

March 23, 2014
Third Sunday in Lent



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

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OPENING HYMN: “Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross”

#335 ELW

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Come, let us acknowledge our sin and seek God's face, that we may live.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess that we have turned away
from you and from our neighbors,
and in toward ourselves.
We have sought security in possessions
and the place of power in relationships.
We have trusted ourselves most of all.
Turn us back to you, O God.
In your mercy, forgive our sinfulness
and cleanse us from guilt and shame.
Guide us on the path of freedom
that is your gift to us in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hear for yourselves:

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

In the waters of baptism grace abounds for you and for all.

God turns to you in love and puts away every sin, every wrong turn,
for the sake of + Jesus, the one God sent to save the world.

Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son once welcomed an outcast woman because of her faith. Give us faith like hers, that we also may trust only in your love for us and may accept one another as we have been accepted by you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING:

Exodus 17:1-7

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put the Lord to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to the Lord. The Lord commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—"Is the Lord among us or not?"—received a very positive answer.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Psalm 95

Refrain: Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. (Ps. 95:1)

Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

**Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD our maker. R**

For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture
and the sheep of God's hand. Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

"Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.

There your ancestors tested me; they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,

'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'

Indeed I swore in my anger, "They shall never come to my rest." **R**

GOSPEL:

John 4:5-42

Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Returning to the Lord, our God, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Lead your church, that justified by faith, it may bear testimony to your grace, your power, and your way of life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bring the healing power of rain where there is drought and dry weather where there is flooding. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Drench the earth with your peace, so that nations and their leaders ensure that all people have access to clean water for all their needs. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Satisfy the thirst of all who long for you; the hungry, the poor, the fearful, and the ill (*especially*), that they draw deeply from your well of hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bless this congregation, that, showered with the promises of baptism, we welcome those who thirst for you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks for all the saints who endured in this world and have now entered your eternal rest. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and forevermore.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN: “We All Are One in Mission”

#576 ELW

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF MARCH 23-29, 2014

Music: Marlys Beaver
Greeters: Rich and Marjorie Nelson
Ushers: Les Bolke &
Lector: Mary Kramer
Coffee Servers: Cheri & Bill Johnson, Dennis & Audrey Bistodeau

RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD LAST WEEK

Attendance: (03-16-14) (03-19-14)
 9:00 a.m. - 100 6:30 p.m. - 53

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA MARCH 23rd THRU MARCH 30th, 2014

Mon	Mar 24	7:00 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues	Mar 25	8:30 a.m.	Pastor’s Text Study
		9:00 a.m.	Quilter’s
Wed	Mar 26	8:30 a.m.	Bible Study
		9:30 a.m.	Hardanger
		11:00 a.m.	Bible Study
		5:30 p.m.	Pot Luck
		6:30 p.m.	Lenten Service
		7:30 p.m.	Praise Team Practice
Thurs	Mar 27	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S.
		12:30 p.m.	Fun timers
Fri	Mar 28	10:00 a.m.	Bone Builders
Sun	Mar 30	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL at 9 AM.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERVICES pot luck at 5:30 p.m. with worship service at 6:30 p.m.

HEARTLAND SPRING CONFERENCE GATHERING at Trinity Lutheran Church in Milaca Thursday, April 3. **ALL** Ladies come and we will spend a day together, with good fellowship, food and fun. Put your name on the signup sheet to join in the fun. The day with travel is usually from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. We could car pool. For questions contact Cheri Johnson, Co-Chair of Women of the ELCA (WELCA). You can see me or call (320)-684-2891.

BACK UP TREASURER is needed at Bethesda. Talk with Steve Long.

DECLARE HIS GLORY April 5th at 9 a.m. This is at Glory Baptist Church. Check the board in the fellowship hall for more details. The cost for the day's activities and lunch is \$15.00 for women and \$7.50 for teens. Call 218-927-3678 to make your reservation.

PERSONAL CARE KITS AND PILLOW CASE DRESSES- Lutheran World Relief offers support to people in need. Bethesda WELCA would like us all to help send personal care kits and pillow case dresses to Lutheran World Relief for distribution. Take time to look at the dresses on the board in the fellowship hall. Patterns and pillow cases are there for you to take to make more. Information on the Care Kits is found in the box with the sample towel kit.

APRIL COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED. Signup sheets are to the left of the serving window of the kitchen. Please check it out and take your turn.

Pick up your 2014 OFFERING ENVELOPES! Please!

ALL THINGS NEW- North Heights Original Easter Production Final Year. The cost is \$33.50 per person. This includes the ticket and bus transportation cost. There will be a stop for a meal on the return trip. Each one is responsible for their meal expense. The bus can pick us up right here at Bethesda. We need 47 people to sign up, pay and agree to go. There is a signup sheet in the fellowship hall for you to indicate which date you prefer to attend. You can choose April 5th or April 12th. If you have no preference and both dates work indicate that also. Contact Jan Phillips for questions.