

March 18th, 2012

Fourth Sunday in Lent



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Pastor Emeritus: Reverend Winfield Johnson

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Kathy Berland RN 320-495-3988

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 18, 2012/Fourth Sunday in Lent

Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith, for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

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 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.

And also with you. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now  forever. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM: “How Beautiful”

FIRST READING: Ephesians 2:4–10

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God’s grace at work in our lives.

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

PSALM: Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22

Refrain: You deliver your people from their distress. (Ps. 107:19)

Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.

**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**
gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.**

They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death's door.

**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress. R**

You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.

**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.**

Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy. R

GOSPEL: John 3:14–21

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not

believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

HYMN: "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

759 ELW

SERMON

OFFERING & OFFERTORY 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

We pray for the whole church; for bishops, pastors, and lay leaders; for those preparing for baptism, their families, and sponsors. Save us by your grace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for wilderness lands, national parks, and forests; for creatures that may frighten us: grizzly bears, wolves, and serpents. Teach us compassion for the whole earth. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for nations in conflict; for governments in transition; for children who have only known war. Put an end to our childish wrath, and lead us to good works. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for refugees and displaced persons; for those without food or water; for all who are judged and condemned. Shine your light into our darkness. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for this congregation; for ushers and communion assistants; for council members and acolytes; for visitors among us, those who cannot be here today, and those who are ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be made.

Keep us in communion with all who have died: our loved ones and our enemies; the very young and the very old; centuries ago and today. 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

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.
Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN: **“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”** **# 338 ELW**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be **FRIENDSHIP CARD MAKING** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, March 30th. Everyone is welcome.

HERBERGER’S COUPON BOOKLETS are on sale between services today for \$5! Support the youth and save some money at the same time! The proceeds will be used towards the NYG trip to New Orleans.

EASTER LILIES—would you like to purchase an Easter Lily in memory of or in honor of someone this Easter? Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$15.00 per lily.

DON’T FORGET WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERVICES AT 6:30 P.M. Also prior to the Service there is a potluck supper at 5:30 p.m. We need people to sign up to help with set up and clean up for the suppers—see the sheet on the table in the narthex.

NEEDED: Firewood Cutters. See signup sheet in the narthex.

On **March 28th** the **11 O’CLOCK WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY CLASS** will meet at **9:45 a.m.**

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF MARCH 18TH, 2012

Organist: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Bill & Cheri Johnson
Ushers: 8:30 Dennis & Audrey Bistodeau, 10:00 Ron & Joann Haglund
Lectors: 8:30 Ruth Hamman, 10:00 Mary Kramer-Long
Coffee Servers: Ron & Carol Hass, Darwin & Jeannine Bruesewitz

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (3/11/2012)

Attendance: 8:30 -- 74 10:00 -- 57
Offering: \$ 2,832.82 Building Fund: \$ 465.00

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

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

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA MARCH 18TH THRU MARCH 24TH, 2012

Mon., Mar. 19 th	7:00 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues., Mar. 20 th	8:00 a.m.	Council meeting
	9:30 a.m.	Bells
Wed., Mar. 21 st	8:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Hardanger
	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	1:00 p.m.	WIC
	5:30 p.m.	Potluck Supper
	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Service
Thurs., Mar. 22 nd	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S.
	1:00 p.m.	Funtimers
Sat., Mar. 24 th	10:00 a.m.	Choir Practice

HOW BEAUTIFUL

(Incorporating When I Survey the Wondrous Cross)
for congregation

Arranged by
BENJAMIN HARLAN

Words and Music by
TWILA PARIS (ASCAP)

Verse 1: How beautiful the hands that served the wine and the bread and the sons of the earth.
(Choir only) How beautiful the feet that walked the long dusty roads and the hill to the cross.
How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful is the body of Christ.

Verse 2: How beautiful the heart that bled, that took all my sin and bore it instead.
(Choir only) How beautiful the tender eyes that chose to forgive and never despise.
How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful is the body of Christ.

Verse 3: *See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.
(Choir only) Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Verse 4: Choir and Congregation

How beau - ti - ful the feet that _ bring the sound of good
news and the love of the King. How _ beau - ti - ful ___ the hands that
serve the wine and the bread and the sons of the earth. How _ beau - ti -
ful, _____ how _ beau - ti - ful, _____ how _
beau - ti - ful is the bod - y of Christ. _____

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross; music by Lowell Mason (1792-1872); words by Isaac Watts (1674-1748).

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