

April 21st, 2013
Fourth Sunday of Easter



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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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, April 21, 2013/Fourth Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION

The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those “who have come out of the great ordeal” in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us” # 789 ELW

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

WE CONFESS OUR NEED FOR GOD’S PEACE: We confess our lack of peace. We are unsettled and temporary. Our emotions drift from one point to another, keeping us on edge. We try to structure our world for maximum protection, yet we find our fortress of self-sufficiency penetrated daily. God, we need to find your peace. We want to know you love us and our sin is forgiven. We want to stretch out and rest in your loving arms. Forgive the distance we have placed between us.

WE RECEIVE GOD’S GIFT: God is a great God! God has forgiven our sin. With love, God brings the gifts of peace, patience, and kindness. God’s love is the motivation for our love and we can never be the same. God’s peace becomes ours as we give more of ourselves. We can live confidently, knowing that our strength is in Christ, and the pressure of our life has been relieved through God’s kindness. Jesus’ death and resurrection has set us free to know real peace.

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.

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS: Ron & Joanne Mehlhop, Marvin & Theresa Berry, Linda & Dick Southworth, Melody Lackner, Ron Anderson & Nancy McCracken, Roy Berry & children: Nicole, Glenda & Anna.

FIRST READING: Acts 9:36–43

Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing was well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

PSALM: Psalm 23

Refrain: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. R

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. R

GOSPEL: John 10:22–30

Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

HYMN:

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

781 ELW

SERMON

OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing with all the witnesses of the resurrection, let us pray in confidence for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A time for silent prayer.

Come to us without delay and help us to hear your voice with clarity. Reveal to us the way to forgiveness, reconciliation, and hope. Lead your church to proclaim your love for all your children. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Refresh us with springs of water and favorable weather. Ensure equitable access to clean water throughout the world. Make us good stewards of all your resources. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Guide those who shape our economies and systems of government so that all have the opportunity to work and share your abundant resources. Grant meaningful and secure employment to those who are unemployed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Be present with those who wander in dark valleys of suffering. Heal the sick, feed the hungry, and console those who live in fear (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Build up the ministries of this congregation that form and shape the lives of young people. Help us to shepherd and learn from their faith, that we may all trust and receive you with open and generous hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be made.

Wipe away the tears of all who mourn. Grant us joy in the memories and witness of those who now dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In resurrection hope we commend to you all for whom we pray, trusting in the promise of new life; through Jesus Christ, our risen 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.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN: “God Be with You Till We Meet Again” # 536 ELW

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MEMBERS will be received at both services today. Please welcome them into our fellowship during the coffee hour today.

Next Sunday, April 28th there will be only one service at **9:00 a.m.** **MN Adult and Teen Challenge** will be leading our service. We need volunteers to bring a salad or a pan of bars (9x13) and also for set-up, serving and clean-up. Look for sign-up sheets on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

Today, April 21st is **MALARIA AWARENESS SUNDAY**. There is an insert in your bulletin promoting the ELCA efforts to wipe out malaria so give generously to help eliminate this disease. It affects children the worse and something as simple as mosquito netting helps immensely in cutting back on this terrible disease. Last summer's VBS children collected monies to help with this project. A wonderful thing—children helping children!

WEALTHWOOD ROD & GUN CLUB PANCAKE BREAKFAST today from **8 AM – 1PM**. See poster on bulletin board.

