

**June 3rd, 2012  
Holy Trinity Sunday**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Pastor Emeritus: Reverend Winfield Johnson

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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, June 3, 2012**  
**The Holy Trinity -- First Sunday after Pentecost**

**INTRODUCTION**

*When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul's words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.*

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN:**

**“Holy, Holy, Holy”**

**# 473 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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: Romans 8:12–17**

*In describing the new life of faith, Paul refers to all three persons of the Trinity: the Spirit leads us to recognize that we are children of God the Father and sisters and brothers with Christ the Son.*

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh — for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ — if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

**PSALM: Psalm 29**

*Refrain: Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. (Ps. 29:2)*

Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor. R**

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

The voice of the LORD  
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. R**

The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.  
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

O LORD, give strength to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace. R

**GOSPEL: John 3:1–17**

*Jesus' miracles prompt Nicodemus to visit him in secrecy. Jesus tells him about being born of the Spirit and about the Son who has been sent by God to save.*

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having

grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 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.

**HYMN:**

**"Beautiful Savior"**

**# 838 ELW**

**SERMON**

**OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

With reverence for the earth, those in need, and the whole human family, let us offer our prayers to God.

*A time for silent prayer*

Deepen the worship life of the church and send us with fervent joy to testify to what we have seen and heard in our holy assemblies. Let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God**

Raise up leaders in this and every land who will speak out on behalf of those who are poor and oppressed. Let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

Awaken in us a profound commitment to care for the earth, that your glory may be revealed in lakes and rivers, mountains and valleys, plants and animals. Let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

Teach us to call you Abba as we entrust to you all who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit (*especially*). Let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

Pour out your blessing on all those celebrating graduations, marriages, and other transitions during this season. Let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

*Here other intercessions may be made.*

We give thanks for all your holy ones baptized into the name of the holy Trinity. May all born anew in the waters of grace eagerly respond to your call to serve. Let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

Receive our hopes and prayers, O God of mercy, for great is your faithfulness in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**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. On the third day he rose again; 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.

**Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, 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. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CLOSING HYMN:**

**“This is My Father’s World”**

**# 824 ELW**

## **THE HOLY TRINITY**

**June 3, 2012**

### **Thrust into the Light**

Jesus is visited by Nicodemus at night. Though this might seem like a minor detail to skip over, the gospel writer wants us to notice it. Darkness is a symbol for misunderstanding, not only on Nicodemus' part, but on the part of those he represents: all of us. Nicodemus knows that Jesus has come from God, but doesn't realize that he is God. Even Jesus' explanations confuse Nicodemus. Here we encounter God as Father, Son, and Spirit, yet they are one God.

Like Nicodemus, we may always feel a bit "in the dark" when it comes to comprehending the mystery of the Trinity—one God in three persons of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We don't have to try to understand it all; what we need to know is that we need to be saved and God in all three persons saves us. Jesus uses the metaphor of birth to help Nicodemus understand how dramatically God works in our lives (the word "born" appears in this reading eight times!). Like a slap on the bottom that old-time doctors used to stir the newborn to utter its first cries, God works lovingly and powerfully to wake us from our womb-like slumber.

A baby is calm in the darkness and comfort of its mother's womb, but at birth is overwhelmed by the brightness and excitement. We, too, are stunned when we encounter the great power and mystery of God. Sometimes it's just easier to remain in the dark than to risk encountering our own shortcomings, our own sinfulness. We would be doomed to remain spiritual infants were it not for the great sacrifice of Jesus. He gave his life for us.

Baptism thrust you into the light of Jesus and named you forever as child of God, member of God's kingdom through water and Spirit.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Today (the first Sunday of the month) is **BLESSING BOX SUNDAY**. It is a time when we can return a portion of God's blessing to us by donating to the Blessing Box which is then used for special projects at the church. Some of the things the monies were used for was to put in a water softener, replace one of our furnaces which decided to malfunction in the middle of winter, and repair the dishwasher & booster heater. The monies donated were a real blessing in getting these items taken care of.

This is an **ALL CALL** for **Vacation Bible School helpers**. Please consider signing up and or attending a planning meeting on Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. If you are not available the whole week of June 18-22 you may share or help out with projects ahead of time. Learning about Bible times in Babylon will be fun for kids and adults. If you have questions, please contact Dianne Jones or Joanne Stueven.

**Faith, Health and Wellness meeting** will be Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

**Worship & Music Committee** will meet on Thursday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.

The **June Church Council meeting** has been changed to **4:00 p.m.** on Tuesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Outdoor Worship Service**

On Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. the Praise Team will lead an outdoor worship service in the Memory Garden. Plan to come on Saturday night (weather permitting) to enjoy the beauty of Bethesda's outdoor Memory Garden. **Please bring your own lawn chair for the service.** In case of bad weather, the service will be held indoors.

**NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY:** Hosts are still needed to help with registration when photographs are taken for the new church directory. Please check the sign up sheets in the narthex.

Sign up sheets are in the narthex between church services and during the week for times available to have your photos taken for the directory. The photos will be taken Thurs. – Sat., June 28, 29 and 30. You may also sign up on line at [blcmalmo.org](http://blcmalmo.org).

If you are NOT able to attend any of the photo sessions, but still want your picture in the directory, you may submit your own photo at a cost of \$10.

There is NO cost to have your photo taken, and you will receive a free 8"x10" photo and church directory.

## THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2012

Organist: Marlys Beavers  
Greeters: Richard & Karen Carron  
Ushers: 8:30 Lee & Barb Forrester, 10:00 Dick & Sue Stebbins  
Lectors: 8:30 Kathy Carlson, 10:00 Phil Bray  
Coffee Servers: Chuck & Elsa Carlson, Lee & Barb Forrester

## RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (May 26 & 27)

Attendance: Sat. - 24 Sun. 8:30 - 109 10:00 - 35

Offering: \$ 2,388.00 Building Fund: \$ 445.00

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

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

## THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup> THRU JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2012

Mon., June 4 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 a.m.	Vacation Bible School meeting
	7:00 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues., June 5 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 a.m.	Crafters
	9:30 a.m.	Bells
	6:30 p.m.	Faith, Health & Wellness meeting
Wed., June 6 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Hardanger
	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Praise Team
Thurs., June 7 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S.
	1:00 p.m.	Funtimers (Card games & dominoes)
Sat., June 9 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 p.m.	Saturday Evening Worship