

Even in the In-Between



Lent Midweek Worship Series

Pairing Scripture
with poems
by Tanner Olson

TONIGHT:
John 18:1-11 &
“For Us”
(Part One)

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

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

Cindy Daluga, Disciple Care Coordinator
Cindy.daluga@bethelgurnee.org

Ben Sanders, Mission Facilitator
office@bethelgurnee.org

Website: 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.

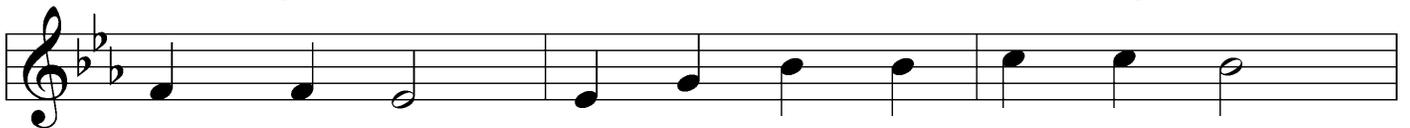
Opening Hymn

Go to Dark Gethsemane

LSB 436



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, All who feel the
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, View the Lord of
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; There, a - dor - ing
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb Where they laid His



tempt - er's pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
life ar-raigned; Oh, the worm-wood and the gall!
at His feet, Mark that mir - a - cle of time,
breath - less clay; All is sol - i - tude and gloom.



Watch with Him one bit - ter hour; Turn not from His
Oh, the pangs His soul sus-tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,
God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete. "It is fin - ished!"
Who has tak - en Him a - way? Christ is ris'n! He



griefs a - way; Learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.
hear Him cry; Learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854

Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820-1901

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?

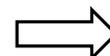
C: **Because I have doubts, and you have doubts.**

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.

Reading Paired with Tonight's Poem

(See Handout)

John 18:1-11 (ESV)

Tonight's Poem by Tanner Olson

(See Handout)

Another Version of the Reading

John 18:2-7 (Passion Translation)

²Judas, the traitor, knew where this place was, for Jesus had gone there often with his disciples. ³The Pharisees and the leading priests had given Judas a large detachment of Roman soldiers and temple police to seize Jesus. Judas guided them to the garden, all of them carrying torches and lanterns and armed with swords and spears. ⁴Jesus, knowing full well what was about to happen, went out to the garden entrance to meet them. Stepping forward, he asked, "Who are you looking for?"

⁵"Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. (Now Judas, the traitor, was among them.)

He replied, "I am he."

⁶And the moment Jesus spoke the words, "I am he," the mob fell backward to the ground!

⁷So once more, Jesus asked them, "Who are you looking for?"

As they stood up, they answered, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Collect (Prayer of the Day)

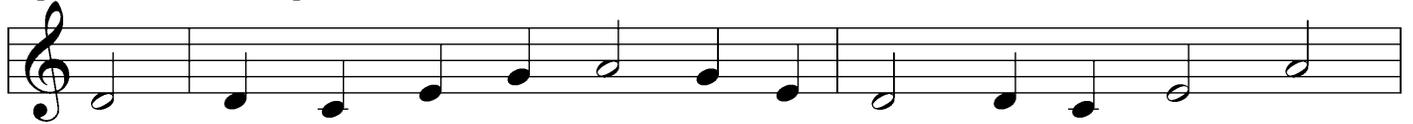
P: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, You willed that Your Son should bear for us the pains of the cross and so remove from us the power of the adversary. Help us so to remember and give thanks for our Lord's passion that we may receive forgiveness of sin and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: ***Amen.***

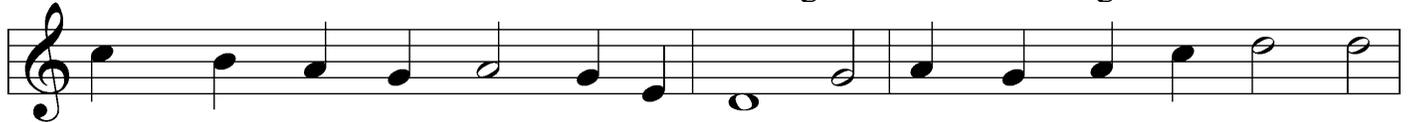
Hymn of the Day

What Wondrous Love Is This

LSB 543



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, When
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; To
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this That
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, When I was sink - ing down Be -
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, Who
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll



caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread - ful curse for my
 neath God's righ - teous frown, Christ laid a - side His crown for my
 is the great I AM, While mil - lions join the theme, I will
 sing His love for me, And through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, To bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side His crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, While mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on, And through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: A General Selection of . . . Hymns and Spiritual Songs, 1811, Lynchburg, alt.
 Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven

Sermon

John 18:1-11 & "For Us" (Part 1)



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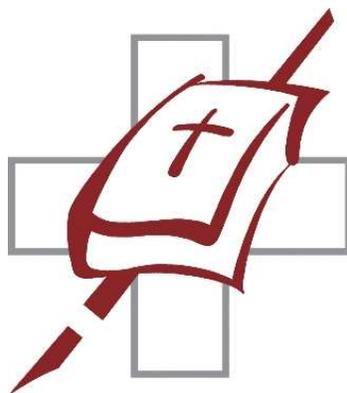
Confession of Faith (adapted from the Apostles' Creed)

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.

Offering



Offertory

Just as I Am, without One Plea

LSB 570, sts. 1,3,5

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



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.

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:

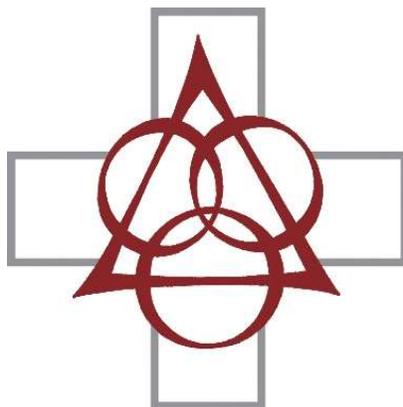
All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is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



Acknowledgements

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Portions adapted from Aaron Niequist's songs and texts for A New Liturgy (Nos. 1, 2, & 3).

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Closing Hymn

Christ, the Life of All the Living

LSB 420 sts. 1, 4-5, 7



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of
4 Heart - less scof - fers did sur - round Thee, Treat - ing Thee with
5 Thou hast suf - fered men to bruise Thee, That from pain I
7 Then, for all that wrought my par - don, For Thy sor - rows



death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for me once giv - ing
shame - ful scorn And with pierc - ing thorns they crowned Thee.
might be free; False - ly did Thy foes ac - cuse Thee:
deep and sore, For Thine an - guish in the Gar - den,



To the dark - est depths of woe: Through Thy suf - f'rings,
All dis - grace Thou, Lord, hast borne, That as Thine Thou
Thence I gain se - cu - ri - ty; Com - fort - less Thy
I will thank Thee ev - er - more, Thank Thee for Thy



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.
might - est own me And with heav'n - ly glo - ry crown me.
soul did lan - guish Me to com - fort in my an - guish.
groan - ing, sigh - ing, For Thy bleed - ing and Thy dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
For that last tri - um - phant cry, And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605-81; (sts. 1, 5, 7): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.; (st. 4): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1912, St. Louis, Tune: Das grosse Cantional, 1687, Darmstadt

Announcements

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LENT MIDWEEK SERVICE WEDNESDAY , MARCH 8

SOUP & SALAD SUPPER - 5:00PM

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM) – 9AM

FELLOWSHIP 10 -10:30AM

EDUCATION HOUR 10:30AM -11:30AM

LENT MIDWEEK SERVICE WEDNESDAY , MARCH 15

SOUP & SALAD SUPPER - 5:00PM

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

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

FELLOWSHIP 10 -10:30AM

EDUCATION HOUR 10:30AM -11:30AM

LENT MIDWEEK SERVICE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

SOUP & SALAD SUPPER - 5:00PM

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM) – 9AM

FELLOWSHIP 10 -10:30AM

EDUCATION HOUR 10:30AM -11:30AM

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.



EASTER LILIES

**Order Deadline:
Friday, March 24**

As a donation to Bethel Lutheran Church I would like _____ Easter lily plant(s) at \$12.00 each to be placed in our worship areas for Easter services on **April 9**.

Name and telephone number [please print]

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Checks can be written to “Bethel Lutheran Church” and place check (or cash) with the form in an envelope, marked “Easter lilies” and place in the offering plate or turn in at the church office. *****Please include your donation when you submit your form.**

**Remember to take your lily plant(s)
Easter Sunday after the service
or later in the week if you would like to keep it.**