

Sunday, October 7th, 2012
Nineteenth 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

Sunday, October 7, 2012/ Holy Communion

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INTRODUCTION

Today's gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus' saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God's law. Jesus' rebuke of the disciples who are fending off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN:

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

290 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.

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.

Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM: “HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD”

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:18–24

Genesis 2 stresses that people are not meant to live in isolation but in relationship. Out of love for humanity, God creates them male and female, to provide companionship for each other and to become with each other "one flesh." The Hebrew words used here are ish (man) and ishshah (woman).

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;

this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken."

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

PSALM: Psalm 8

Refrain: You crown us with glory and honor. (Ps. 8:5)

O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!—
you whose glory is chanted above the heavens
out of the mouths of infants and children;
you have set up a fortress against your enemies,
to silence the foe and avenger.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,
human beings that you should care for them? R

Yet you have made them little less than divine;
with glory and honor you crown them.
You have made them rule over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet:

all flocks and cattle,
even the wild beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

O LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth! **R**

GOSPEL: Mark 10:2–16

Jesus announced and enacted in history the new reality of God's surprising activity. These two stories demonstrate this new reality: Women and children are accepted and valued, not dismissed as inferior to adult men.

Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

HYMN:

“You Are Mine”

581 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

As disciples of Christ Jesus called to love and serve all people, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A time for silent prayer.

Holy Trinity, one God, you have joined us together as sisters and brothers in Christ. Heal the wounds dividing your church, and make us better witnesses to your love for the world. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of majesty, you formed every living creature and gave them the breath of life. Sustain us and all things with your powerful word, that we cherish and care for all you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Guardian of the weak, you come to the aid of the powerless and vulnerable. Teach us and sisters and brothers around the globe to value all children, women, and men as people created in your image. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of boundless mercy, you know our human pain and suffering. Mend broken relationships, provide companionship for the lonely, draw near to the dying, and restore health to the sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of joy, your Son gathered children into his arms and blessed them. May we eagerly welcome children into this assembly and to your table, that they know your loving embrace. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be made.

God of our ancestors, we praise you for the prophets and saints who have spoken your word to us. Keep us in union with them, until we are united in the kingdom of God. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Hear our prayers, faithful God, and renew us by your Spirit, that we may joyfully love and serve you and one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN:

“O Savior, Precious Savior”

820 ELW

THE PROMISE

Like God? You'll love the Spirit! Don't be afraid, and don't worry. Jesus is trying to convey his message: You will not be alone, the Spirit is coming. And anyway, don't worry about it. Satan? I've take care of it. Satan has no control of me (John 14:30). Don't worry about it. I've got you covered.

God keeps promises. *We* may not have a great track record of keeping promises, but there is no need to second-guess God. God keeps promises. We may have heard others say, "Don't worry. I'll take care of it," but still wonder if they really will follow through. So we worry anyway.

As we celebrated the Day of Pentecost winds rushed in, flames of fire dispersed and landed on the gathered followers. God's Spirit comes down—for them and for us. An Advocate who encourages us. A Spirit filled with truth, who does not compromise us but fulfills Jesus' promise. The Holy Spirit moves in us, and we answer it. We are God's heirs in every sense of the word, even receiving God's Spirit (Rom. 8:17).

The Spirit backs up Jesus' words: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives" (John 14:27). That peace is news to the disciples then and to us today. The Spirit comes and brings a fuller peace than we have known before. The Spirit helps us here and now and calls us forward. The Spirit helps us to see God's truth and promise, not just our current reality. God's promise is good forever, a lifetime warranty in this life and the next. It doesn't get any better than that.

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF OCTOBER 7TH, 2012

Organist: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Neil & Myra Honl
Ushers: 8:30 Bill & Cheri Johnson, 10:00 Dick & Sue Stebbins
Lectors: 8:30 Evie Richter, 10:00 Laurina Tofteland
Coffee Servers: Mike & Barb Macioch, Bev Wedig, Jan Phillipp

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (10/30/12)

Attendance: 9:00 – 96

Offering: \$ 2,064.00 Building Fund: \$ 330.00

\$ 3,682.00 – Weekly amount needed for operating expenses.

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

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA OCTOBER 7TH THRU OCTOBER 13TH, 2012

Mon., Oct. 8th 7:00 p.m. AA & Alanon

Tues., Oct. 9th 9:00 a.m. Crafters
 9:00 a.m. Quilters
 9:30 a.m. **No Bells**

Wed., Oct. 10th 9:30 a.m. Hardanger
 6:00 p.m. Choir
 7:00 p.m. Praise Team

Thurs., Oct. 11th 1:00 p.m. Funtimers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to Sandy Pullen and Mike Macioch for doing today's Worship Services.

Only three weeks till Bethesda's **ANNUAL FALL BAZAAR**. Mark October 27th on your calendar starting at 9:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.

Reminder: **NO Wednesday Bible Studies** during the month of October. **NO R.O.M.E.O.S.** on Thursday, October 11th.

There will be **NO BELLS** on Tuesday, October 9th.

FLU SHOT CLINIC will be held at Bethesda on Tuesday, October 16 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The Memory Loss Support Group will meet on Wednesday, October 17th at 4:00PM in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone who is a caregiver or knows someone who has memory loss is welcome to attend. For more information contact Kathy Berland or Darlene Christensen.

WELCA – The WELCA Christmas Luncheon will be held on Saturday, December 1st in the Fellowship Hall at 12 Noon with Kathy Hughes from the Tuscany Room providing the food and a demonstration. The cost is \$9.00 per person. Bring a friend, daughter or neighbor for lunch!!!

BETHESDA CHRISTMAS DINNER will be held on Monday, December 3rd at the Pine Inn in Glen. Please mark your calendars!!! More info will follow in the coming weeks.

Check Community Bulletin Board for the following items:

Skål Klubben, a traditional Scandinavian orchestra, will be at the Isle H.S. October 12th.

Inspirational Gospel Quartet Concert, St. John's Lutheran Church, Aitkin, Oct. 20th. The concert will feature southern Gospel music, as well as a variety of other well known spiritual songs. As always, their goal is that through their music ministry you will be encourage, uplifted, entertained, and brought closer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. You won't want to miss this Gospel musical event and bring your friends. There will be a free-will offering with all proceeds going to a local charity to be announced.

Holden Lutheran Church Annual Lutefisk Supper, Saturday, October 27th.

Lutefisk, Ham and Potato Sausage Dinner, Trinity Lutheran Church, Milaca, Oct. 27th.

Feeling Stretched? Balance Your Life. *Powerful Tools for Caregivers* is an educational program designed to provide you with the tools you need to take care of yourself. Begins Thursday, Nov. 1st and continues for six Thursdays at Isle IREC.

Grief Support Group begins six week series beginning Thurs., Oct. 11th at Riverwood Healthcare.

Author Angela Foster **Writing From Real** Life workshop Sat., Oct. 13 at Aitkin Library.

Medicare Part D Open Enrollment is Oct. 15th-Dec. 7th. If you need help comparing plans for 2013 call **Senior LinkAge Line**® at 1-800-333-2433.