

November 17th, 2013
Twenty-sixth 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

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INTRODUCTION

The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the "meantimes." The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Brothers and sisters do not be weary in doing what is right."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN:

“Soon and Very Soon”

#752 WOV

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

Lord God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that, always keeping in mind the end of all things and the day of judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of life here and may live with you forever in the world to come, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Wake Up, Church, Wake Up!”

FIRST READING

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Some members of the Thessalonian community, because of their belief in the nearness of Christ's return, had ceased to work, living off the generosity of other members of the community. Paul warns them bluntly that if they want to eat, they need to work.

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

In righteousness will the LORD judge the world. (Ps. 98:9)

Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

**O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing. R**

Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

**Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
who comes to judge the earth.**

The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity. **R**

GOSPEL:

Luke 19:1–10

As history moves toward God's fulfillment there will be frightening signs and events. Before the end, believers will draw strength from their relationship to God and shall be given the words they need to testify and to endure without fear.

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs

from heaven.

"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls."

HYMN:

"Softly and Tenderly" #734WOV

SERMON

"A Faith that Works"

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.

That the church not weary of the mission you have called us to do, but continue to move forward toward the fulfillment of your reign, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the earth, that it may not fall into wasteful use or reckless destruction, but that you would protect and nurture it until your new creation comes to birth, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For your guidance in uncertain times, endurance in hardships, and hope in a future of peace and prosperity for all people, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For your merciful embrace of the unemployed, homeless, lonely, forgotten, and all who suffer in body, mind or spirit (*especially*), let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For this assembly, that we may encourage and support one another in the weekly

gathering around the means of grace and in loving service throughout the week, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

For all who wait eagerly for your coming and in thanks for those who now rest in your perpetual light and peace (*especially Elizabeth of Hungary, renewer of society*), 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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

May God who loves us, who gives us eternal consolation and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word; and the blessing of almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN:

“My Lord What a Morning”

#627 WOV

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATE Doris Reinhart turning 90! Come to the party at Flagship this Saturday November 23, 2013 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. No gifts please.

NOVEMBER IS WORLD HUNGER MONTH. Remember to return your coin box or make a donation by next week.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – Thank you to all who helped and offered their support and donations.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN - Monday, November 25 from 2:30- 4:30pm. We leave the church at noon for the Coon Rapids site.

SINGERS INVITED Come to rehearsals for “The Messiah”. We meet at 7 pm Monday in the Aitkin High School Auditorium. There are two rehearsals left, Monday November 18 and 25 with the performance set for Sunday December 1, at 7 pm at St James Catholic Church. Anyone interested in singing is most welcome. Wear your gown from your church choir when you come to perform for the concert. All are welcome to attend!

THANKSGIVING POTLUCK & SERVICE if your family and friends are far away and you may be thinking of having no Thanksgiving feast-stop that thought-you are invited to come to potluck November 27, 2013 at 5:30 pm in the fellowship hall at Bethesda. Delicious ham will be provided. With everyone bringing a dish to share our potluck becomes quite a feast. And it is so much fun to eat together. A worship service will follow at 6:30 pm which is very inspiring. All are welcome to attend.

BETHESDA SANTA- we are planning our annual Bethesda Santa Christmas Outreach. Do you know a neighbor or church member who is going through a tough time? Please leave their name and address in the wooden “Santa Box” in the entry.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY-at the Pine Inn December 2 at 5:30 pm with Dinner 6:30 pm. The cost is \$14.00 per person. Sign up in the fellowship hall.

WOMEN’S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON offered by WELCA Saturday, December 7 in our fellowship hall at 11:30 am. Kathy Hughes from the Tuscan Room will be serving.

THANK YOU to Mary Swanson, Lynne Meidlinger, Bev Swenson & Judy Forester for the Prayer Scarves for the Middle School Gathering at Cragun’s. Nice response!

