

**January 29th, 2012**  
**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**Healing Service**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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Church Web Site: [blcmalmo.org](http://blcmalmo.org)

Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Pastor Emeritus: Reverend Winfield Johnson

Church Secretary: Evie Richter Youth: Susie Modrow

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN, C 320-684-2846

Patti Honnold, RN CNP 320-676-8421

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

**MISSION STATEMENT**

We will grow spiritually and in numbers as we serve Christ. We will reach out and address the hurts and hopes in our community. We will maintain a church home that is reverently joyous and extend a welcome to all who seek to join us in our mission.

**Hearing Assistance is available during the service.**

**Please notify usher if you would like assistance**

# Sunday, January 29, 2012

## Fourth Sunday after Epiphany/Healing Service

### INTRODUCTION

*In Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that trumps any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.*

### PRELUDE

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN:** “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” # 886 ELW

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Let us confess we do not deserve God's love.

**God of life, we have heard your command to “Go, and make disciples” but we have been reluctant to step out in faith. We confess we are people who don't like to get our hands dirty. We have heard you saying to us, “Be full of love for others” but we even find it difficult to love ourselves. We are people who don't like to get involved. Today we confess we do not deserve your love, yet we ask for forgiveness, confident you will forgive our sin.**

God has good news for all people! Our God is the God of life, and offers the free gift of forgiveness to all people. Jesus Christ, God's son, lived among us, died on a cross for us, and rose from death so that we might know life in its fullness. God knows us and loves us with an everlasting love. God's love changes every hidden corner of our life and allows us to step out in faith, to get involved, and to get our hands dirty. Praise God for forgiveness and new life. **Amen.**

### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC:                   “Peace is Flowing Like a River”**

performed by Joan Niskanen & Jim Christensen

## **FIRST READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1–13**

*Paul is concerned about how some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable, believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause a sister or brother to sin.*

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth — as in fact there are many gods and many lords — yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. Food will not bring us close to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

## PSALM: Psalm 111

*Refrain: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. (Ps. 111:10)*

Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

**Great are your works, O LORD,  
pondered by all who delight in them.**

Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,  
and your righteousness endures forever.

**You cause your wonders to be remembered;  
you are gracious and full of compassion. R**

You give food to those who fear you,  
remembering forever your covenant.

**You have shown your people the power of your works  
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;  
all of your precepts are sure.

**They stand fast forever and ever,  
because they are done in truth and equity. R**

You sent redemption to your people  
and commanded your covenant forever;  
holy and awesome is your name.

**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all who practice this have a good understanding.  
God's praise endures forever. R**

## GOSPEL: Mark 1:21–28

*The story has barely begun, and already the battle is joined. Jesus sides with humanity against every force that would bring death and disease. These forces recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. This, however, is only the first fight. The war will go on much longer.*

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him,



-ing difficult circumstances. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be made.*

Holy One, Holy Three, the beloved dead are eternally in communion with you. Give us wisdom to live our days in praise, secure in the knowledge that your faithfulness endures forever. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Holy God, we lift our prayers to you in hope, entrusting all for whom we pray to your great goodness and mercy, made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF HEALING**

Let us as a congregation lift our voices in prayer of thanksgiving for those who are in a place of wellness and in prayer of supplication for those who are ill and hurting.

L: Teach us, O God, how to walk in paths of wholeness and hope.

**C: Help us to care for those among us who are sick, and to challenge those who are well to embrace the fullness and vigor of life that you bring.**

L: Let those who are lonely or sorrowing be comforted and called back into community.

**C: Let those who are depressed or suffering from mental anguish be helped through compassionate care and support.**

L: Let those who are facing illness of body be encouraged and assisted as they seek to recover or be released from their pain.

**C: Let those who are healthy celebrate with joy.**

L: Let those who are able honor your creation through thankful enjoyment of nutritious food, clear air and water and vigorous exercise.

**C: Let us rejoice in the splendid variety of your creation.**

**ALL: Help us to be a healthy and healing congregation, O God, a place where all are free to live fully in body, mind and spirit. This we pray in your precious name.**

**Amen.**

## **TIME OF BLESSING, PRAYER AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES**

You are invited this morning to come forward to receive a blessing and the sign of the cross in oil on your hand to strengthen you in your faith walk. You can also light a candle as you say a prayer. If you have a special prayer request you can record it on the yellow paper in your pew and place it in the basket on the altar. These will be offered up to God.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

## **BLESSING**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of all grace + bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

As we leave this service and enter into the world of our daily lives:

- May the Lord walk beside you to comfort you
- May the Lord walk above you to watch over you
- May the Lord walk behind you to keep you safe
- May the Lord walk before you to show you the way

**Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN:**

**“I’m So Glad Jesus Lifted Me”**

**# 860 ELW**

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## **THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF JANUARY 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2012**

Organist: Marlys Beavers  
Greeters: Jim & Donna Metteer  
Ushers: 8:30 Wally & Bev Swenson, 10:00 Tom & Gloria Christensen  
Lectors: 8:30 Karen Carron, 10:00 Wally Swenson  
Coffee Servers: Lloyd & Shirley Lilienthal, Doug & Ingrid Trandahl

## **RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD LAST WEEK (1/22/12)**

Attendance: 8:30 – 95      10:00 – 34

Offering: \$ 1,488.01      Building Fund: \$ 207.00

## THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA JANUARY 29<sup>TH</sup> THRU FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2012

Sun., Jan. 29 <sup>th</sup>	4-8 p.m.	Friends of the Arts Dinner
Mon., Jan. 30 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues., Jan. 31 <sup>st</sup>	9:30 a.m.	Bells
Wed., Feb. 1 <sup>st</sup>	8:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Hardanger
	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Praise Team
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation
Thurs., Feb. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S.
	10:30 a.m.	Worship & Music
	1:00 p.m.	Funtimers

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**“GETTING OLDER ISN’T FOR SISSIES!”** is an informational session on Dementia and Alzheimer’s disease that will be held at Bethesda on February 8<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-3:30PM. Over 5 million Americans have been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s or another dementia related disorder. This diagnosis changes the lives of spouses, adult children and other caregivers. Come and learn about dementia, its cause, symptoms, diagnosis, treatment and the support services that are available. If you have any questions, contact Darlene Christensen or Kathy Berland.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES AND 2011 STATEMENTS** are available on the table next to the Fellowship Hall entrance doors so if you haven’t picked yours up yet, please do so today,

**YOUTH NEWS:** Today is the last day to buy your tickets to **the annual Valentine’s Dinner!** The youth will be cooking up something delicious for you! Tickets are on sale between services. Proceeds benefit the youth attending the National youth Gathering trip to New Orleans this July.

Next Sunday is **Souper Bowl Sunday**. Between services the youth will be collecting non-perishable food items and monetary donations for our local foodshelves and for Feed My Starving Children.

**COOKIE AND SOUP MINISTRY:** Our Parish Nurses and home visitors bring cookies and soup to homebound residents that they visit and the supply needs to be replenished. Each month three small containers of soup and 2 dozen cookies are needed. If you are able to help with either of these ministries, sign up on the sheets in the narthex.