

March 30, 2014
Fourth 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

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. I was blind, but now I see, declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved sons and daughters. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OPENING HYMN:

“Here I Am, Lord”

#574 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

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us.

By your gracious life and death for us,

bring light into the darkness of our hearts,

and anoint us with your Spirit,

for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

Amen

FIRST READING:

Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light that is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light — for the fruit of the light are found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you."

Psalm 23

Refrain: You anoint my head with oil. (Ps. 23:5)

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. R**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. R**

GOSPEL:

John 4:5-42

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man,

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.

Anoint your church, O God, so that as children of light we shine brightly in a world that longs to know you. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Restore the green pastures and still waters of this earth and lead us to be responsible stewards of all that you have created. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Shepherd all peoples. Break the barriers of hatred and prejudice between those of different races, faiths, genders, age, ability, and sexual orientation, that we live peaceably together. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bring goodness and mercy to all who suffer (*especially*), that they not want for anything. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Be present in this assembly and open our eyes so that we look, not on outward appearance, but upon one another's hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You have prepared a table for all who believe in you. We give you thanks for all our brothers and sisters in Christ who now dwell in your house forever. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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 Come to you for Healing, Lord” #617 ELW

THOSE SERVING THIS SUNDAY MARCH 30TH

Music: Marlys Beaver
Greeters: Wayne and Janice Olson
Ushers: Ron & Joani Mehlhop
Lector: Laury Nyberg
Coffee Servers: Jan & Ron Aho, Sue Lehman, Marilyn Andrews

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK

Attendance: (03-23-14) (03-26-14)
 9:00 a.m. - 91 6:30 p.m. - 49

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA MARCH 30 - APRIL 6, 2014

Mon	Mar 31	7:00 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues	Apr 01	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Text Study
Wed	Apr 02	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.	Choir Practice
Thurs	Apr 03	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S.
		8:00 a.m.	Heartland Spring Gathering Conference
		10:00 a.m.	Altar Care Meeting
		10:30 a.m.	Worship & Music
		12:30 p.m.	Fun timers
Fri	Apr 04	10:00 a.m.	Bone Builders
Sun	Apr 06	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service, Communion, Confirmation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THREE QUESTIONS please take time today to complete your questionnaire that is inside your bulletin and offer your feedback.

EASTER LILLIES go on sale today. Purchase a lily in honor or in memory of a loved one. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall. Check with Elsa Carlson.

EASTER COFFEE can be served if some folks will come forward and just offer to setup, make coffee and the church will purchase the treats. Talk with Pastor or Mary.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERVICES pot luck at 5:30 p.m. with worship service at 6:30 p.m. Sign up to help serve and clean up.

CHOIR PRACTICE will meet after Wednesday night Lenten Service. We are looking at singing for the Easter services.

HEARTLAND SPRING CONFERENCE GATHERING at Trinity Lutheran Church in Milaca Thursday, April 3. **ALL** Ladies are welcome. We will spend a day together, with good fellowship, food and fun. Today is the last day to sign up so we can arrange our car pool. Be at church before 8:00 am. For questions contact Cheri Johnson, Co-Chair of Women of the ELCA (WELCA). You can see me or call (320)-684-2891.

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. June 8th is the deadline for you to turn in the pillow case dresses and personal care kits.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

April 13th Palm Sunday 9:00 a.m.

April 17th Maundy Thursday 6:30 p.m. The Last Supper

April 18th Good Friday 9:00 a.m. Service of the Nails

April 20th Easter Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.