

January 12, 2013

Baptism of Our Lord



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Church Secretary: Mary Kramer

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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, January 12, 2014

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INTRODUCTION

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: “Angles from the Realms of Glory” #275 ELW

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy and faithful God,
we so often choose our own way instead of yours. We think we can evade your commandments. We have spoken in ways that kill, strayed with our hearts, betrayed friends, and hated enemies. We have broken our promises. Search us deeply and create us anew. Lift the heavy burden of our sin and free us to follow your way of life.

Amen.

"Call upon me," says the Lord, "and I will answer."

Our God has come among us to loose every bond
and set us free from all that weighs us down.

Receive the forgiveness of all your sins

in the name of + Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Savior.

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

**O God our Father,
at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son
and anointed him with the Holy Spirit.
Make all who are baptized into Christ
faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons,
and empower us all with your Spirit,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING:

Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

REFRAIN: The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor. R**

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. R**

The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace. R

For the beauty of creation, trees and animals, clean water, and favorable weather, that all creatures live abundantly on our fragile planet, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For all in authority at the local, state, national, and international levels, that they rule with equity and sincerity of heart; for relief workers and those who support them, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the oppressed, the imprisoned, the sick, those living with HIV/AIDS, and all who call out for help (*especially*), that all who dwell on the earth find comfort, peace, and redemption through Christ, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For this congregation and all who have been washed in the waters of baptism (*especially those who celebrate their baptisms today*), for those inquiring about the gift of baptism and life in Christ, and for those who are absent from this gathering, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In thanksgiving for those who have died in the faith (*especially*), that the grace of Christ in their lives guide us in our vocation as Christians throughout the world, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Radiant God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who has made his dwelling among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

May the God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is your light.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN: "You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore" #817 ELW

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Men's Fishing Trip-25 men from Bethesda will travel to the "great north" for the Annual Lake of the Woods Fishing trip this week. The men leave on Monday 1/13 and will return 1/15. Pastor is heading north with the guys. There will be no Bible studies Wednesday morning. Pastor will be back to teach confirmation Wednesday 6:30 pm and R.O. M. E.O's 8:00 am Thursday 1/16/14.

The Quilter's will return to their creative sewing work this Tuesday 1/14 at 9:00 am. All are welcomed to come. If you have never quilted or have little experience; this is a great group to join to try it out! Seasoned quilters are welcomed too! Quilts are made to give to families experiencing difficulties, for babies when they are baptized at Bethesda. The baby quilts are used to "wrap" gifts for the baby. Quilts are given to young people when they head off to college. Quilts are also sold at the Bazaar for a very reasonable price for a homemade quilt. Come and join us on Tuesday.

ARE YOU INTERSTED IN ATTENDING a fun day at THE OLD LOG THEATER on February 10TH? The play is called "Almost Maine", it is a British comedy. Contact John Hudson, Aitkin Community Education at 218-927-7130. Also inform him that you would like the bus to pick you up at Bethesda. To register, find a slip on the bulletin board on the left when entering the fellowship hall, decide on your lunch choice, write a check and mail to the address on the form.

USHERS: For the months of January & February ushers for the 8:30 a.m. service will usher at the 9:00 a.m. service. NO ushers needed at 10:00 a.m. until March.

LECTOR COORDINATOR: We are looking for a wonderful volunteer to coordinate people to read the lessons for the second service. Lectors are needed in February 2014. Men and Women are both welcomed to volunteer for helping find lectors.

BORED, SEASONAL AFFECT DISORDER? Tired of the cold and/or watching CNN? Join the Friendly Bethesda Visitor Team. Many people could benefit from a visit or a friendly phone call. If you are interested in being part of the team, sign up on the clip board in the fellowship hall. We could bring cookies or soup. Note on the clip board what you would like to do and you will be matched up with someone to visit.

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF January 12 – January 18 , 2014

Organist: Marlys Beavers

Greeters: Maynard & Kathy Berland

Ushers: 9:00 Alene Lowe & Mark Korngable

Lector: 9:00 Karen Carron

Coffee Servers: Elsa & Chuck Carlson, Barb & Lee Forester

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week (01/05/2014)

Attendance: 9:00 am * 70 * Hearty Lutherans who braved Arctic Temps of -28!

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda January 12 thru January 18, 2014

Sunday 01/12 10:00 am First Meeting of "Focus on Bethesda's Future"

Monday 01/13 9:00 am Women's Bible Study Pat Becker's Home
Men's Fishing Trip
7:00 pm AA & Alanon

Tuesday 01/14 9:00 am Quilter's
Men's Fishing Trip

Wednesday 01/15 8-10:00 WIC
8:30 am NO Bible Study 11:00 am No Bible Study
9:30 am Hardanger 7:00 pm Praise Team
9:30 am WELCA 6:30 pm Confirmation

Thursday 01/16 8:00 pm R.O.M.E.O.S
1:00 pm Fun Timers

Friday 01/17 10:00 am Bone Builders