

**December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**First Sunday after Christmas**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**  
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Church Web Site: [blcmalmo.org](http://blcmalmo.org)

Pastor: Reverend James Raisanen

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN, C 320-684-2846  
Patti Honnold, RN CNP 320-676-8421  
Kathy Berland RN ANP 320-495-3988  
Church Secretary: Mary Kramer

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, December 29th, 2013**  
**First Sunday after Christmas**

**INTRODUCTION**

*As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the "holy innocents" of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN:**               **"All My Heart Rejoices"**                               **#273 ELW**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Maker of heaven and earth,  
the Word made flesh, the Lord and giver of life.

**Amen.**

Let us come into the light of Christ,  
confessing our need for God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of peace,

**we confess that we are not at peace—with others or with ourselves.**

**We bring to you all that tears us apart: discord in our families,  
violence in our world, our own conflicted hearts.**

**In your mercy, mend us.**

**Reconnect us to one another and to you. Let peace reign over all the earth,  
through the Prince of peace, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

In the Word who has come to dwell with us,

God has given us grace upon grace:

forgiveness that is stronger than our sins,

love that can heal every broken heart.

Hear this word of God's pardon and peace:

in the name of + Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins.  
Rise, shine, for your light has come.

**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**

**O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

## **FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 63:7-9**

*God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel. God's own presence brings salvation. The prophet and all who read these words join in celebrating God's gracious deeds. God trusts that God's people will not act falsely.*

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

*Refrain: The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)*

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

**Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

**who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away. R**

Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

**fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

**wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

**young men and maidens, old and young together. R**

Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted,

whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah! R**

## GOSPEL:

**Mathew 2:13-23**

*Matthew relates the slaughter of babies in Bethlehem as one example of evil in the world. Jesus has been born into this world to manifest God's presence and save his people from their sins.*

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her

children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead. Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

**HYMN:                                    “O Come All Ye Faithful”                                    #283 ELW**

**SERMON:                                    “Jesus, the Refugee”**

**HYMN:                                    “Go Tell it on the Mountain”                                    #290 ELW**

**OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

In joy and wonder, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*A time for silent prayer*

Shine your favor on your people, and uphold us with the abundance of your steadfast love. Send us out from our assembly, trusting in your presence, to announce your gracious deeds. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Fill all who hunger with your gracious provision. Establish justice in the ways that food is grown and distributed. Work through agencies, such as the World Hunger Appeal, to feed all people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Make your ways known to all the nations. Join all people together, young and old, rich and poor, in order to work your righteous acts among them. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Ease the suffering of all who live with chronic illness, addiction, or distress (*especially*). Surround them with family and friends who bring assurance of your compassion and care. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to all children, the sisters and brothers of Jesus. Free the young and vulnerable ones who are in the chains of abuse, poverty, or neglect. Give them abundant life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Other intercessions may be offered.*

Remembering your covenant that draws the saints into one community, join our voices with theirs in praise of all the good things you do for your people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Almighty God, we entrust to you all for whom we pray, confident that you fulfill your promises through Christ our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **BLESSING**

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

**Amen.**

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

**Amen.**

May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

**Amen.**

And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN:**

**“Joy to the World”**

**#267 ELW**

## **THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF DECEMBER 29 – January 4, 2014**

Organist: Marlys Beavers

Ushers: Lynn Hansen and Bev Swenson

Lector: Lynn Hansen

Coffee Servers: Rich & Marge Nelson and Harold & Ardie Kendall

Greeters: Del & Dianne Jones

*Thank you for your service!*

### **THIS WEEK AT Bethesda December 29 thru January 4, 2014**

Monday	12/30	7:00 pm	AA & Alanon
Wednesday	1/01	8:30 am	NO Bible Study
		9:30 am	NO Hardanger
		11:00 am	NO Bible Study
		6:00 pm	NO Choir
		7:00 pm	NO Praise Team
		7:00 pm	NO Confirmation
Thursday	1/02	8:00 am	R.O.M.E.O.S
		10:30 am	Worship and Music
		1:00 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	1/03	10:30 am	No Bone Builders

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NOTICE TO USHERS:** During the months of January and February 2014 we have only **One** worship service. The ushers for the 8:30 am service will now usher for the 9:00 am service. No ushers are needed at the 10:00 am service until March 2014.

**BIBLE STUDIES** for Wednesday will resume January 9th after the New Year.

**COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED** for January and February. See the signup sheet to the left of the kitchen serving window. If you have never served coffee, ask for help and you could team with others to serve. Treats with coffee are really appreciated!

**DID YOU PICK UP YOUR OFFERING ENVELOPES?** Find them in the fellowship hall and take them home with you.

**USHERS** for January 2014 are as follows:

January 5 & 12	Dick & Sandy Pullen
January 19 & 26	Wally & Bev Swenson

**LECTORS** for January 2014 are as follows:

January 5	Lynn Hansen
January 12	Karen Carron
January 19	Audrey Kullberg
January 26	Char Berg

**GREETERS** for January 2014 are as follows:

January 5	Ron & Jan Aho
January 12	Maynard & Kathy Berland
January 19	Marilyn Andrews & Bev Wedig
January 26	Audrey & Dennis Bistodeau

**WE NEED A NEW COORDINATOR FOR GREETERS.** Our current Greeter Coordinator, Carol Bakken is retiring. We thank her for her service and appreciate all she has done. If you are willing to work with coordinating volunteers to be greeters, (one of the easiest and fun jobs at Bethesda) please contact Mary Kramer, Church Secretary.