

FEBRUARY 3RD, 2013
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Church Web Site: blcmalmo.org

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, February 3, 2013/Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION

The glory of God is often revealed when and where it is least expected. God uses our lips to declare that glory, inexperienced and hesitant though they may be. God uses our love to demonstrate that glory and so urges us to exercise it. God uses Jesus of Nazareth, water and the word, bread and wine, to reveal God's glory where and when God chooses. Take heed, lest the glory of God slip through our midst unnoticed.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN:

"Day By Day"

790 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.

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC by Darwin Bruesewitz

FIRST READING: 1 Corinthians 13:1–13

Christians in Corinth prided themselves on their spiritual gifts. Paul reminds them that God gives us many gifts through the Holy Spirit, but the purpose behind all of them is love, the kind of love that God showed us in Jesus Christ.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

PSALM: Psalm 71:1–6

Refrain: From my mother's womb you have been my strength. (Ps. 71:6)

In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.

In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;

incline your ear to me and save me.

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; you are my crag and my stronghold.

Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,

from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor. R

For you are my hope, O Lord GOD, my confidence since I was young.

have been sustained by you ever since I was born;

from my mother's womb you have been my strength;

my praise shall be always of you. R

GOSPEL: Luke 4:21–30

People in Jesus' hometown are initially pleased when he says that God will free the oppressed. Their pleasure turns to rage when he reminds them that God's prophetic mission typically pushes beyond human boundaries so that mercy and healing are extended to those regarded as outsiders.

Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

HYMN:

“On Eagles Wings”

787 ELW

SERMON

OFFERING & OFFERING 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

Called by the Holy Spirit into relationship with a loving God, we pray for the church, all in need, and the whole creation.

A time for silent prayer.

In you, O God, your church takes refuge. Protect those throughout the world who worship you despite the threat of persecution and death. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Let your whole creation praise you, O God. Restore the earth to the goodness that you created and that we too often take for granted. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Rescue those who call upon you, O God. Call the leaders of the world's nations to be just and merciful and to walk in your ways. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Comfort the grieving, O God, provide for the homeless and the unemployed, and give healing to those ill or in pain (*especially*). Help us to put our trust in you in all things. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Call us, O God, to be a fortress for your people. Inspire this congregation to act against injustice and speak out against wickedness. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be made.

Sustain us, O God, until we gather with all your saints from every time and place in your eternal protection. 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF FEBRUARY 3RD, 2013

Organist: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Jim & Donna Metteer
Ushers: Harold & Ardis Kendall
Lector: Mary Kramer Long
Coffee Servers: Rich & Marge Nelson, Maynard & Kathy Berland,
Ron & Joanne Mehlhop

REPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (1/27/13)

Attendance: 9:00 – 116

Offering: \$ 2,793.00 Building Fund: \$ 235.00

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

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

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDAY FEBRUARY 3RD THRU FEBRUARY 9TH, 2013

Mon., Feb. 4 th	7:00 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues., Feb. 5 th	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
Wed., Feb. 6 th	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., Feb. 7 th	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S.
	10:00 a.m.	Worship & Music
	1:00 p.m.	Funtimers