

March 25th, 2012

Fifth Sunday in Lent



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Church Web Site: blcmalmo.org

Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Pastor Emeritus: Reverend Winfield Johnson

Church Secretary: Evie Richter Youth: Susie Modrow

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Patti Honnold, RN CNP 320-676-8421

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

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INTRODUCTION

God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's light and truth into our hearts. We see God's heart most clearly in the way Jesus shares human suffering, in an agony both the John and Hebrews readings describe.

CALL TO WORSHIP BY BELL CHOIR: "How Beautiful"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" # 773 ELW

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

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.

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM: “Oh, Dearest Jesus”

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31–34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

PSALM: Psalm 51:1–12

Refrain: Create in me a clean heart, O God. (Ps. 51:10)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment. R**

Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice. R

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. R

GOSPEL: John 12:20–33

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

You know the troubles of our souls. We pray for those waiting for answers to prayers; for those whose lives are full of tears; for those sick in body or spirit (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You renew a right spirit within us. We pray for this assembly, for our pastor/s, members, and visitors, that we might see Jesus in one another and in the stranger. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be made.

You are the source of eternal salvation. We remember before you the faithful witnesses who have gone before us, and now rest forever in your peace. 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 make his face shine on 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:

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

674 ELW

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF MARCH 25TH, 2012

Organist: Lee Krueger
Greeters: Lloyd & Shirley Lilienthal
Ushers: 8:30 Dennis & Audrey Bistodeau, 10:00 [Need Volunteers]
Lectors: 8:30 Lynn Hansen, 10:00 Wally Swensen
Coffee Servers: Dennis & Lynne Meidlinger, Del & Dianne Jones

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (3/18/12)

Attendance: 8:30 – 93 10:00 – 54

Offering: \$ 2,430.00 Building Fund: \$ 330.00

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

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

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA MARCH 25TH THUR MARCH 31ST

Mon., Mar. 26 th	7:00 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues., Mar. 27 th	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	9:30 a.m.	Bells
Wed., Mar. 28 th	8:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Hardanger
	9:45 a.m.	Bible Study
	5:30 p.m.	Potluck Supper
	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Service
Thurs., Mar. 29 th	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S.
	10:00 a.m.	Altar Care
	1:00 p.m.	Funtimers
Fri., Mar. 30	9:00 – 2:00	Friendship cards
Sat., Mar. 31	10:00 a.m.	Choir Practice

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us today in the Fellowship Hall between services as we honor Bob & Lee Krueger for their many years of service to our church and community. They will soon be leaving us as they make their move to a new and different life near Savage, Minnesota. Thank you both for a job well done! We'll miss you!

Found last week: Pair of eyeglasses. Check table in office to see if they are yours.

Herberger Coupon Booklets: 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 National Youth Gathering (NYG) trip to New Orleans.

Easter Lilies: This is the last Sunday to sign up if you wish to purchase an Easter Lily in memory of or in honor of someone. Cost is \$15.00 per lily. Sign up in Fellowship Hall.

The 11:00 o'clock Wednesday Bible Study class will meet at 9:45 a.m. this week (March 28th).

Altar Care will meet this Thursday (March 29th) at 10:00 a.m.

Worship & Music will meet on April 12th at 10:30 a.m. instead of the first Thursday.

Monday morning at 10:00 a.m. **volunteers for firewood cutting and clearing the nature trail** will meet at the church.

Friendship Card Making will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, March 30th at the Church. Everyone is welcome.

New Member Sunday will be May 20th. If you are interested in joining at that time or if you know of someone you may wish to join, please contact Pastor Jim.

Confirmation Sunday will be April 22nd at the 10:00 a.m. service.

Legacy of Love

After retiring from Prior Lake in 1984, Bob and Lee Krueger made their home on Mille Lacs. Fortunately for Bethesda, they joined and became an integral part of the life of this church family. While in Prior Lake, Lee had five choirs, so it was natural to share her gift of music here. She began the first choir at Bethesda with Bob as one of the first five members. She led Sunday School music for years and has filled the sanctuary with organ music for many more. In 2000, Lee started a tone chime choir and then as interest grew, brass bells were bought. We have all enjoyed the music of the bells. Lee extended the bell ministry to include several care centers. Laughter and smiles radiated as she taught the residents to play the tone chimes.

September is the month of the Malmo Folk Jamboree and Bob and Lee have been a huge part of it since it started. Her cookies and quilts have been part of the Fall Bazaars.

Bob has been a 54-year partner in this dynamic duo. He has been singing his part, setting the sound, adjusting the lights, carrying tables and bells, setting up the stage, checking on microphones and much more.

Bob and Lee have given tirelessly of their time and talent here at Bethesda. We are blessed to have been a part of the journey with them. Our prayers go with them as they begin a new part of their life. "As you go on your way may God go with you."