

**November 21st, 2012  
Thanksgiving Eve Service**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

Phone: 320-684-2123 (1-877-684-2123) Fax: 320-684-2836

E-mail address: [blcmalmo@frontiernet.net](mailto:blcmalmo@frontiernet.net)

Church Web Site: [blcmalmo.org](http://blcmalmo.org)

Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Church Secretary: Evelyn Richter

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN, C 320-684-2846

Patti Honnold, RN CNP 320-676-8421

Kathy Berland RN ANP 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**

# THANKSGIVING EVE

November 21, 2012

## INTRODUCTION

*At harvest time we join the psalmist in offering thanksgiving to God: "You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty." We are grateful for the abundance of the good things of God's creation. Paul reminds us that our thanksgiving overflows into generosity. As the body of Christ in the world, we give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.*

**THE PRELUDE** – *a time of silent meditation.*

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP

**P:** O Lord, how marvelous are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all; the earth is full of Your riches.

**C:** **Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.**

**P:** We will say our vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house.

**C:** We will offer You our words of praise and thanksgiving.

**THE HYMN OF OUR HERITAGE:** "Come, You Thankful People, Come" # 693

## THE INVOCATION

**P:** O God, our Heavenly Father, Who guided our forefathers through the storms and perils of life, to the extent that they set aside a special day to honor and praise Your name, we would also take time to express our gratitude for Your manifold blessings given to us. We would praise You for Your goodness that has created us, for Your bounty that has sustained us, for Your fatherly discipline that has chastened us, for Your patience that has forgiven us, and for Your love that has redeemed us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**ALL:** Forgive us, Lord, for failing to realize the greatness of Your marvelous blessings to us, for thinking that man can live by bread alone, and for assuming that we have earned the harvest merely because we have planted the seed. Pardon us wherein we have lacked mercy and love in our relationships with others, forgetting that we reveal our gratitude for Your love to us in this way. Be merciful to us, in the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

**FIRST READING: I Timothy 2: 1-7 1 Timothy 2:1-7**

*Christians are encouraged to offer prayers and thanks for all people, including rulers (who were pagans rather than Christians). We offer such inclusive, far-reaching prayers because God desires to save all people.*

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

who gave himself a ransom for all —

this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

**PSALM: Psalm 126**

*Refrain: The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed. (Ps. 126:3)*

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.  
Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations,

"The LORD has done great things for them." R

The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.

Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,

will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. R

"The LORD has done great things for them." R

**GOSPEL: Matthew 6:25-33**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught his disciples about the providence of God so that they would regard life with thanksgiving and trust rather than anxiety.*

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body

more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you — you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

**HYMN OF THANKFULNESS: “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” # 693**

## **MEDITATION**

### **OFFERING AND OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**P:** Father, God,

**ALL:** We want to thank you for the privilege of worship today. Thank you for letting us come to your house. Thank you for letting us be associated with the people around us as we come together to worship you and to praise your awesome and holy name. We come now bringing love gifts to express our gratitude for your generosity. Bless these gifts to the end that others come to know your love and mercy. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **GARDEN LITANY**

**P:** Let us give thanks for a bounty of people.

**C:** For children who are our second planting, and though they grow like weeds and the wind too soon blows them away, may they forgive us our cultivation and fondly remember where their roots are.

**P:** Let us give thanks

**C:** For generous friends, with hearts and smiles as bright as their blossoms,

**P:** For feisty friends as tart as apples,

P: For crotchety friends, as sour as rhubarb and as indestructible,

**C: For handsome friends, who are gorgeous as eggplants and as elegant as a row of corn, and the others, as plain as potatoes, and so good for us,**

P: For funny friends, who are as silly as Brussels sprouts and as humorous as Jerusalem artichokes.

**C: And for serious friends, as complex as cauliflower and as intricate as onions,**

P: For friends as unpretentious as cabbages, as subtle as summer squash, as persistent as parsley, as delightful as dill, as endless as zucchini and who, like parsnips, can be counted on to see us through the winter,

**C: For old friends, nodding like sunflowers in the evening time.**

P: And young friends, coming on as fast as radishes.

**C: For loving friends, who wind around us like tendrils and hold us, despite our blights, our wilts, and our withering.**

**All: And finally, for those friends now gone, like gardens past that have been harvested, who fed us in their time that we might have life thereafter. For all these we give thanks.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **BLESSING**

P: May Almighty God, who makes all things new in Jesus Christ, uphold you by the Spirit in times of trial and bring you at last to the Heavenly Jerusalem.

**C: Amen**

### **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**THE HYMN OF GRATITUDE:            "For the Fruit of All Creation"            #679**