

**March 17th, 2013
Fifth Sunday in Lent**



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, March 17, 2013/Fifth Sunday in Lent

Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION

The Lord our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading we recall the transformation of Saul, the persecutor, into Paul, the apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

PRELUDE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: "Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land" # 333 ELW

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

WE CONFESS WE DO NOT DESERVE GOD'S LOVE: God of life, we have heard your command to "*Go, and make disciples*" but we have been reluctant to step out in faith. We confess we are people who don't like to get our hands dirty. We have heard you saying to us, "*Be full of love for others*" but we even find it difficult to love ourselves. We are people who don't like to get involved. Today we confess we do not deserve your love, yet we ask for forgiveness, confident you will forgive our sin.

GOD'S GOOD NEWS FOR ALL PEOPLE! Our God is a God of life, and offers the free gift of forgiveness to all people. Jesus Christ, God's son, lived among us, died on a cross for us, and rose from death so that we might know life in its fullness. God knows us and loves us with an everlasting love. God's love changes every hidden corner of our life and allows us to step out in faith, to get involved, and to get our hands dirty. Praise God for forgiveness and new life.

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.

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

FIRST READING: Philippians 3:4b–14

Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, 'if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

PSALM: Psalm 126

Refrain: Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. (Ps. 126:5)

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."

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

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

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

GOSPEL: John 12:1–8

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor? (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

HYMN: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

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SERMON

OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

That you bring those preparing for baptism, and the whole church, through the wilderness to the water of life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

That the nations put aside grievances and conflicts from the past, making room for springs of justice and rivers of peace to flow forth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

That we serve your creation by honoring plants and animals, rivers and seas, wilderness and desert. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

That you pour out your extravagant grace on the poor, and all who suffer the loss of purpose, employment, loved ones, or health (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

That recognizing your costly grace, you teach us to value that which is of surpassing worth, as we behold the new things you are doing in our midst. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be made.

We give thanks for all who lived and died in your costly grace (*especially Patrick, bishop and missionary to Ireland*). Guide us on our Lenten journey, until we reach the resurrection feast. 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.

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

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

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 in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN:

"Beautiful Savior"

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THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF MARCH 17TH, 2013

Organist: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Bev Wedig & Betty Sandell
Ushers: 8:30 Ruth Hamman, Les Bolke, 10:00 Marilyn Andrews, Judy Seifert
Lectors: 8:30 Karen Carron, 10:00 Laury Nyberg
Coffee Servers: Praise Team

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (3/10/13)

Attendance: 8:30 – 63 10:00 – 30
Offering: \$ 1,853.00 Building Fund: \$ 160.00

\$ 3,077.00 – Weekly amount needed for operating expenses.
\$ 580.00 – Weekly amount (building fund) needed for mortgage payment.

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA MARCH 17TH THRU MARCH 23RD, 2013

Mon., Mar. 18 th	7:00 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues., Mar. 19 th	9:30 a.m.	Bells
Wed., Mar. 20 th	8:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	WELCA
	9:30 a.m.	Hardanger
	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	5:30 p.m.	Potluck
	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Worship Service
Thurs., Mar. 21 st	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S.
	1:00 p.m.	Funtimers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet today following the second service.

EASTER LILIES in honor or in memory of a loved one can be ordered today in the Fellowship Hall. The cost this year is \$15.

COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED for Palm Sunday, March 24th and for the month of April. If you can help, please sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to help serve **EASTER BREAKFAST**, there is a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall next to the serving window. If there is not enough help, we will just serve coffee between services.

IRENE LONG fell and was taken to the hospital in the Cities. This past week she was transferred back to Onamia Hospital. On Friday she moved into assisted living at Scandia House. Please send cards to her at:

Irene Long, 540 E. Isle St., Isle, MN 56342

She can be reached by phone at: 320-676-3260

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: March 20th. Please email to Sue Stebbins at bll@juno.com.

WELCA – The March WELCA meeting is Wednesday, March 20th. All women of Bethesda are welcome to attend. Hope to see you there!

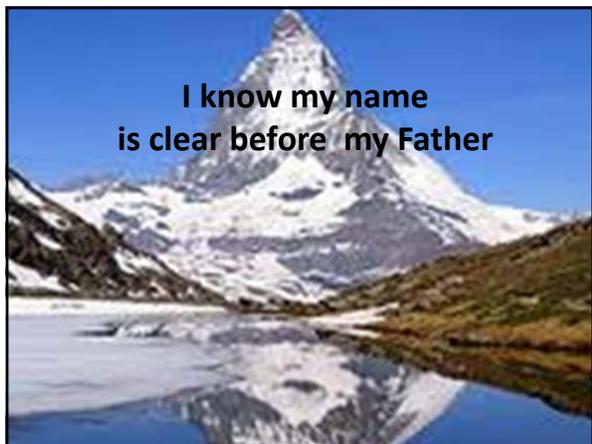
BUS TRIP – Aitkin Community Ed bus trip to Plymouth Playhouse = Ring of Fire on Friday, April 5th. Cost is \$65 which includes bus, theatre ticket and chicken buffet lunch. Pick up at church will be about 9 a.m. Sign up sheets with more information in the entry.

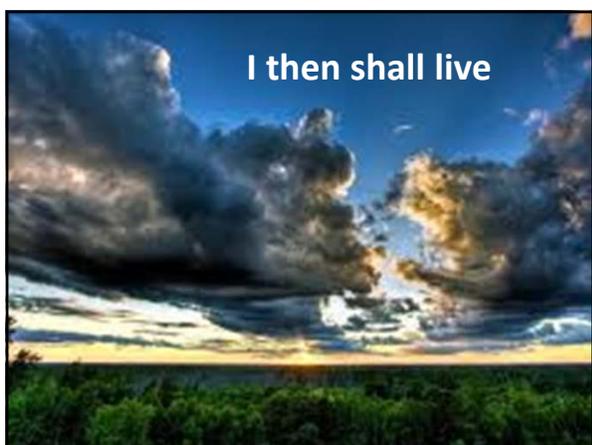
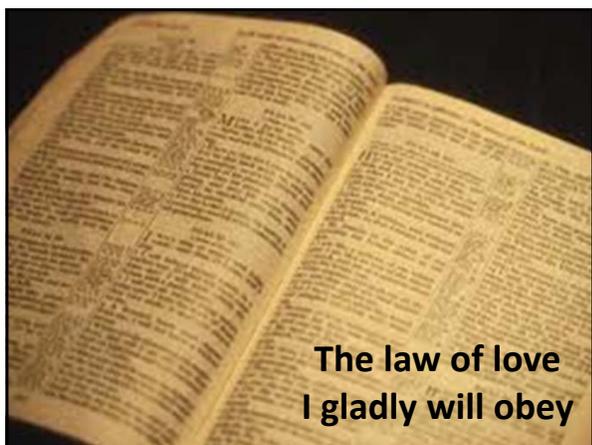
HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

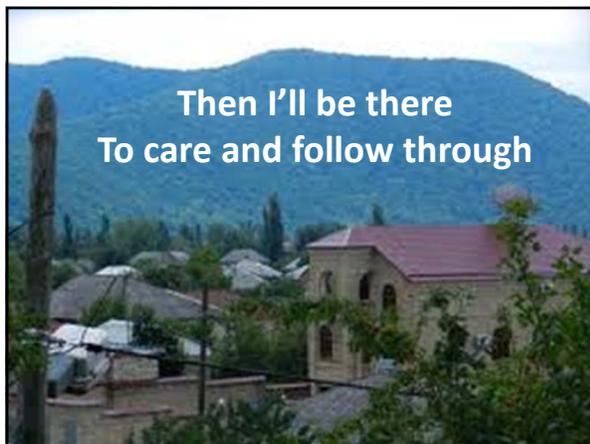
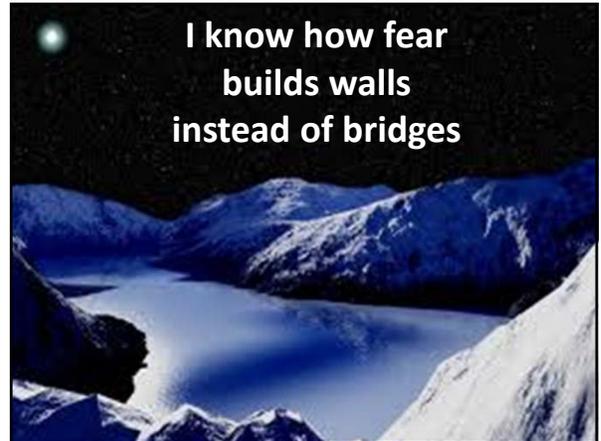
March 28 -- **Maundy Thursday** Communion Service will be at 6:30 p.m.

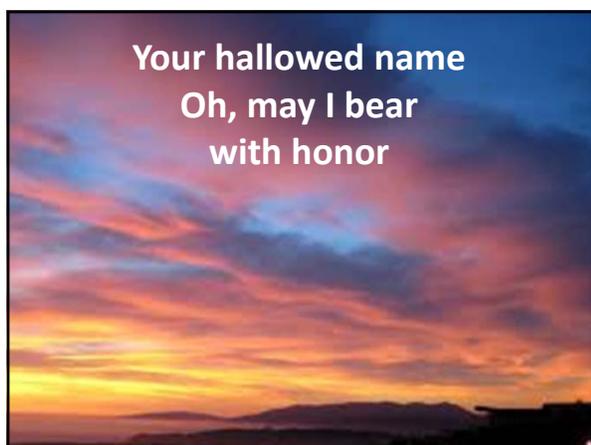
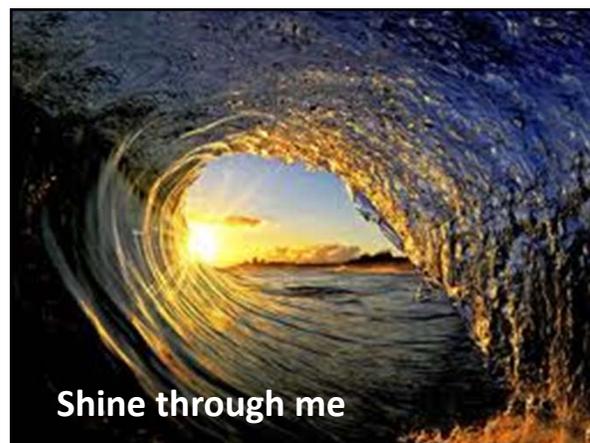
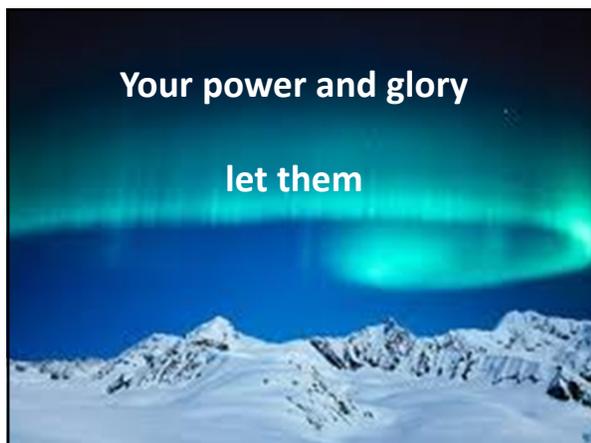
March 29 -- **Good Friday** Service of the Nails is at 9:00 a.m.

March 31 – **Easter** morning Worship Services at 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.



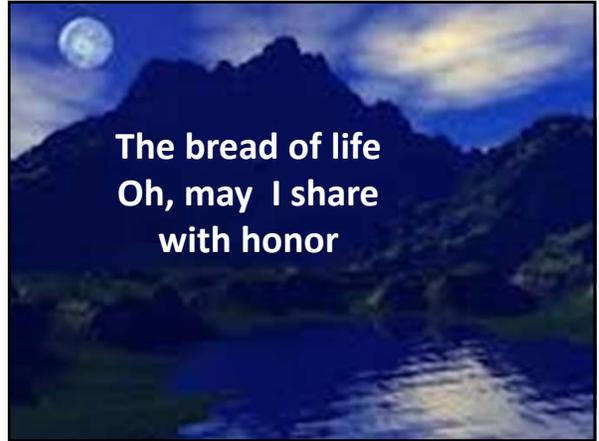








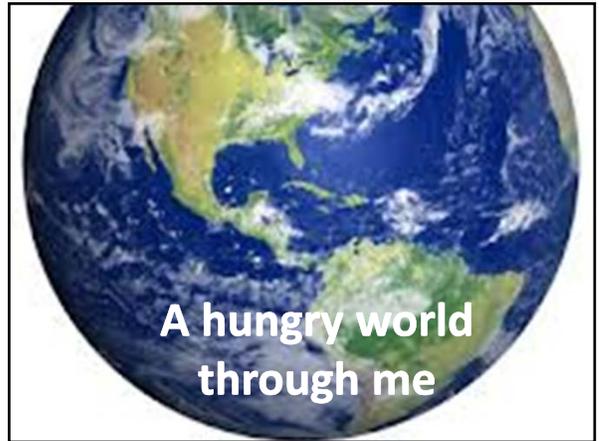
In me



**The bread of life
Oh, may I share
with honor**



And may you feed



**A hungry world
through me**



Amen



Amen



Return