

# February 26th, 2012

## First Sunday in Lent



### **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**

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## First Sunday in Lent

### INTRODUCTION

*On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**                    **“How Great Thou Art”**                    **Bell Choir**  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**OPENING HYMN:**                    **“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”**                    **# 325 ELW**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

**God we confess that we are not ready. We try to fill our lives with temporary pleasure and we feel the emptiness of our pursuits. We distract ourselves from our pain with toys and gadgets but we know the sadness when the novelty wears off. We dream of a day when we will “have it all together,” but we know the futility of our own ambition. God, we confess that we are not ready for the return of your Son. Forgive our sinful condition and show us how to live in love for one another.**

Hear God’s Good News for us. Our God is a great God and knows us better than any person. God knows our sinful condition and the dark desires of our human hearts. God knows our attraction to the temporary and the distraction of our desires. God knows we need a Savior. In Christ Jesus, God forgives our sinful selves through a life of love, a

death on the cross, and a resurrection from the grave. God gives us power to forgive each other through the activity of the Holy Spirit who moves through us and lives in us. God in Christ is coming again. Praise God.

**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.

**Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**ANTHEM:**

**“Blessed Assurance”**

**Bell Choir**

## **FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8–17**

*Today’s reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, the Lord destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.*

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I

bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

### **PSALM: Psalm 25:1–10**

*Refrain: Your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness. (Ps. 25:10)*

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths. R**

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

**R**

You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies. R**

### **GOSPEL: Mark 1:9–15**

*The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.*

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."



We pray for people in prison; for those who live in long-term care facilities (*especially*); for the homeless, the sick (*especially*); for the dying, and those who will die today. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community; for single people; for married couples, and those who are divorced; for widows and widowers; for children and youth; for those who come here in need of good news. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be made.*

We thank you for the everlasting covenant you have made with all flesh, and we remember our ancestors and loved ones, who know the fulfillment of your promises (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Now is the acceptable time to offer our prayers to you, God of grace and truth. Receive them in your mercy, and grant us all that we need, in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

## **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and grant you his peace.

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CLOSING HYMN:**

**“My Lord, What a Morning”**

**#438 ELW**

**THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF FEBRUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2012**

Organist: Lee Krueger  
Greeters:  
Ushers: 8:30 Lloyd & Shirley Lilienthal, 10:00 Dick & Sue Stebbins  
Lectors: 8:30 Audrey Kullberg, 10:00 Yvonne Nelson  
Coffee Servers: Joyce Rimer, Steve Long, Mary Kramer-Long, Irene Long

**RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (2/19/12)**

Attendance: 8:30 – 65                      10:00 – 34  
Offering: \$ 3,000.00                      Building Fund: \$ 515.00

**\$ 3,846.00 – Weekly amount needed for operating expenses.**  
**\$ 580.00 – Weekly amount (building fund) needed for mortgage payment.**

**THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA FEBRUARY 26<sup>TH</sup> THRU MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2012**

Mon., Feb. 27 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues., Feb. 28 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 a.m.	Bells
Wed., Feb. 29 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Hardanger
	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	5:30 p.m.	Potluck Supper
	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Service
Thurs., Mar. 1 <sup>st</sup>	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S.
	1:00 p.m.	Funtimers

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CHOIR PRACTICE** begins this coming Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

**POTLUCK SUPPER HELPERS NEEDED**--There is a sign up sheet on the table in the narthex for those willing to help with the potluck suppers on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. prior to the Wednesday evening Lenten Services at 6:30 p.m. Helpers are needed before the suppers to help set the tables and make coffee and afterwards to do the dishes and clear and wipe the tables. If you can help, please sign up.

There are still **2012 envelopes** and **2011 Financial Statements** in the office to be picked up. Please do so as soon as possible.

**REMINDER:** Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month and the **Blessing Box** will again be passed around. As we have been blessed let us in return give a blessing by contributing a donation in thanks to God.

**COOKIE AND SOUP MINISTRY**—Cookies and Soup is needed by our visiting ministry team so if you can help with either of these, please sign up on the sheets on the table in the narthex.

The **MINNESOTA FOOD SHARE DRIVE** will be taking place all during the month of March so watch for further information on this event.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO LYLE NYBERG** on receiving the Excellence in Education Award. Great job!