

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 21st, 2013**



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Church Secretary: Evelyn Richter

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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, July 21, 2013/Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION

Perhaps the church, at its best, is "all ears." Almighty God urges the faithful, again and again, to "listen up!"—to heed the word from above. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, with Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the words of life.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN:

"All Things Bright & Beautiful"

767 WOV

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God of Peace, we are a restless people. As the weight of the world increases, we look everywhere for release. We confess that we have not found solutions to our problems or deliverance from our burdens. We desire peace. Our hearts need a resting place where the worries of everyday life are in perspective and the sin of our life is forgiven. God of peace, give us your peace and forgive our sin. (Take a moment for silent confession.)

Our God is a God of peace. God says, "Come to me, all who are tired from carrying heavy loads and I will give you rest. Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit, and you will find rest." The peace we desperately seek is ours through Christ Jesus. The weight of our sin has been taken over by him in his death and resurrection. We no longer are carrying our sin but we are free-released from sin's burden. We can be at peace because of God's great love for us as children. Praise God for love and peace.

We praise You for Your everlasting love! Grant us your peace, Lord! 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.

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM: **“The King of Love”** **soloist: Jim Christensen**

FIRST READING: Colossians 1:15–28

Sometimes Paul preaches with great attention to theological concepts. Here, however, Paul offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is "Christ in you." Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in his life, suffering, and glory.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers — all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him — provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

PSALM: Psalm 15

Refrain: LORD, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart; R**

they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.

They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown. R

GOSPEL: Luke 10:38–42

Jesus uses his visit to two sisters as an occasion to remind disciples that an important aspect of obedience is singleminded devotion to Jesus and his word.

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing.

Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

HYMN:

"Thy Holy Wings"

741 WOV

SERMON

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Confident in God's compassionate rule and enduring love, let us lift up the needs of the church, the world, and all of creation.

A time for silent prayer.

Dwell in the hearts of your people and mold us in your likeness. With Christ as our head, live and move in us, that we may be your hands reaching out to the world. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Give us eyes to see and ears to hear the wonders of your miraculous creation. Inspire in us an awe and appreciation for each tiny insect and every towering oak. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Reconcile all warring tribes and nations (*especially*), and tear down the walls that divide us, that the peace of Christ may bring harmony and accord. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Hold us together when we are shattered, bring healing when there is no cure, and heed our pleas for those in pain or trouble (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Dine with us in the sweet communion of a shared meal and send your Spirit to joyfully dance among us. Grant us also times of rest and reflection, sitting at the feet of Jesus to listen. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be made.

Bring us at the last to that day when we will feast with (*names and all*) your saints at the great wedding banquet prepared for us in your eternal home. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of mercy, hear the cries of your people, and answer us according to your steadfast love; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN: "Shall We Gather at the River" # 690 WOV

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF JULY 21ST, 2013

Organist: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Keith & Dawn Kellen
Ushers: 8:30 Shirley Moe, Diane Sandberg, 10:00 Darrell Kelly
Lectors: 8:30 Pat Becker, 10:00 Randy Tofteland
Coffee Servers: Bruce Gingerich, Carol Schlottman, Del & Dianne Jones

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (7/14/13)

Attendance: Sat. 5:00 – 27 Sun. 8:30 – 85 10:00 – 27

Offering: \$ 2,662.25 Building Fund: \$ 565.00

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

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

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA JULY 21ST THRU JULY 27TH, 2013

Mon., July 22 nd	7:00 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues., July 23 rd	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
	9:30 a.m.	Bells
Wed., July 24 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., July 25 th	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S.
	1:00 p.m.	Funtimers
Fri., July 26 th	10:00 a.m.	Bone Builders
Sat., July 27 th	A.M.	Veggie Stand
	5:00 p.m.	Sat. Eve. Worship Service
	5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Beef & Corn Feed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bring your family, bring your friends and neighbors to Bethesda's **ANNUAL BEEF & CORN FEED** to be held on Saturday, July 27th from 5PM to 7PM. Beef on a bun, all the corn you can eat, baked beans & bars. Come enjoy!

A reminder that Bethesda has a 5:00 p.m. **Saturday Worship Service** every Saturday through August.

The **VEGGIE STAND** is open Saturday mornings through August. Besides corn, jelly and whatever veggies are available we feature pies, bars and other baked goods. A reminder—if you could help with supplying the veggie stand with baked goods, it would be greatly appreciated.

There will be a new **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP** beginning September 5th which will meet for a 6-week series. See bulletin board for details.

The Malmo Evangelical Free Church is presenting **SATURDAY EVENING GOSPEL CONCERTS** at 7 p.m. throughout the summer. A list of performers is on the bulletin board.

CAMP ONOMIA is presenting as part of their Summer Program Rachel Kurtz, headliner, speaker and musician. She will be there Saturday, July 27th at 7 p.m. See notice on the bulletin board for this and other events at the Camp.

On Saturday, August 3rd there will be a **Cribbage Tournament & MSA Fun Days** at MSA Flagship. See bulletin board for further info.