

**Advent Midweek
Worship Series**
Pairing Scripture with
poems by Tanner Olson

TONIGHT:
**“Be Not Afraid:
God’s Refrain”**

**Wednesday
December 14
2022**

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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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*).



Opening Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LSB 338; tune: 700

1
Come, thou long ex - pect - ed Je - - sus,
Born thy peo - ple to de - li - - ver,

5
born to set thy peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re -
born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us for -

12
- lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
- e - ver, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

17
Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - - tion,
By thine own e - ter - nal spi - rit

21
hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of ev - ery
rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all suf - fi - cient

28
na - - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Opening Words

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.

**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: Praise to You, O Christ,

C: King who comes to save us.

Psalm Reading (Responsive)

Psalm 27:1,3,14 (ESV, alt.)

P: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

C: The LORD is our light and our salvation;

P: Be not afraid.

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

C: The LORD is our light and our salvation;

P: Be not afraid.

³ Though an army encamp against me,

C: my heart shall not fear;

P: though war arise against me,

C: my heart shall not fear;

P: ¹⁴ Wait for the LORD;

be strong, and let your heart take courage; be not afraid.

C: We will wait for the LORD!

**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: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

C: The LORD is our light and our salvation;

P: Be not afraid.

C: Amen.



Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: O Lord, our dwelling place and our peace, You have compassion on our weakness. Put far from us all worry and fearfulness that, having confessed our sins and commending ourselves to Your gracious mercy, we may, when night shall come, commit ourselves, our work, and all we love into Your keeping, receiving from You the gift of quiet sleep; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

“Be Not Afraid” in the Old Testament

(See Handout)

Tonight’s Poem by Tanner Olson

(See Handout)

“Be Not Afraid” in the New Testament

(See Handout)

Responsory

LSB 230

P: Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord,
when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C: **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P: In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

C: **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

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

C: **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

Acknowledgments

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

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Hymn of the Day **Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding**

LSB 345



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.
Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89

Sermon

"Be Not Afraid: God's Refrain"



Offering

Offertory Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

C: Amen.

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.*

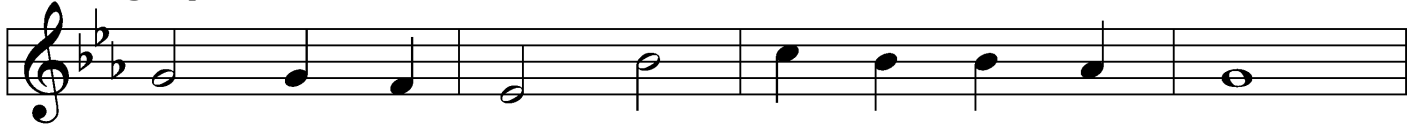
Benediction

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

Abide with Me

LSB 878 sts. 1, 3-5



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,
4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
But kind and good, with heal - ing in Thy wings;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
Ills have no weight and tears no bit - ter - ness.



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea.
Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?



Help of the help - less, 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.
I tri - umph still if Thou a - bide with me!

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847, alt.
Tune: William H. Monk, 1823-89

Announcements

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY) – 6:30PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM W/COMMUNION) – 9AM

FELLOWSHIP 10 -10:30AM

EDUCATION HOUR 10:30AM -1 1:30AM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY) – 6:30PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM) – 6:30PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM W/COMMUNION) – 10AM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM W/COMMUNION) – 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.