

Sunday, July 15th, 2012
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

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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

When Amos told what he saw when God held up the plumb line of justice next to Israel—that the poor were being trampled—he was a threat to the power of priests and king. John the Baptist also spoke truth to power, and Herod had him beheaded. In Herod's fear that Jesus is John returned from the dead, we may hear hope for the oppressed: that all the prophets killed through the ages are alive in Jesus. We are called to witness to justice in company with them.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN:

“Joy to the World”

267 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.

O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

FIRST READING: Ephesians 1:3–14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he

set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

PSALM: Psalm 85:8–13

Refrain: I will listen to what the LORD God is saying. (Ps. 85:8)

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to you.

**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land. R**

Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

**Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway. R**

GOSPEL: Mark 6:14–29

As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist's martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those opposed to the gospel of salvation.

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

HYMN: **“Just A Closer Walk With Thee”** **# 697 ELW**

SERMON

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer 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.

For the church, for leaders to proclaim your grace and prophets to call us to your justice and truth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For judges and magistrates, political and civic leaders, fire fighters and police officers, arbitrators and mediators, farmers and laborers. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the earth, that the land will yield its increase and all creation flourish with your prosperity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For all who work for cures for cancer and other diseases, and for all who work to prevent and treat malaria. For all living with suffering, sickness, or despair (*especially*). For ministries of compassion and care in our community (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For members of this assembly who give generously of their time, abilities, and gifts. For the grace to see your presence in the loved ones and strangers we will meet this day. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be made.

We give thanks for all the faithful who were marked with the seal of the Spirit. May we too receive the pledge of our inheritance, to the praise of your glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our 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. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN:

“This Little Light of Mine”

677 ELW

July 15, 2012

Urged beyond Pride

Each of us struggles to follow the dictates of our conscience, no matter how powerful we are. Herod was the king of Judea, yet still he was not master of himself.

When Herod took his brother's wife, Herodias, as his own, John the Baptizer chided him. Stung in his pride, Herod jailed John, yet sought him out in his cell for debate, like one picking at an irritating scab. John's strength of character shone through, and Herod ended up fearing John, realizing "he was a righteous and holy man." Herod found himself "greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him." Despite himself, Herod was moved by John's message.

At a banquet, Herod made the grandiose gesture of offering his daughter anything she wished in recompense for her dancing. At her bitter mother's urging, she asked for John's head. "The king was deeply grieved," we are told, "yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her." What? He killed an innocent man because he didn't want to lose face before his wife and guests? Apparently so.

How many times have we ignored our conscience? We see people acting badly in public—teens harassing a peer, a parent being overly harsh with a child, a customer acting high-handed with service staff—yet we say nothing because we are afraid of meddling. We sit in the break room at work and listen to crude jokes or slanderous gossip, but we do not speak up against it because we do not want to seem prudish or judgmental. It's hard to do the right thing. Despite our inner urgings, we feel paralyzed.

The voice of our conscience pokes and prods uncomfortably, yet it will not go away, because God won't either. God pushes us to be bigger than our pride and bigger than our fears. Can we?

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THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF JULY 15TH, 2012

Organist: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Marilyn Andrews & Dee Olson
Ushers: 8:30 Irene Long & Steven Long, 10:00 Jerry & Carolyn Morris
Lectors: 8:30 Char Berg, 10:00 Barb Bray
Coffee Servers: Sam R., Kathy Larson, Patti & Merrill Honnold,
Rich & Marge Nelson

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (7/7 & 7/8)

Attendance: Sat. 5 p.m – 30 Sun. 8:30 – 101 10:00 –

Offering: \$ 3,664.78 Building Fund: \$ 655.00

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

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

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA JULY 15TH THRU JULY 21ST, 2012

Mon., July 16 th	9:00 a.m.	Women's Devotions at Jan Phillipp's
	7:00 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues., July 17 th	9:00 a.m.	Crafters
	9:30 a.m.	Bells
	4:00 p.m.	Council Meeting
Wed., July 18 th	8:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Hardanger
	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
Thurs., July 19 th	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S.
	1:00 p.m.	Funtimers
Fri., July 20 th	4:30-6:30 p.m.	Beef & Corn Feed
Sat., July 21 st	5:00 p.m.	Worship Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMEMBER this Friday, July 20th is our **Annual Beef & Corn Feed**. Serving is from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. We also need volunteers to help as well as people to donate bars. Signing sheets are on the table in the narthex.

This is the last weekend that we will be collecting donations for the **memorial for Pastor Winnie Johnson**. The basket and donation sheet are on the narthex table next to the picture of Pastor Winnie.

Veggie Stand volunteers are needed every Saturday morning from now until Labor Day so if you can help, please sign up in the narthex. Also baked goods, veggies and plants are needed.

Donna Hjort passed away on Monday, July 9th. Her funeral was on Friday, July 13th at Zion Lutheran Church in Milaca. Remember her family in your prayers.

Your church secretary is asking that **ushers** please remember to write down on the church calendar on the side of the metal file cabinet in the office the number of people who were in attendance at the services. These numbers are needed when we complete the year end reports for the Synod.

COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED. Please check the coffee server list next to the kitchen serving window as we still have a lot of openings. Take this opportunity to serve others as they have served you.

LADIES DON'T FORGET THAT WELCA MEETS THIS WEDNESDAY, JULY 17TH AT 9:30 A.M.