

JANUARY 27TH, 2013
Third Sunday after Epiphany



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Church Secretary: Evelyn Richter

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

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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

Sunday, January 27, 2013

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INTRODUCTION

The glory of the Lord is revealed in the reading of the scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of the glory of God. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

CALL TO WORSHIP by Bell Choir: "All Relies on Our Possessing"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: "Here I am, Lord" # 574 ELW

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Litany of Confession

P: Creator God, we gather as your children in need of forgiveness.

All: We have all sinned against you in thought, word, and deed.

P: For the times we have failed to put you first in our hearts,

All: God, forgive our lack of faith.

P: For the people we have failed to help because of our selfishness,

All: God, forgive our lack of concern,

P: Most merciful God, forgive our sins, and hear the prayers of our hearts.

(A time of silence to ask God to forgive our sins.)

Hear the Good News of Everlasting Life!

God has heard our prayers and forgives our sin. We are no longer held captive by the chains of sin. We are free to fly like the eagle, released from the bonds of death. Jesus loves us! This is all we need to know, for we do not receive the keys to the community of God because of our great faith, or by our kind deeds. It is because Jesus died on the cross and rose victorious over death that we have become heirs to everlasting life. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

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.

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BAPTISM: Ellie Jo Mitchell, daughter of Kristin Penoyer & Rick Mitchell.

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM: "Canon of Grace"

FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that the joy of the Lord is their strength.

all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your

God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

PSALM: Psalm 19

Refrain: The teaching of the LORD revives the soul. (Ps. 19:7)

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

**One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it
again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat. R**

The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb. R**

By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.

**Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over
me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.**

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your
sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer. R**

God our shepherd, your law is perfect. Guide leaders in all nations to act with justice and mercy, following your ways. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God the healer of all, bring comfort to the fearful and grieving, friendship to the forgotten, and wholeness to those who are ill or in pain (*especially*). Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Generous God, you pour out your gifts on all people. Inspire the members of this community of faith to use their gifts and talents to share your good news with all they encounter. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be made.

Holy Spirit, sustain us with your presence until we gather with all your saints from every time and place at the feast of the Lamb. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your loving hands, gracious God, we place ourselves and all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
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.

LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and grant you his peace.

DISMISSAL

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

CLOSING HYMN: “I Love to Tell the Story” # 661 ELW



ANNOUNCEMENTS

2013 OFFERING ENVELOPES AND 2012 STATEMENTS are both available on the table next to the Fellowship Hall door. Please pick up yours.

There will be **NO BELL practice** this week.

Next week is **SOUPER BOWL** Sunday. Our **Blessing Box** gifts will be donated to our local food shelves so if you have been blessed and would like to remember and do something for the less fortunate, this would be an opportune time.

COFFEE SERVERS: We need two more people for coffee serving on February 17th. The signup sheet is posted next to the kitchen serving window.

There are still a few **Poinsettia Plants** by the entry door that are looking for a home so if you would like one, please take it home with you.

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF JANUARY 27TH, 2013

Organist: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Dennis & Audrey Bistodeau
Ushers: Wally & Bev Swensen
Lector: Evie Richter
Coffee Servers: Jim & Donna Metteer, Jack & Paula Spetz

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (1/20/13)

Attendance: 9:00 – 99

Offering: \$ 1,770.00 Building Fund: \$ 165.00

\$ 3,077.00 – Weekly amount needed for operating expenses.

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

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA JANUARY 27TH THRU FEBRUARY 2ND, 2013

Mon., Jan. 28th 7:00 p.m. AA & Alanon

Tues., Jan. 29th 9:30 a.m. **NO BELLS**

Wed., Jan. 30th 8:30 a.m. Bible Study
 9:30 a.m. Hardanger
 11:00 a.m. Bible Study
 6:00 p.m. Praise Team
 7:00 p.m. Confirmation

Thurs., Jan. 31st 8:00 a.m. R.O.M.E.O.S.
 1:00 p.m. Funtimers