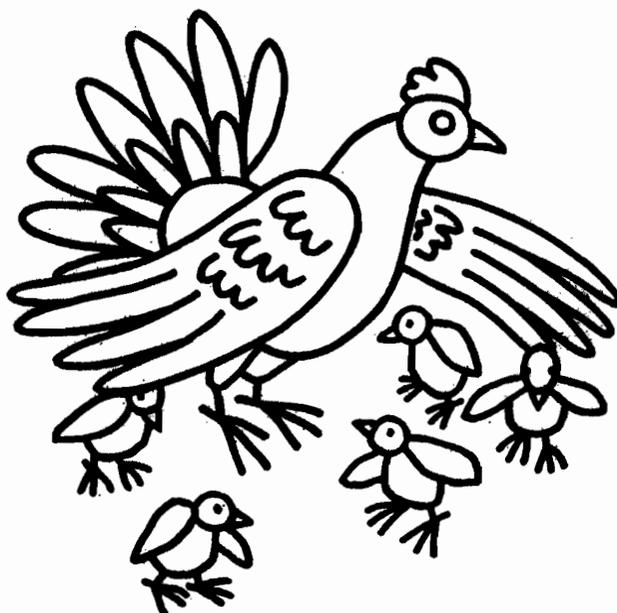


FEBRUARY 24th, 2013
Second Sunday in Lent
Music by John Koziol, Jr. & Pat Balder



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO
21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342
Phone: 320-684-2123 (1-877-684-2123) Fax: 320-684-2836
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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
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

Sunday, February 24, 2013/Second Sunday in Lent

Music with John Koziol, Jr. & Pat Balder

INTRODUCTION

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek the face of the Lord again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

LENTEN PRELUDE: Songs written and performed by Pat Balder

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: "Just A Closer Walk with Thee" # 697 ELW

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

P: We are a pilgrim people—who are called out of darkness and are walking on a path toward the light.

All: We are here to be open. We are here to be changed. We have come to worship God, our Creator, the source of all light.

P: We are a wilderness people, a people called out of slavery into a resurrection freedom.

All: We come to hear again that our sin is forgiven and to worship God, the giver of forgiveness.

P: People of God, we begin in the name of God, our Creator, Jesus, our Savior, and the Holy Spirit, our Comforter

All: Amen.

WE CONFESS OUR SINFUL CONDITION: God of all people, we recognize our need for a Savior. We hear the call but do not respond as we ought. We see the goal but somehow remain powerless to change our condition. God of all of us, we need a Savior. We want a new spirit to grow within us and a new attitude to change our priorities. You know us as no other. We are your people.

RECEIVE FORGIVENESS FOR OUR JOURNEY: Our God is for all time and all people. Just as God called the Israelites out of slavery of Egypt, we are called to lay aside the weight of our sin and live out our lives of freedom and acceptance. We were once a people without a home, but now we know where we belong. We once wandered aimlessly through our every day, but now we have a purpose and a direction. Praise God for our journey of joy.
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.

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LENTEN ANTHEM

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a son, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord

GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.

PSALM: Psalm 27

Refrain: In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter. (Ps. 27:5)

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;

to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple. R

For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing;

I will sing and make music to the LORD.

Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

My heart speaks your message—"Seek my face."

Your face, O LORD, I will seek. R

Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper;
forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

Though my father and my mother forsake me, the LORD will take me in.

Teach me your way, O LORD; lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

Subject me not to the will of my foes,

for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.

This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

Wait for the LORD and be strong.

Take heart and wait for the LORD! R

GOSPEL: Luke 13:31–35

Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

SERMON HYMN: "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" # 325 ELW

SERMON

OFFERING & OFFERTORY HYMN: "Precious Lord" # 773 ELW

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of our life and our resources, we bring these gifts with thankful hearts for all you have done for us. Bless the labor of our minds and hands. We pray that our gifts would create community and justice would be done for all people. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Returning to the Lord with all our heart, let us pray for the whole people of God, the earth, and all who cry out for healing.

A time for silent prayer.

Give to your church rest and renewal, even as we listen to the word of the prophets and pray for those persecuted for their faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant peace to the city of Jerusalem, and lead all nations to care for their land and employ its resources wisely. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bring relief to polluted or burdened cities, and teach us to treasure sky and sun, stars and moon, lands and rivers. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Enfold with compassion all who cry out for nourishment, peace of mind, or healing (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Form us in these Lenten days to be a people marked by gratitude and generosity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be made.

As a hen gathers her brood under her wings, draw us, with all the saints, to your tender and merciful embrace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Hear us according to your steadfast love, O God, and in your great compassion bring us to resurrection and rebirth in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace + bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" # 815 ELW

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU to John Koziol, Jr. & Pat Balder for providing the music today.

AUGSBURG CHOIR will be performing in Onamia at the Church of the Holy Cross on Saturday, March 23rd and at Bethany Lutheran Church on Sunday, March 24th. Call Holy Cross at 320-532-3122 or Bethany at 320-532-3366 for further information.

REMINDER: March 3rd we will be back to two services—8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

GLORY BAPTIST CHURCH WOMEN'S RETREAT, Saturday, April 13, 2013. See Poster on Community Bulletin Board for registration & retreat information.

EASTER SERVICES will be at 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF FEBRUARY 24TH THRU MARCH 2ND, 2013

Music: John Koziol, Jr. & Pat Balder
Greeters: Chuck & Elsa Carlson
Ushers: Lloyd & Shirley Lilienthal
Lector: Jeannine Bruesewitz
Coffee Servers: Bill & Cheri Johnson, Audrey & Dennis Bistodeau

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (2/17/13)

Attendance: 9:00 – 98

Offering: \$ 3,090.10 Building Fund: \$ 390.00

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

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

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA FEBRUARY 24TH THRU MARCH 2ND, 2013

Mon., Feb. 25 th	7:00 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues., Feb. 26 th	9:30 a.m.	Bells
Wed., Feb. 27 th	8:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Hardanger
	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	5:30 p.m.	Potluck
	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Service
Thurs., Feb. 28 th	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S.
	1:00 p.m.	Funtimers