

Sunday, August 5th, 2012
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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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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Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION

Apparently not satisfied by Jesus' feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want. As always in John's gospel when people want a sign, Jesus offers himself. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN:

"Beautiful Savior"

838 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. 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, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM: “To the God Who Reigns”

FIRST READING: Ephesians 4:1–16

Christians share fundamental unity and diversity. Our unity consists in the one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God. Our diversity is expressed in various forms of ministry, whose goal is equipping the saints and building up Christ’s one body.

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Therefore it is said,

"When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;
he gave gifts to his people."

(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

PSALM: Psalm 78:23–29

Refrain: God rained down manna from heaven; so mortals ate the bread of angels. (Ps. 78:24, 25)

So God commanded the clouds above and opened the doors of heaven,
raining down manna upon them to eat and giving them grain from heaven. R
So mortals ate the bread of angels; God provided for them food enough.
**The LORD caused the east wind to blow in the heavens and powerfully led out
the south wind,**
raining down flesh upon them like dust and flying birds like the sand of the seas,
letting them fall in the midst of the camp and round about the dwellings.
So the people ate and were well filled, for God gave them what they craved. R

GOSPEL: John 6:24–35

Many of the five thousand people Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him throughout the countryside. Jesus challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest.

So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for

me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

HYMN: **"Break Now the Bread of Life"** **# 515 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.

Equip the saints of God for ministry. Build up and unite the body of Christ for the sake of mission in the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant wisdom to all who lead nations and hold public office. Give them humility to speak the truth in love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rain down your providence on all creation. May the bounty of the earth provide enough food for all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Feed the hungry, sustain the weary, challenge the complacent, and heal the sick and brokenhearted (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Give us our daily bread, and what we truly need each day. Make us mindful of the needs of others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be made.

Sustain us with the bread of life until we join all the saints around your bountiful table in 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.

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

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN:

“Soon and Very Soon”

439 ELW

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF AUGUST 5TH, 2013

Organist: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Harold & Ardis Kendall
Ushers: 8:30 Lloyd & Shirley Lilienthal, 10:00 Tom & Gloria Christensen
Lectors: 8:30 Phil Bray, 10:00 Pat Becker
Coffee Servers: Ron & Jan Aho, Sue Lehman

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (7/28 & 29)

Attendance: Sat. 5:30 – 19 Sun. 8:30 – 91 10:00 – 25

Offering: \$ 2,291.95 Building Fund: \$ 205.00

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

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

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA AUGUST 5TH THRU AUGUST 11TH, 2012

Mon., Aug. 6th 7:00 p.m. AA & Alanon

Tues., Aug. 7th 9:00 a.m. Crafter
9:30 a.m. Bells

Wed., Aug. 8th NO BIBLE STUDIES
9:30 a.m. Hardanger
6:30 p.m. Choir
7:30 p.m. Praise Team

Thurs., Aug. 9th NO R.O.M.E.O.S.
1:00 p.m. Funtimers

Sat., Aug. 11th 5:00 p.m. Worship Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday, the first Sunday of the month, is **Blessing Box Sunday** at which time we will pass around the Blessing Boxes following the regular offering. We are asked to donate to the Blessing Box a portion of the extra blessings which God has bestowed upon us. These monies are used for the extra items which the church is in need of such as a water softener, new water heater, furnace repair last winter, and other items which appear on our wish or necessity list. God blesses us to be a blessing!

Mission/Evangelism Committee & Church Council would like your ideas on how to disperse the benevolence money. Looking for suggestions as to **LOCAL** organizations and individuals that you feel are in need. Please write your suggestions for **LOCAL benevolence** giving and put in the box (located in the narthex).

For those of you who had your photo taken by **Lifetouch** but did not order any photos, your **complimentary 8x10 photo** is in the office on the bench so please pick it up.

REMEMBER THERE ARE NO BIBLE STUDIES THIS WEEK.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF BRAINERD is **hosting a Beth Moore simulcast** on September 15th. Check the Community Bulletin board for further information.

The **VEGGIE STAND** is still seeking volunteers to assist with the veggie stand through Labor Day weekend. Pick a Saturday to help and signup in the narthex.

COFFEE SERVERS—We need volunteers to serve coffee on August 26th and September 2nd. The signup sheet is next to the kitchen serving window. Everyone likes their coffee and goodies so everyone should volunteer to help at least once during the year.

There is a **LOST AND FOUND** corner set up in the Fellowship Hall with items on the bulletin board and on the table next to it. These items have been accumulating in the church office so if you would please check and see if any of it belongs to you. Thank you!

Check the community bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall if you are interested in getting involved with or expressing your opinion of what we should be doing with our **Youth programs**. There will be a meeting on Thursday, August 16th at 7 p.m.

LECTIONARY 18

August 5, 2012

The True Bread

Food is a basic need, one which the majority of us, due to the circumstances of birth or residence, might take for granted. But perhaps we have traveled to places where this is not so, and we have seen the face of hunger—the hollow eyes and wasted bodies of the malnourished. Or we have been haunted by images of war, where urgent hands reach through barbed wire and lines of people wait in queues for handouts of water and bread. We understand the importance of what can be put in our mouths.

Jesus has just worked a miracle to feed five thousand hungry pilgrims who came out to hear him preach. They are in awe of this wonder-worker who can effortlessly satisfy the needs of their bodies. Yet he instructs them: "Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life." If the food that perishes is such a necessary hedge against death, what could be even more compelling?

The "bread of God," Jesus answers, "that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." At first, his listeners confuse this with the manna with which Moses sustained the Israelites during their exodus. Jesus clarifies—not manna and not Moses: "It is my father who gives you the true bread from heaven. . . . I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." How powerful this promise would be to those who have known and seen hunger up close, yet how confusing, for this is no earthly food they know.

Jesus isn't downplaying the importance of physical food. If food weren't necessary, he wouldn't have multiplied the loaves and fishes. Yet he tells us there exists something even more sustaining and nourishing—our relationship with God, which satisfies our souls and transcends our physical condition.

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