

November 3rd, 2013
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Church Web Site: blcmalmo.org

Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Church Secretary: Acting Secretary Mary Kramer

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN, C 320-684-2846

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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

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INTRODUCTION

In holy baptism God makes saints out of sinners. In Holy Communion God forgives the sins of all the saints. In the assembly today we give thanks for all the saints "who from their labors rest," who have fought the good fight, who have gained the crown. In the same breath we petition our God for the strength to hear and to heed the admonitions of the Lord Jesus in today's gospel. Recalling that we have been sealed by the Spirit and sustained by the Savior's body and blood, we keep on keeping on as God gives us breathe, to the praise of God's glory.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN:

“For All the Saints”

#422 ELW

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of God the Father of glory; in the name of God the + Son, our Redeemer; in the name of God the holy and life-giving Spirit.

Amen.

The Sun of righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing.
Let us gather under the wings of God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
we acknowledge that we are sinners
and we confess our sins—
those known to us that burden our hearts,
and those unknown to us but seen by you.
We know that before you nothing remains hidden,
and in you everything is revealed.
Free us from the slavery of sin;
liberate us from the bondage of guilt;
and work in us that which is pleasing in your sight;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With a heart full of mercy and compassion, God saves us and + forgives us all our sins. Christ, the dawn from on high, shines upon us and by the light of the Holy Spirit guides our feet into the way of peace.

Amen.

GREETING

From the one who is and who was and who is to come, and from Jesus Christ, the first fruits of the resurrection grace and peace be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, whose people are knit together in one holy Church, the body of Christ our Lord: Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Thanksgiving Medley”

FIRST READING

Ephesians 1:11-23

After giving thanks for the faith of the Ephesians, Paul prays that they might understand the wisdom, hope, and power of God that is embodied in Jesus Christ.

In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Refrain: Sing the LORD's praise in the assembly of the faithful. Vs 1

Hallelujah! Sing to the LORD a new song, God's praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Let Israel rejoice in their maker; let the children of Zion be joyful in their ruler.

Let them praise their maker's name with dancing; let them sing praise with tambourine and harp.

For the LORD takes pleasure in the people and adorns the poor with victory. R

Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; let them sing for joy on their beds.

Let the praises of God be in their throat and a two-edged sword in their hand,

to wreak vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples,

to bind their kings in chains and their nobles with links of iron,

to inflict on them the judgment decreed; this is glory for all God's faithful ones.

Hallelujah! **R**

GOSPEL:

Luke 19:1–10

Jesus encounters Zacchaeus, a rich man who is also a lost sinner. Moved by Jesus' acceptance of him, Zacchaeus becomes a model of discipleship. In immediate response to being restored to God's people, Zacchaeus ministers to the poor and seeks reconciliation with those whom he has wronged.

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

SERMON

“A Faith that will Transform You”

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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 one holy church, the body of Christ, that it may show forth your generosity, love, and forgiveness to the world, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For your care of the earth and all that is in it, for the renewal of farmland that lies fallow, and for the new life you bring from death, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the wisdom and vision you give to world leaders, that the peace and justice of the kingdom of God may one day reign among us, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For your healing to all who are ill, your presence with the dying, and your great compassion to those who weep or mourn (*especially*), let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For your blessings on this assembly, that it continue to dream dreams, sing new songs, and be a sign of your living presence in the world, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In thanksgiving for the lives of those you have gathered into your holy city (*Martin de Porres, renewer of society, and those who have died during the past year*). For keeping us in loving communion with them until we are gathered into the company of all the saints around your throne, 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 APOSTLES 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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Share in the inheritance of all the saints.

Come to the table prepared for you.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**We give you thanks, shepherding God,
that you have gathered your scattered flock again this day,
feeding us richly with the food of Paradise.**

**Accompany us as we serve you all the days of our lives,
and gather us with the saints in the day of our death;
through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord.**

Amen.

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:

“BLESSED ASSURANCE”

#638 ELW

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOVEMBER IS WORLD HUNGER MONTH. Please take a cardboard coin box as you leave church today to save your change. Or make a special donation for this important project.

CHOIR NEXT WEEK Wednesday at 6:00 pm November 6th

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.

PRAISE GOD and sincere thanks to Bethesda for its generous gifts to save the Aids Orphans. Along with other donations from around the world, we were able to purchase an ambulance!

Your friend in Christ, Pastor Nelson Lufafa

(Photos of the ambulance are on the STAO bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall).

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF NOVEMBER 3 - NOVEMBER 9, 2013

Organist: Marlys Beavers

Ushers: 8:30 Dick & Sandy Pullen 10:00 Marilyn Andrews, Judy Siefert

Lector: 8:30 Pat Becker 10:00 Laurina Tofteland

Communion

Servers 8:30 Ron & Jan Aho 10:00 Sheila Penoyer

Coffee Servers: Janice Olson, Paula Spetz, Bev Wedig Serving Bazaar Treats!

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week (10/27/2013)

Attendance: 8:30 - 98 10:00 - 32

	Month of October	Monthly amount needed
General Offering:	\$13,706	\$15,340
Building Fund:	\$ 1,962	\$2,500

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda November 3 thru November 9, 2013

Monday 11/04 7:00 pm AA & Alanon

Wednesday 11/06 8:30 am Bible Study
9:30 am Hardanger
11:00 am Bible Study
6:00 pm Choir
7:00 pm Praise Team
7:00 pm Confirmation

Thursday 11/07 8:00 pm R.O.M.E.O.S
1:00 pm Fun Timers
5:30 pm Bells

Friday 11/08 10:00 pm Bone Builders