

Summer Series in Galatians

Free
the unfree

Life in the Gospel

Thursday, August 8, 2024
& Sunday, August 11

Unfree
til we Trust

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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 MARIA KUBE IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND CALVIN



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

Blessed Assurance

ELW 638

Verse

Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine!
 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest;

O what a fore-taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God,
 I in my Sav - ior am hap - py and blest, watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove,
 born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
 filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

Refrain

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long;
 this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

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.***

Acknowledgements

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Song of Praise

Now is The Time To Worship



Come, now is the time _____ to wor - ship. _____



Come, now is the time _____ to give _____ your _____ heart. _____



Come, just as you are _____ to wor - ship. _____



Come, just as you are _____ be-fore _____ your _____ God. _____

End here on final time

VERSE



Come.

- 1. One day ev - 'ry tongue will con-fess _____ You are God. _____
- 2. Will - ling - ly we serve and sur-ren - der our lives. _____



One day ev - 'ry knee _____ will bow. _____
Will - ing - ly our knees _____ will bow. _____

Still, the great-est treas-ure re-mains _____
With all our heart, _____ soul, _____ mind, _____



_____ for _____ those _____ who glad - ly _____ praise _____ You now. _____
_____ and _____ strength _____ we glad - ly _____ serve _____ You now. _____

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Galatians Reading: 4:13-31—pp.12,14—New English Translation journal booklet
(“Personal Appeal of Paul” and “An Appeal From Allegory”)

L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

Collect (Prayer of the Day—Gal. 1:1-3,4:17) adapted from Eugene Peterson's translation *The Message*

P: Let us pray. Praise to You, Father God, who has raised Jesus the Messiah from the dead, and Who has given us this Gospel-Good-News for the sake of our salvation. May Your grace and peace always keep this Gospel-Good-News as our Message. Father, keep us from fear that would cling to false promises about how to keep ourselves safe. May these not shut us out of the free world of Your grace so that we will always depend on false promises for approval and direction. Instead, work in us the gift of the Holy Spirit to trust in Your promise of salvation which will truly set us free. In the Name of Jesus the Messiah, we pray.

C: Amen.

Hymn of the Day

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

LSB 650



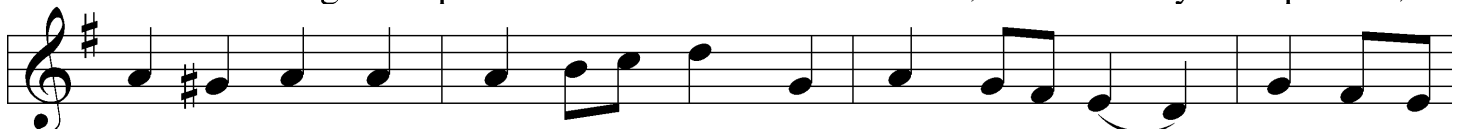
1 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er dwell - ing In the ho - liest
2 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er liv - ing As the Church's
3 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er work - ing Through the Church's



realms of light; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er brood - ing
ver - y life; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er striv - ing
min - is - try; Quick - 'ning, strength - 'ning, and ab - solv - ing,



O'er a world of gloom and night; Ho - ly Spir - it,
Through us in a cease - less strife; Ho - ly Spir - it,
Set - ting cap - tive sin - ners free; Ho - ly Spir - it,



ev - er rais - ing Those of earth to thrones on high; Liv - ing,
ev - er form - ing In the Church the mind of Christ: You we
ev - er bind - ing Age to age and soul to soul In com -



life - im - part - ing Spir - it, You we praise and mag - ni - fy.
praise with end - less wor - ship For Your gifts and fruits un - priced.
mu - nion nev - er end - ing, You we wor - ship and ex - tol.

Sermon

Confession of Faith (adapted from the Apostles' Creed)

First Nations Version

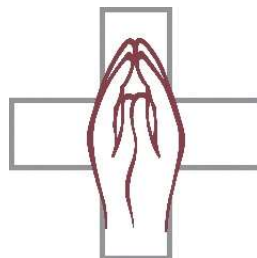
Our Father and Creator, the One Above Us All,
made all things in the world above and the earth below.

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.

Offering & Prayer Requests

In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

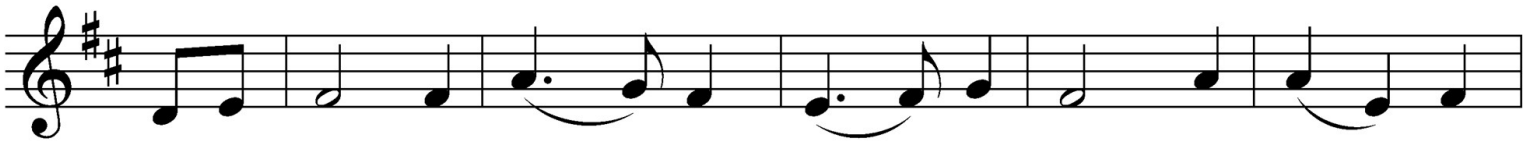


Offertory

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.

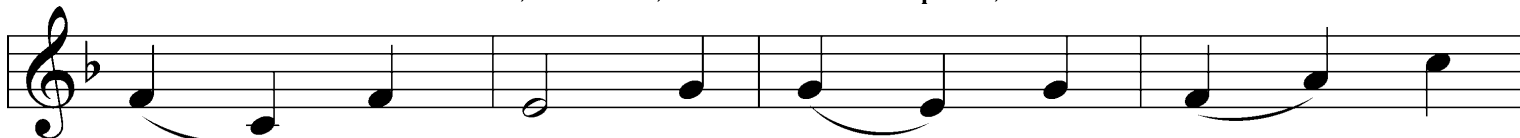
Closing Hymn

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

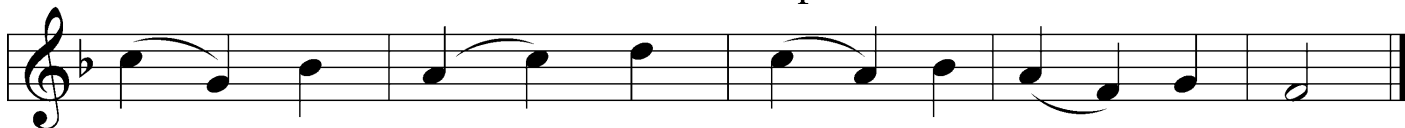
LSB 975



1 Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne We pour our
3 We share our mu - tual woes, Our mu - tual
4 When here our path - ways part, We suf - fer
5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, And sin we



Chris - tian love; The fel - low - ship of
ar - dent prayers; Our fears, our hopes, our
bur - dens bear, And of - ten for each
bit - ter pain; Yet, one in Christ and
shall be free And per - fect love and



kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove.
aims are one, Our com - forts and our cares.
oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
one in heart, We hope to meet a - gain.
friend - ship reign Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Announcements

Bethel Church Picnic
Sunday, August 18th at 11am
Viking Park Summer Kitchen



Join us Sunday, August 18th at 11:00 a.m. at the Viking Park Summer Kitchen in Gurnee for the Bethel Church Picnic! Bring your family, bring your friends, no need to be a member!

Let's all enjoy a few hours with our Bethel Family. There will be games and activities for all ages. To sign up to bring a side dish, help with the games, set up or clean up scan the code below! Bethel will provide meat, cups, plates, napkins, utensils, and drinks!

Just a reminder that it is summer, and it could be warm and sunny, however, the Viking Park Summer Kitchen provides shade and fans. We will see you there!



UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY) – 6:30PM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY) – 9AM

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY W/COMMUNION) – 6:30PM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY W/COMMUNION) – 9AM

CHURCH PICNIC (VIKING PARK) – 11AM

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY) – 6:30PM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY) – 9AM

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY W/COMMUNION) – 6:30PM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY W/COMMUNION) – 9AM

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.

What Would Happen If You Told the Pastor?

If you come to me and confess your sin of _____,
I will listen.

I may ask why, what led to this,
to see if you understand
the nature of the temptation and consequences.

I will affirm God's Law.

I will APPLY GOD'S FORGIVENESS directly to you.

I will pray for you.

I will offer a blessing for you from God.

I will ask how I can
support, encourage, and hold you accountable.

I will point you towards the work of the Holy Spirit in you
for your transformation day by day.

If you come to me and express
your frustration or fear or confusion
or what you think might be an error in our ministry,

I will listen.

I will admit to my own failures and seek your forgiveness.

I will affirm God's Law.

I will affirm God's Gospel.

We will pray together, asking for God's blessing on us
as the Lord calls us to be on His mission together.

I will celebrate that we are brothers and sisters in Christ.

Pastor Ben Squires

224-419-5519 (cell) pastor@bethelgurnee.org