

June 23rd 2013
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

Phone: 320-684-2123 (1-877-684-2123) Fax: 320-684-2836

E-mail address: blcmalmo@frontiernet.net

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, June 23, 2013/Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

This Sunday's texts paint startling pictures of the horrific—the demonic—nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of the holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus “until he comes.” It is a dramatic declaration of “how much God has done for you.”

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” # 632 ELW

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Leader: Let us be honest with ourselves, our God, and with each other and confess our sins in order that we might receive the forgiveness of God and experience the joy of the community of Christ.

All: God, we sin by what we think, what we say and what we do. We continue to pull away from you even though you love us with an everlasting love. Today in worship, we recognize our failures and our weaknesses. We confess our sins of omission and commission. We confess we do not love our neighbors as ourselves. We come to you now, as brothers and sisters in Christ, who need your power and forgiveness.

Leader: In the name of Jesus, the Christ, I speak his word to you: *“I belong to you as you belong to me. I am one of you, I know you. I died and rose for you so your sin might be forgiven. I feel what you feel and I live through your life. I forgive your wrongs and with that forgiveness give you power to change your condition as you live lives which are pleasing in my sight.”*

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 Lord God, we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

FIRST READING: Galatians 3:23–29

For Paul, baptism is a powerful bond that unites people not only with God but with other believers. Those who call themselves children of God experience a transformation that removes prejudices of race, social class, or gender in favor of true unity in Christ.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

PSALM: Psalm 22:19–28

Refrain: In the midst of the assembly I will praise you. (Ps. 22:22)

But you, O LORD, be not far away; O my help, hasten to my aid.

Deliver me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog.

Save me from the lion's mouth! From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.

I will declare your name to my people; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.

R: In the midst of the assembly I will praise you.

You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.

From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied. Let those who seek the LORD give praise!

May your hearts live forever!

R: *In the midst of the assembly I will praise you.*

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

R: *In the midst of the assembly I will praise you.*

GOSPEL: Luke 8:26–39

Jesus' mission includes foreigners, and his authority extends to the casting out of demons. Some who witness Jesus' work are seized with confusion and fear, but the man who was healed is commissioned to give testimony of God's mercy and power.

Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me" — for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you. So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

SERMON

HYMN:

“Borning Cry”

732 ELW

OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER

God, giver of every good and perfect gift, we thank you for the daily blessings of life. For food and family, for friends and neighbors, for the gift of life itself we give you thanks. Bless these offerings of our treasure that they may be used wisely in your service. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the good news of God come near, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A time for silent prayer.

Let us pray for the church around the world, that in every place it may find its unity in Christ and live out the gospel in freedom and joy. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Let us pray for our home, the earth. Beautiful beyond words and yet everywhere threatened with destruction, let us pray for its health and salvation. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the peoples of the earth, that where there is discord and oppression, justice may be done and peace be known. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who suffer, that the sick may know God's healing, the tormented may know God's peace, and the despairing may know God's hope. (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Let us pray for this congregation, that in this place we may proclaim the gospel without fear, boldly declaring how much God has done for us. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Let us give thanks to God for all the saints, whose lives proclaim God's faithfulness even beyond the grave. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O God of compassion, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your great mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN: **“On Our Way Rejoicing”** **# 537 ELW**

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF JUNE 23RD, 2013

Organist: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Jan Phillipp & Shirley Moe
Ushers: (8:30) Chuck & Elsa Carlson, 10:00 Darrell Kelly
Lectors: (8:30) Audrey Kullberg, 10:00 Val Benton
Coffee Servers: No Coffee Today

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (6/16/2013)

Attendance: Sat. -- ? Sun. 8:30 – 134 10:00 – 32

Offering: \$ 2,651,50 Building Fund: \$ 355.00

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

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

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA JUNE 23RD THRU JUNE 29TH, 2013

Sun., June 23 rd	1:00 p.m.	Ditch Clean Up (Meet at Church)
Mon., June 24 th	7:00 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues., June 25 th	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	9:00 a.m.	Crafters
	9:30 a.m.	Bells
Wed., June 26 th	8:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Hardanger
	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Praise Team
Thurs., June 27 th	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S.
	1:00 p.m.	Funtimers
Fri., June 28 th	10:00 a.m.	Bone Builders
Sat., June 29 th	9:30 a.m.	Bells
	5:00 p.m.	Sat. Eve. Worship Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate?, a highly acclaimed research-based U of M Extension education program about the intergenerational transfer of non-titled personal property will be presented on Wednesday, June 26, 2013 from 1:00 – 2:30. This program will give guidelines to successfully pass on family treasures and heirlooms when needing to downsize or close a home. Please register. For reservations please call Security State Bank at 218-927-3765. See Community Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall for more information.

The Church Council is seeking a new Council Secretary. If you have any interest, please contact our Council President Sandy Pullen. If asked to serve, please give these duties serious consideration.

COUNCIL MEETING CHANGE: The next Council Meeting will be held on Sunday, July 21st at 11:00 a.m.

We are in need of **COFFEE SERVERS**. Please sign up on the bulletin board next to the kitchen serving window if you have not yet served coffee this year. If everyone does their part, you will only need to serve once or twice a year.

A **CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM** Service with John Koziol, Jr. and Gospel singer Libby Turner will be held on Saturday, July 6th at 5 p.m. and Sunday, July 7th at 10:00 a.m. A Traditional Communion worship service will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday.

BETHESDA'S BEEF & CORN FEED will be held on Saturday, July 27th this year.

The **VEGGIE STAND** will be open Saturday morning July 6th and every Saturday following during the months of July and August.

If you did not get a listing of the members of your **NEIGHBORHOOD CARE GROUP** along with their addresses, telephone numbers & e-mails, please see Evie Richter during the coffee hour.

WELCA—Women of Bethesda. Our In-Kind Focus Project for Lutheran World Relief will be a **donation to Lutheran World Relief's Quilt and Kits Shipping Fund**. During this month there will be a basket on the table in the Narthex for your contribution.

BELL PRACTICE—Bell practice will be held at 9:30 a.m. on both Tuesday, June 25th and Saturday, June 29th.

MEMORY GARDEN BRICKS—We will be taking orders for new bricks until the end of June. Forms are available in the Memory Garden mailbox or contact Val Benton.

UNFATHOMABLE MERCY

A striking moment in this story occurs when the demoniac's fellow townsfolk make an entrance and find the formerly demon-filled man "sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind" (Mark 5:15). These neighbors have known the man for some time, witnessing his agonies and the power of the forces that control him. Perhaps they have hoped for an eventual solution to his dangerous condition, for the peace of mind of all involved.

The reaction of the townsfolk to the man's deliverance from his bondage is not relief or awe or exultation; they are afraid. In fact, they are so frightened by the account of the man's healing that they ask Jesus to leave their region. The terror of Jesus' power is too much for them, and his mastery of evil forces bewilders them.

"What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?" (v. 7). The demons are terrified too. Strangely enough, in this story Jesus responds to the pleading of the demons, compounding the townspeople's confusion over just whose side he's on.

We sometimes find ourselves in terror, uncertain what uncomfortable surprises lie in wait for us. Can we trust this God who speaks in mystery, this Christ whose closest friends must "take up a cross"? Do we dare ask of Jesus, "What have you to do with me?" and do we dare accept the answer?

This Jesus, thank God, is a savior. He is the kind of savior who calms storms, heals diseases, and overcomes death. He is the kind of savior who forgives sins, praises the humble, and draws neglected women and men into the center of their communities. He is the kind of savior who shows mercy even to demons.

"What have you to do with me?" Today God repeats the mysterious answer to this question as we experience the bread and wine and the assembled body of Christ.

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