

March 11th, 2012

Third Sunday in Lent



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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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

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INTRODUCTION

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The ten commandments are one of the chief parts of Luther's catechism, a core piece of baptismal instruction. They begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods.



CALL TO WORSHIP: “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SONG: “In Christ Alone”

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

CONFESSION

God, we admit to you and to those around us how difficult it is to believe in you. We blame others when we have done wrong, we blame society for the ills of our community, we look for help and take comfort in things that mask the hurt and deaden the mind. There are so many things that try to lure us away from the one truth: you are God and God alone. Jesus, forgive our sins, and encourage us to be more like you. (A time of silence to ask God's forgiveness)

ABSOLUTION

Jesus is the son of God and hears the prayers of his people. Because Jesus died on a cruel cross and rose again in power and glory, we are forgiven for the sins of our past, present, and future. *“As far as the east is from the west, so I will separate you from your sin,”* says our God. In our new-found freedom, we are given power to believe in God's promises, and to live our lives in service to God and to each other. Praise God for the freedom of forgiveness! **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, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ANTHEM: “I Am The Resurrection and the Life”

FIRST READING: Exodus 20:1–17

After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The ten commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work — you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth,

the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

PSALM: Psalm 19

Refrain: The commandment of the LORD gives light to the eyes. (Ps. 19:8)

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.

Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.

It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat. R

The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb. R

By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer. R

GOSPEL: John 2:13–22

Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

SERMON

OFFERING SONG during OFFERING: "I Will Rise" Jim Christensen

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God, giver of every good and perfect gift, we bring before you these offerings of our treasure. Bless these gifts and use them in the work of your realm on earth. Give strength to hands that labor, vision to minds that create and hope to lives who serve. In Jesus' name. 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.

**For the body of Christ, that we might trust in the foolishness of God. For houses of worship everywhere, that we might not make your sanctuaries into marketplaces. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.**

For wisdom to carefully steward all your creation; for cattle, sheep, doves, donkeys, and animals of every kind; for veterinarians and zookeepers; for biologists and ranchers.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the nations of the world and their leaders; for legislatures and judges; for merchants and money changers; for police and military personnel; for the civilians of war-torn countries, Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For all those captive to addictions; for victims of crime; for survivors of sexual or domestic abuse; for those sick with malaria, HIV/AIDS, or cancer; for those with Alzheimer's and their caregivers; for all in any need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For this faith community, whenever we make idols, misuse your name, break the sabbath, dishonor our parents, murder, commit adultery, bear false witness, and covet what is not our own. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be made.

We lift up the names of loved ones who have died in the faith, trusting that in the crucified and risen Christ we are bound to them in death as in life. 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER led by the Praise Team

BENEDICTION

The God of steadfastness and encouragement, the God of hope and the God of all grace bless you now and forever.

Amen.

BENEDICTION SONG: "As You Go On Your Way"

CLOSING SONG: "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARCH IS MINNESOTA FOOD SHARE MONTH so if you can help by donating food items or by making a cash donation, please do so. During the month of March the monies we donate are doubled so we can do so much more for the hungry. If you donate to Bethesda please mark your check "Food Share" in the memo. Thank you.

Today we change to **Daylight Savings Time** which means it is also **Coffee Sunday** here at Bethesda. If you would like to help keep us in coffee for our Sunday coffee hour you may donate a can of coffee to the cause. Thanks for your donation.

We will be taking orders for **EASTER LILY** once again. If you would like to purchase a lily in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please sign up. Cost per lily is \$15.00.

YOUTH NEWS: Faithful Families meets today at 9 a.m.
The NYG participants will be meeting for a bible study this afternoon from 4:30-6 p.m.
Next week the Youth will be selling Herberger's coupon booklets between services.

Don't forget that Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. is **Lenten Services**. Prior to the service we have a potluck supper at 5:30 p.m. Also need folks to sign up to help with set up and clean up for the suppers. Can you help?

A ONE-DAY RETREAT FOR WOMEN AND TEEN GIRLS is being planned for April 14th, 2012 by the Glory Baptist Church women. See the Community Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall for details.

ALTAR CARE MEETING will be held Thursday, March 29th at 10 a.m.

I Have Decided to
Follow Jesus



I have decided to follow
Jesus

I have decided to follow
Jesus

I have decided to follow
Jesus

No turning back

No turning back



Tho no one join me Still I will
follow

Tho no one join me Still I will
follow

Tho no one join me Still I will
follow

No turning back

No turning back



The world behind me The
cross before me

The world behind me The
cross before me

The world behind me The
cross before me

No turning back

No turning back



The world behind me The
cross before me

The world behind me The
cross before me

The world behind me The
cross before me

No turning back

No turning back



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In Christ Alone



Verse 1

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song.

This corner - stone, this solid ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm



What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!

My comfort - er my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.



Verse 2

In Christ alone who took on flesh, fullness of God in help- less Babe!

This gift of love and righteous - ness, scorned by the ones he came to save.



Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satis - fied

For every sin on Him was laid, here in the death of Christ I live.



Verse 3

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by dark - ness slain

Then bursting forth in glorious Day, up from the grave He rose a - gain!



**And as He stands in
vic - tory, sin's curse has lost
its grip on me.**

**For I am His and He is mine,
bought with the precious
blood of Christ.**



Verse 4

**No guilt in life,
no fear in death,
this is the pow'r of
Christ in me.**

**From life's first cry to final
breath, Jesus commands my
dest - i - ny**



**No pow'r of hell, no scheme
of man, can ever pluck me
from His hand.**

**Till He returns or calls me
home, here in the pow'r of
Christ I'll stand.**

**here in the pow'r of Christ I'll
stand.**



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I Am the
Resurrection
and the Life



Verse 1

I have come to bring the
truth,
I have come to bring you life
If you believe, then you shall
live



Chorus

I am the resurrection
and the life
He who believes in me
will never die
I am the resurrection
and the life
He who believes in me
will live a new life



Verse 2

In my word all men will come
to know
It is love which makes the
spirit grow
If you believe, then you shall
live



Chorus

I am the resurrection
and the life
He who believes in me
will never die
I am the resurrection
and the life
He who believes in me
will live a new life



Verse 3

Keep in mind the things that I
have said
Remember me in the
breaking of the bread
If you believe, then you shall
live



Chorus

**I am the resurrection
and the life**

**He who believes in me
will never die**

**I am the resurrection
and the life**

**He who believes in me
will live a new life (Repeat)**



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**As You Go On Your
Way**



**As you go on your way may
God go with you.**

**May he go before you to
show you the way.**

**May he go behind you to
encourage you.**



**Beside you to be-friend you,
Above you to watch over
Within you to give you peace.**



**As you go on your way may
God go with you.**

**May he go before you to
show you the way.**

**May he go behind you to
encourage you.**



**Beside you to be-friend you,
Above you to watch over
Within you to give you peace.
Within you to give you peace.**



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Jesus Keep Me Near
the Cross



Jesus keep me near the
cross

There's a precious fountain

Free to all a healing stream

Flows from Calv'ry's
mountain



In the cross In the cross
Be my glory ever
Till my ransomed soul shall
find
Rest beyond the river



Near the cross a trembling
soul

Love and mercy found me

There the bright and morning
star

Sheds its beams around me



In the cross In the cross
Be my glory ever
Till my ransomed soul shall
find
Rest beyond the river



Near the cross O Lamb of
God

Bring its scenes before me

Help me walk from day to day

With its shadow o're me



In the cross In the cross

Be my glory ever

**Till my ransomed soul shall
find**

Rest beyond the river



**Near the cross I'll watch and
wait**

Hoping trusting ever

Till I reach the golden strand

Just beyond the river



In the cross In the cross

Be my glory ever

**Till my ransomed soul shall
find**

Rest beyond the river



In the cross In the cross

Be my glory ever

**Till my ransomed soul shall
find**

Rest beyond the river



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