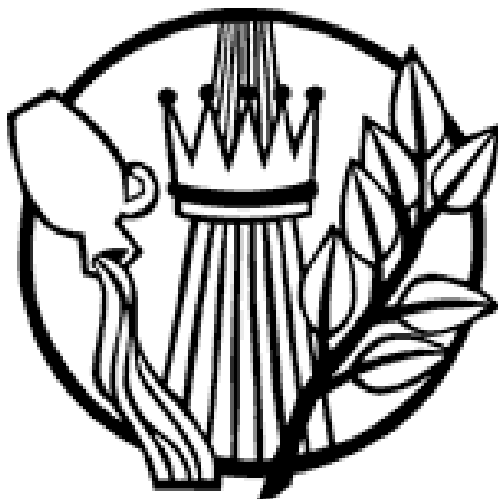


**October 27th, 2013**  
**Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

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E-mail address: [blcmalmo@frontiernet.net](mailto:blcmalmo@frontiernet.net)

Church Web Site: [blcmalmo.org](http://blcmalmo.org)

Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Church Secretary: Acting Secretary Mary Kramer

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, October 27, 2013**  
**Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost**

**INTRODUCTION**

*Genuine repentance and pretentious piety stand in stark contrast in the gospel and all around us. All creation stands in need of God's forgiveness. Keep the faith. God's people—"all who have longed for his appearing"—shall be accounted righteous for Jesus' sake. Our God is merciful to sinners. For all this the assembly glorifies God forever.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN:**                   **"A Mighty Fortress is our God"**                   **#504 ELW**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God: the only Sovereign, who dwells in light; Christ Jesus, who came to save sinners; the Holy Spirit, who lives within us.  
**Amen.**

**LET US CONFESS OUR SIN IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND OF ONE ANOTHER.**

**God of overflowing grace, we come to you with repentant hearts. Forgive us for shallow thankfulness. Forgive us for passing by the ones in need. Forgive us for setting our hopes on fleeting treasures. Forgive us our neglect and thoughtlessness. Bring us home from the wilderness of sin, and strengthen us to serve you in all that we do and say; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

There is joy in heaven over every sinner who repents. By the grace of God in + Christ Jesus, who gave himself up for us all, your sins are forgiven and you are made free. Rejoice with the angels and with one another! We are home in God's mercy, now and forever. **Amen.**

**GREETING**

Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God:  
grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Holy God, our righteous judge, daily your mercy surprises us with everlasting forgiveness. Strengthen our hope in you, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may find their glory in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **BELLS**

**“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”**

## **FIRST READING:**

**2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18**

*The conclusion of this letter to a young minister offers a final perspective on life from one who is now facing death. Though others have let him down, Paul is sure of his faith in the Lord, who has stood by him and lent him strength.*

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**PSALM**

**Psalm 84:1-7**

*Refrain: Happy are the people whose strength is in you. (Ps. 84:5)*

How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts!  
**My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young, by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king<sup>1</sup> and my God.

**Happy are they who dwell in your house!  
They will always be praising you. R**

Happy are the people, whose strength is in you,  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

**Those who go through the balsam valley  
will find it a place of springs,  
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.**

They will climb from height to height,  
and the God of gods will be seen in Zion. R

**GOSPEL:**

*Luke 18:9-14*

*The coming reign of God will involve unexpected reversals of fortune with judgment rooted in mercy. Jesus tells a parable in which the one who humbles himself is exalted and the one who exalts his own righteousness is humbled.*

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

**HYMN:**

**“Faith of our Father’s”**

**#812 ELW**

**SERMON**

**HYMN:**

**“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”**

**#596 ELW**

## **OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION**

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

For the church's ministry of forgiveness and healing, its care of the poor and powerless, and the humble service of your people, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For a healthy planet, life-giving rain where there is drought, and abundant harvests that all may be fed, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For reconciliation between enemies, peace in troubled lands, and freedom to those who are oppressed, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For healing in time of sickness, hope in time of trouble, faith in time of doubt, and help to all in need (*especially*), let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For the witness of this assembly to your gospel, for the word that nourishes our faith, and the bread and wine that sustain our lives, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For the saints of every generation who have fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **BLESSING**

God Almighty sends you light and truth  
to keep you all the days of your life.  
The hand of God protect you;  
the holy angels accompany you;  
and the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: “Children of the Heavenly Father”**

**#781 ELW**

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### **God Be Merciful**

We may expect the religious insider to be blessed, the moral person to be right with God. But as is so often the case, Jesus' parable for today sweeps away conventional expectations. Jesus surprises the disciples and us when he says it's not the Pharisee but rather the tax collector, that morally suspect, second-class citizen, who goes home "justified," right with God (Luke 18:14). Here is a strong reminder for those of us who are church "insiders." We are sinners who beg for God's mercy, utterly dependent on God's forgiveness and love—not merely for ourselves but for all in God's creation.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BETHESDA HOLIDAY BAZAAR**-thank you to all who volunteered their time, money and talent to make our bazaar successful and fun!

**NO CHOIR NEXT WEEK** October 30<sup>th</sup> is cancelled. Plan to resume November 6<sup>th</sup>.

**WATCH** the Sunday bulletin for poinsettia sign up.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** – We are collecting school supplies, t-shirts, hats, personal hygiene items, small stuffed animals, dolls and toys and as well as donations for postage for the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox project. This is sponsored by Samaritan's Purse and it provides a shoebox full of gifts to needy children around the world. **We will be packing the shoeboxes on Sunday, November 10th after the second service and anyone is invited to help with this.** We also need shoeboxes (preferably wrapped ones). Any items can be brought to the church and placed in the large shoebox in the narthex. For more information see the flyers in the church narthex or contact Darlene Christensen.

**ALTAR CARE MEETING** scheduled for Thursday, November 14th at 10 am. We will meet in the fellowship hall at church.

**FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN** there still is room for more people to come and help on Monday, November 25 from 2:30- 4:30pm. We leave the church at noon for the Coon Rapids site. Check the clip board in the narthex for the address and to sign up. Your donations are happily accepted! Turn hunger into hope with your own two hands.

**STEWARDSHIP and THANKSGIVING** In this season of thanksgiving, a sincere 'thank you' is in order to everyone who supports our congregation throughout the year with their attendance, service and regular financial contributions.

For those of you who are interested, the church offers electronic giving options for making donations on a scheduled, automated basis. It's convenient for you and provides much-needed financial consistency for the church. Pick up an authorization form in the office.

**THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF OCTOBER 27 - NOVEMBER 02, 2013**

Organist: Marlys Beavers

Greeters: Maynard & Kathy Berland

Ushers: 8:30 Chuck & Elsa Carlson      10:00 Ron & Joann Haglund

Lector: 8:30 Sandy Pullen      10:00 Carol Bipes

Coffee Servers: Jerry & Pat Becker/Warren & Gale Rolek

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week (10/20/2013)

Attendance: 8:30 - 99      10:00 - 56

**THIS WEEK AT Bethesda October 27 thru November 2, 2013**

Monday      10/28      7:00 pm      AA & Alanon

Wednesday 10/30      8:30 am      Bible Study  
                                 9:30 am      Hardanger  
                                 10:00 am      Mission & Evangelism  
                                 11:00 am      Bible Study  
                                 6:00 pm      No Choir  
                                 7:00 pm      Praise Team  
                                 7:00 pm      Confirmation

Thursday      10/31      8:00 pm      R.O.M.E.O.S  
                                 1:00 pm      Fun Timers  
                                 5:30 pm      Bells

Friday      11/01      10:00 pm      Bone Builders