

**April 15th, 2012**



**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

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, April 15, 2012

## Second Sunday of Easter/Holy Communion

### INTRODUCTION

*The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP:                   “Morning Has Broken”                   # 556 ELW**

**P:**     People of God, we are chosen people called to a journey of faith which will take us through the hills and valleys of life.

**C:**     **We have come to worship, filled with expectations and hope, ready to live out the promises which are ours.**

**P:**     People of God, we are called to be bearers of the truth and witnesses of the resurrection.

**C:**     **We come to respond to the call. This challenging journey of faith is ours and we are filled with a sense of adventure, knowing God will do amazing and wonderful things through us.**

**OPENING HYMN:                   “Gather Us In”                   # 532 ELW**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**Amen.**

**God, we confess our sin. You have showered us with blessings beyond compare, but we choose to turn our back on you. You have given us everything we need to live a joyful life, yet we complain and desire more. You continue to give your love to us every day, yet we choose to manufacture our own love. God of our failures and disappointments, we bow before you asking for forgiveness.**

Out God has created us to live in harmony. Although our sin separates us, God has provided the means by which our sins can be forgiven. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ has reunited us with God. We who trust God with our lives have the power to be what we were intended to be. Praise God for life-giving love.

**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.

**Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**ANTHEM: "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"**

## **FIRST READING: 1 John 1:1—2:2**

*The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.*

## **Chapter 1**

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us — we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him

while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

## **Chapter 2**

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

### **PSALM: Psalm 133**

*Refrain: How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity. (Ps. 133:1)*

How good and how pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity!

**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe. R**

It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion. For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore. R

### **GOSPEL: John 20:19–31**

*The story of Easter continues as the risen Lord appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.*

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said

to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

**SERMON:                    Victorious But Not Unscarred**

### **OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER**

**God of all creation, we are yours and all we have belongs to you. Accept these offerings and bless their use in your work among us. Amen.**

**OFFERING HYMN:            "Peace Like a River"**

### **OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER**

**God of all creation, we are yours and all we have belongs to you. Accept these offerings and bless their use in your work among us. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Enlivened in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the life of the church, for those in need, and for all of God's creation.

*A time for silent prayer.*

Holy, life-giving God, breathe your Holy Spirit upon the people of your church. Lead us to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection, so that all may have life in his name. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Send rain upon the mountains and sun upon the fields. Bring your creation into bloom in this season, and sustain every living thing with your abundant goodness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Guide us in ways of faithful stewardship of the resources you graciously give. Establish justice in the economic practices of our homes, communities, and nations. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Draw all who suffer and struggle into loving, faithful communities. Heal those who know pain and loss (*especially*). Inspire us to care for those in our midst. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

As you have given life to faith communities around the world, bind us to one another in our life together. Lead us to share our gifts and learn from one another. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be made.*

Giving thanks for the saints whom Christ has freed from the bonds of death and brought into resurrection life, we pray you make us dead to sin and bring us into new life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your abundant mercy, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray into your care, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**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 forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **WORD OF INSTITUTION**

**LORD'S PRAYER led by Praise Team**

**COMMUNION HYMN:**

**“One Bread, One Body”**

**# 496 ELW**

**COMMUNION**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

**Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CLOSING HYMN:**

**“This Little Light of Mine”**

**# 677 ELW**

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 15, 2012

### **We See the Lord**

We are told in the Gospel of John that on that first Easter day Peter and another disciple visited the empty tomb and returned home, "for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that [Jesus] must rise from the dead" (John 20:9). Mary Magdalene sticks around outside the tomb and encounters the risen Christ. She goes to the disciples and tells them, "I have seen the Lord" (20:18).

That evening, we find the disciples hiding, frozen with fear. They've locked themselves in and locked the world out. Then Jesus appears in the midst of them, offers a blessing of peace, shows them his wounds, reveals their new "sent" mission, and equips them with the Holy Spirit (John 20:19-23).

Thomas missed all this; he wasn't there. The other disciples witness to him in the same way Mary witnessed to them, saying "We have seen the Lord" (John 20:25). And, just like the other disciples, Thomas found this news hard to believe.

A week later, Jesus makes a special visit just for Thomas. Jesus finds the disciples in the same house. Were the doors still locked? The disciples still afraid? "Peace be with you," Jesus says again. He invites Thomas to touch his wounded body and believe.

Many generations and countless witnesses later, we feel a little smug when we hear Jesus say, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe" (John 20:29). And yet we often find ourselves fearful and doubting, locked in and locking out. We miss seeing Jesus in the needs of our neighbors.

The good news is that Jesus comes to us and stands in our midst. In our fear and in our doubt the risen Christ blesses us with peace, invites us to faithful community and filling meal, equips and sends us. We are blessed to see the Lord and believe. Alleluia!

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WELCA** meets this Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

**CONFIRMATION STUDENTS** meet with Pastor Jim on Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

**CONFIRMATION** of Bethesda's five students who have completed their confirmation class will take place on Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the 10:00 a.m. service.

**QUILTERS** will meet on Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Quilters usual schedule is the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month.

**WOMEN'S DEVOTIONS** will meet Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at Pat Becker's home and not at Jan Phillipp's as stated in the newsletter.

**NEW MEMBERS** will be received next month so if you are interested in becoming a member or an associate member, please contact Pastor Jim.

**FAITHFUL FAMILIES** meet on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

**NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING BIBLE STUDY** will meet at 4:30 p.m. on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2011**

Music: Praise Team  
Greeters: Lee & Barb Forrester  
Ushers: 8:30 – Ruth Hamman, Dee Olson, 10:00 – Joan, Will Petersen  
Lectors: 8:30 – Char Berg, 10:00 – Joan Niskanen  
Coffee Servers: Lois Johnson, Jan Phillipp, Bev Ferdelman, Bev Wedig

## **RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (4/8/2012—Holy Week & Easter)**

Attendance (Easter) 8:00 – 114                      10:00 – 133

Offering:        \$ 3,438                      Building Fund:        \$ 410.00

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

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

## **THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup> THRU APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2012**

Mon., Apr. 16 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 a.m.	Women's Devotions at Pat Beckers
	7:00 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues., Apr. 17 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 a.m.	Council Meeting
	9:30 a.m.	Bells
Wed., Apr. 18 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	WELCA
	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	1:00 p.m.	WIC
	6:00 p.m.	Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Praise Team
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation
Thurs., Apr. 19 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S.
	8:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
	1:00 p.m.	Funtimers