

**August 18th, 2013
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**



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, August 18, 2013
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today, in the assembly, we are surrounded by "so great a cloud of witnesses." In the word and in the holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: **"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"** **# 836 ELW**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God, we are called to follow you but we do not respond. We are commanded to love one another, but we continue in our old ways. We are asked to spread the Good News of your love to every part of our world, but we find the mission too difficult. We do not love you with our whole heart and our neighbors as ourselves. We come today looking for Good News. Forgive our sins.

Today there is Good News! God forgives our sin so we might love each other the way we were intended to love. In our failures and in our desperation, God picks us up and breathes new power into our needy lives. The eternal love of God is ours in the death of Jesus on the cross. The eternal love of God is ours in the resurrection of Jesus from the grave. God's love is the Good News for everyone today.

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, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM:

FIRST READING: Hebrews 11:29—12:2

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

Chapter 11

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets — who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented — of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Chapter 12

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

PSALM: Psalm 82

Refrain: Arise, O God, and rule the earth. (Ps. 82:8)

God stands to charge the divine council assembled,
giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

"How long will you judge unjustly, and show favor to the wicked?

Save the weak and the orphan; defend the humble and needy;

rescue the weak and the poor; deliver them from the power of the wicked. R

They do not know, neither do they understand;

they wander about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

**Now I say to you, 'You are gods, and all of you children of the Most High;
nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.'"**

Arise, O God, and rule the earth, for you shall take all nations for your own. R

GOSPEL: Luke 12:49–56

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided:

father against son and son against father,

mother against daughter and daughter against mother,

mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

HYMN:

“As We Gather at Your Table”

522 ELW

SERMON

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in 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.

Almighty Father, send the fire of your word to cleanse and refine your church, and shine the light of the gospel to all the ends of the earth. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Compassionate God, bring your cooling and refreshing breath into the world's parched places; protect the very young and the old, the earth's fragile habitats, and all that is vulnerable to the heat. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Righteous God, all the nations belong to you; give justice to the weak and the orphan, and rescue the needy. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Merciful God, keep safe all those in the paths of destructive wind or water; heal those afflicted by poor living conditions; be near to all who are suffering (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Faithful God, lead our congregation through times of strife and division; tend and nourish the vine of our faith that we may bear much fruit. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be made.

Eternal God, fulfill your promise to those who have run with perseverance the race, and at the last join us with that great cloud of witnesses before your everlasting throne. 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.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + grant you peace.

CLOSING HYMN:

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

708 ELW

KINDLE FIRE

Be warned. If you are reading this devotion before worship, there is still time to get up and leave. You can return to the safety of your own home, comfortable with the "normal" picture of Jesus popular in North American culture: nice, peaceful, warm, family-friendly, a buddy.

If you stay and hear the gospel, the pastor will read a story in which Jesus indicates he has come to kindle a fire on the earth. Jesus says he came not to bring peace but division, to divide households from each other. In case it is less than clear what Jesus means by divisions in the family, he then lists all the ways he has come to divide family: "father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law" (Luke 12:53). Got that?

Jesus concludes his message by calling his hearers a bunch of hypocrites who are clueless on how to interpret the signs of the times. After this proclamation the pastor will conclude by saying "The gospel of the Lord," and the assembly will respond, "Praise to you, O Christ."

On second thought, stick around, because this should be rather entertaining. The pastor is going to have to preach a sermon on this. Be kind to the preacher, because it is not an easy text, but in all likelihood two options will present themselves. First, we can read this passage as Jesus preaching about the urgency of the coming kingdom; second, about the dramatic familial restructuring that takes place in God's kingdom when all of us join together as brothers and sisters in Christ, with biological connections transcended by faith connections.

And in all honesty, the church has never quite known what to do with this sermon of Jesus. Perhaps it just illustrates how elusive and radical Jesus really was—and is.

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THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF AUGUST 18TH, 2013

Organist: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Warren & Gail Rolek
Ushers: 8:30 Les Bolke & Don Myhre, 10:00 Darrell Kelly
Lectors: 8:30 Marilyn Samuelson, 10:00 Carol Bipes
Coffee Servers: Marge Garbo, Bev Wedig, Keith & Dorothy Mundinger

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (8/11/13)

Attendance: Sat. – 15 Sun. 8:30 – 98 10:00 – 29

Offering: \$ 2,306.91 Building Fund: \$ 290.00

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

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

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA AUGUST 18TH THRU AUGUST 24TH, 2013

Mon., Aug. 19 th	7:00 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues., Aug. 20 th	9:00 a.m.	Crafters
	9:30 a.m.	Bells
Wed., Aug. 21 st	8:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	WIC
	9:30 a.m.	Hardanger
	9:30 a.m.	WELCA
	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	5:30 p.m.	Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Praise Team
Thurs., Aug. 22 nd	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S.
	1:00 p.m.	Funtimers
Fri., Aug. 23 rd	10:00 a.m.	Bone Builders
Sat., Aug. 24 th	Morning	Veggie Stand Open
	5:00 p.m.	Sat. Evening Worship Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIBLE STUDIES are back on our normal schedule again this week so see you there.

THANK YOU to Mike Macoich, Mary Kramer-Long, Sandy Pullen, Val Benton & Pat Becker for conducting our services the last two weeks. You all are a blessing to our congregation and beyond.

ANNUAL REPORTS are due by September 1st so please get them in. Thank you.

VEGGIE STAND is open Saturday mornings through the month of August. If you have veggies or baked goods you would like to share, please bring them down to the Veggie Stand. All contributions are appreciated. We also have corn & jelly every week.

SIGNATURE QUILT TO COMMEMORATE THE ISLE CENTENNIAL 1913-2013. Write your name in history! Mille Lacs Museum volunteers are making a signature quilt to commemorate the Isle Centennial. It is free! You are invited to participate by writing your name on the muslin quilt square. Leave a little space between names for the embroidery to be done. This will make them easier to read. If you have questions or know of someone who would like to sign, contact Donna Johnson 320-676-1638. When the quilt is done it will be on display in the Mille Lacs Museum. Check today during coffee to sign the quilt square for Bethesda Lutheran Church.

OLD FASHIONED CHICKEN DINNER will be held Saturday, September 7th at Light of the Cross Lutheran Church in Garrison. See bulletin board for details.

The **BETHESDA JAMBOREE** will be happening on Friday & Saturday, September 13th & 14th at 7:00 p.m. Bring your friends and neighbors and have a good time!

“GOD’S WORK, OUR HANDS” -- MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE SUNDAY is September 8th.

A **BETH MOORE SIMULCAST** will be held on September 14th at the Opstead Baptist Church. For more details see poster on the Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall.