

March 4th, 2012
Second Sunday in Lent



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Pastor Emeritus: Reverend Winfield Johnson

Church Secretary: Evie Richter Youth: Susie Modrow

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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, March 4, 2012/Second Sunday in Lent

Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION

The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN:

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

324 ELW

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the

by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GREETING

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

Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

FIRST READING: Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's old womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

PSALM: Psalm 22:23–31

Refrain: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)

You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.

From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise!

May your hearts live forever! R

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations Shall bow before God.

For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!" **R**

GOSPEL: Mark 8:31–38

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole

world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

HYMN: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

803 ELW

SERMON

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We cry to you for help, O God, praying for the church, the world, and all those who are in need.

A time for silent prayer.

Let us pray for the one holy catholic and apostolic church, for the church's leaders and all its people, and for every local community of faith. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Let us pray for this planet we call home; for the oceans we have polluted with oil; for the land we have piled with garbage; and for the species we have endangered. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the multitude of nations (*especially*); for Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, and others of different faiths than our own; and for those without a community of faith. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Let us pray for couples longing for children; for families that are separated; for children in foster care; for people with disabilities; and for all in need of healing (*especially*).

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Let us pray for this assembly; for those who read the lessons and lead music; for greeters and ushers; for Sunday school teachers and students; for longtime members and first-time visitors. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be made.

Let us give thanks for those who have lost their lives for the sake of the gospel (*especially*). Encourage us also to deny ourselves, take up the cross, and follow you. 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.

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell, he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord 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. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN:

“Lift High the Cross”

660 ELW

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is **Blessing Box Sunday**--the boxes will be passed around so that we may give in proportion to how God has blessed us. This money is used to fund projects on the church wish list.

COOKIE AND SOUP MINISTRY—Cookies and Soup are needed by our visiting ministry team so if you can help with either of these, please sign up on the signup 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.

WEDNESDAY POTLUCK SUPPER HELPERS NEEDED—There is a signup sheet on the table in the narthex for those willing to help with the potluck suppers on Wed. evenings at 5:30 p.m. during Lent. Helpers need to make coffee & set the tables before and clean tables & do dishes after.

There are several of you who have not picked up your **2012 offering envelopes** nor your **2011 Financial Statements**. Please stop in and pick them up in the church office.

CHOIR PRACTICE again on Saturday, March 10th at 10:00 a.m.

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE will meet on Thursday, March 8th at 10:00 a.m.

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF MARCH 4TH, 2012

Organist: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Neil & Myra Honl
Ushers: 8:30 Bill & Cheri Johnson, 10:00 Marilyn Andrews
Lectors: 8:30 Kathy Carlson, 10:00 Yvonne Nelson
Coffee Servers: Alene Lowe, Mark Korngable, Ron & Joyce Keil

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (2/26/12)

Attendance: 8:30 – 52 10:00 – 38

Offering: \$ 1,515.00 Building Fund: \$ 185.00

\$ 3,846.00 – Weekly amount needed for operating expenses.

\$ 580.00 – Weekly amount (building fund) needed for mortgage payment.

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA MARCH 4TH THRU MARCH 10TH, 2012

Mon., Mar. 5 th	9:00 a.m.	Sassy Quilters
	7:00 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues., Mar. 6 th	9:30 a.m.	Bells
Wed., Mar. 7 th	8:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Hardanger
	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	5:30 p.m.	Potluck
	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Service
	Following Service	Praise Team
Thurs., Mar. 8 th	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S.
	10:30 a.m.	Worship & Music
	1:00 p.m.	Funtimers
Fri., Mar. 9 th	Noon-8 p.m.	Youth—Feed My Starving Children
Sat., Mar. 10 th	10:00 a.m.	Choir