers of the Church" adapted from "Prayer [2]", *The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes*. © 1994 Estate of L. Hughes.  
Portions used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 000013448.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*,  
copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers.

Used by permission. All rights reserved. Cover image, graphics, and series design © Common Grace  
([www.commongrace.org.au](http://www.commongrace.org.au)).

"Common Grace is an online Australian Christian movement for justice.

We exist to inspire and organise Australian Christians to think, speak and act like Jesus for a more just world."

***Confession of Faith (adapted from the Apostles' Creed)***

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.



## **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 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 (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.

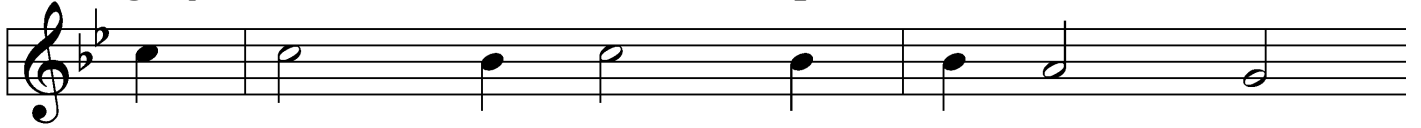
C: ***Amen.***



**Closing Hymn**

**O Love, How Deep**

LSB 544 sts. 1, 4, 7



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,  
4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;  
△ 7 All glo - ry to our Lord and God



Be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,  
For us His dai - ly works He wrought,  
For love so deep, so high, so broad;



That God, the Son of God, should take  
By words and signs and ac - tions thus  
The Trin - i - ty whom we a - dore



Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!  
Still seek - ing not Him - self but us.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

Text: attr. Thomas à Kempis, 1380-1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819-85, alt.  
Tune: English, 15th cent.

**Announcements**

**Bethel Spring Clean-up April 9th at 8:30AM**

Join the Bethel Property Board on Saturday April 9th as we wake up the building and grounds from the winter months and prepare for spring. There will be a variety of chores both inside and out. Lists will be posted so you can see what you might want to do. Regardless of weather, we'll start at 8:30 with prayer, coffee and donuts and then get to it. If weather prevents us from working outside, we will still work inside and those outside chores will be done on Saturday April 23rd.