

February 23, 2014
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

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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

In today's first reading we hear, "You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy." Yet we know we cannot achieve perfection. Our attempts to love neighbors and even our enemies fall short of what God desires for us. Yet in Jesus we see one who loved even those who persecuted and killed him. We are made holy in baptism, and forgiven at the table of God's mercy. As a people made holy by God, we go in peace to love as we have been loved.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

"All Hail the Power of Jesus Name"

#634 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

Holy God of compassion, you invite us into your way of forgiveness and peace. Lead us to love our enemies, and transform our words and deeds to be like his through whom we pray, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

BAPTISM: MacKenzie Lee Charles

FIRST READING:

1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

Jesus Christ is the foundation of the church and its ministry. We are God's temple because God's Spirit dwells in us, and we belong to Christ. Hence we are called to build wisely upon this sure foundation not for our own benefit but for others to experience Christ's benefits.

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written,

"He catches the wise in their craftiness,"

and again,

"The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise,
that they are futile."

So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future — all belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

PSALM

Psalm 119: 33-40

Refrain: Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes.

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

**Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain. R**

Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

**Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

**Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me. R**

GOSPEL:

Matthew 5:38-48

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declares an end to the law of vengeance. God's people will respond to evil with love and forgiveness.

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

HYMN: “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” #623 ELW

SERMON: “Honk if Something Falls Off”

OFFERTORY HYMN: “How Great Thou Art” #856 ELW

OFFERTORY PRAYER

**God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever.
You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine.
Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious
presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION

Guided by the light of Christ, who has been made known to the nations, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

Holy and perfect God, you call us to share your word of love even when it seems like foolishness to the world. Make your church bold to proclaim our hope in Christ. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You make the sun to rise and the rain to fall on all. Feed rich and poor, land and animals, with your abundance. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You call us to the ways of justice. Lead all who govern in the path of justice, so that those in need will not be forgotten. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

All in need belong to you through Christ. Strengthen weary caregivers. Comfort those who are sick and in pain (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Help this congregation trust that your Spirit dwells in us. Show us the way to be your holy people. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Sustain us, O God, until we gather with all your saints from every time and place in your eternal protection. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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: "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory"

890ELW

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAPTISM: Mackenzie Lee Charles will be baptized this morning. She is the granddaughter of Judy and the late Bill Wuorio. She will graduate from high school this spring and plans to attend college in the fall. Let us lift this family in prayer to God.

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE-continues through the month of March at 9:00 am.

OUR SEASON OF LENT BEGINS the first Wednesday of March-Ash Wednesday is March 5, 2014. We will hold a worship service at 6:30 pm with Holy Communion.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS- March 9, 2014. Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour!

VBS 2014-mark your calendars for this year's Vacation Bible School **June 16-20**. This summer's VBS theme is "Wilderness Escape". We will learn how God provides for the children of Israel while they are wondering in the wilderness and how Moses was given the 10 Commandments. Just as God provided for the Children of Israel so God continues to provide for us today.

LOVE LIKE JESUS- WORSHIP The Stewardship committee is attempting to find out what people like about worship and what could be added or improved. The focus is trying to understand how to encourage more people to come to know the Lord by worshipping at Bethesda. What do you like about Worship? What would you liked changed? Please take some time this morning to share your answers. They are important questions.

BENEFIT FOR Shara Martineau Saturday, March 15th – Shara is a postal carrier that was hit by a truck and sustained multiple injuries including 2 broken legs, a crushed ankle, two broken ribs and a bruised spleen. The car was completely totaled and her recovery will be costly. There is a dinner and silent auction to help Shara and her family.

She is the mother of 5 kids. The Fund Raiser is at THE BRIDGE TAVERN, 26969 State Hwy 6, Crosby, MN 56441 from noon to 4 pm. Come enjoy pulled pork sandwiches, sides and chips. The cost is \$10.00. The flyer advertising this event is on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Shara is also a volunteer in the Crow Wing County Mounted Police.

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF February 24 – March 1 , 2014!

Music: Marlys Beaver

Greeters: Chuck & Elsa Carlson

Ushers: Lloyd & Shirley Lillienthal

Lector: Char Berg

Coffee Servers: Joyce Reimer, Sue & Richard Stebbins

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week (02/16/2014)

Attendance: 9:00 am - 81

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda February 23 thru March 1, 2014

Monday 02/24 7:00 pm AA & Alanon

Tuesday 02/25 9:00 am Quilter's

Wednesday 02/26 8:30 am Bible Study
9:30 am Hardanger
11:00 am Bible Study
6:00 pm Praise Team
7:00 pm Confirmation

Thursday 02/27 8:00 pm R.O.M.E.O.S
12:30 pm Fun Timers

Friday 02/28 10:00 am Bone Builders