

July 27, 2014
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN, C 320-684-2846
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Prayer Chain Contacts: Char Berg 320-684-2102 or Judy Forester 218-676-2667
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

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INTRODUCTION

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OPENING HYMN: **“For All the Saints” vs. 1- 4** **#422 ELW**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

In the presence of God, who sees our hearts and our minds, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our strength,
we confess that we are captive to the power of sin that dwells within us.
We put ourselves first and others last.
What we think will make us happy leaves us longing for more.
Even when we want to do what is good, we find ourselves doing the opposite.
Rescue us from death's grip on our lives, and raise us up day by day,
that we may be alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

Sisters and brothers,
all have fallen short of the glory of God;
therefore we are justified by God's grace as a gift.
Nothing can separate us from the love of God in + Christ Jesus,
in whom we have forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, your ears are open always to the prayers of your servants. Open our hearts and minds to you, that we may live in harmony with your will and receive the gifts of your Spirit; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

FIRST READING:

Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalm 128

Refrain: Happy are they who follow in the ways of God. (Ps. 128:1)

Happy are they all who fear the LORD,
and who follow in God's ways!

**You shall eat the fruit of your labor;
happiness and prosperity shall be yours. R**

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house,
your children like olive shoots round about your table.

**The one who fears the LORD
shall thus indeed be blessed.**

The LORD bless you from Zion,
and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

**May you live to see your children's children;
may peace be upon Israel. R**

GOSPEL:

Matthew 13:31 -33, 44-46

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

SERMON HYMN:

"Spirit of Gentleness"

#396 ELW

SERMON:

"Treasure Hunt"

OFFERTORY HYMN: “Have No Fear Little Flock”

#764 ELW

OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER

**God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you,
and you open your hand in blessing.**

**Fill us with good things at your table,
that we may come to the help of all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.**

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Filled by the Spirit, let us join the whole people of God in Christ Jesus in praying for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Gracious Lord, the unfolding of your words gives light to those who love your name throughout the world. Fill the hearts of all preachers and teachers with your wisdom.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Your earth is filled with abundant life: fish, animals, and plants of all shapes and sizes, from the smallest shrub to the greatest tree. Teach us to conserve these gifts for the benefit of all. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Righteous God, people of all nations clamor for justice. Give their leaders understanding minds to discern between good and evil, govern wisely, and listen to their suffering people. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Faithful One, we trust that all things work together for good. Bring hope to those who have no job, who have no place to call home, or who are in any need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Search our hearts and minds and open the doors of this congregation to those who seek refuge or need a place to belong, that all who come to us find shelter in our life together. Lord, in your mercy,

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Your face shines upon those faithful servants who now rest with you in your heavenly kingdom. Remind us that neither death nor life can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your loving hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
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. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN: “For All the Saints” vs. 5, 6, &7 #422 ELW

THOSE SERVING:

Saturday Eve Pianist: Marilyn Samuelson

Sunday Organist: Marlys Beaver

Sunday Greeters: Del & Diane Jones

Ushers: 8:30 am Roy & Char Berg
10:00 am Jerry & Caroline Morris

Lectors: 8:30 am Sue Samuelson 10:00 am Judy Seifert

Coffee Servers: Marilyn Elling and Val Benton, Bill & Cheri Johnson

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK

Attendance: (07-19-14) Saturday Eve - 32

(07-20-14) Sunday 8:30 a.m. - 125

10:00 a.m. - 59

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA July 28 - August 3, 2014

Mon	July 28	9:00 am	Golf
		7:00 pm	AA & Alanon
Tues	July 29	8:30 am	No Pastor's Text Study
Wed	July 30	8:30 am	No Bible Study
		9:30 am	Hardanger
		11:00 am	No Bible Study
		6:00 pm	Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team Practice
Thurs	July 31	8:00 am	No R.O.M.E.O.S.
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
		6:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Fri	Aug 1	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sat	Aug 2	8:00 am	Veggie Stand
		5:00 pm	Saturday Eve Service with Communion
Sun	Aug 3	8:30 am	and 10:00 am Worship Services with Communion

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor will be on vacation after church today Sunday, 7/27/2014. He will return Tuesday, 8/5/14. For pastoral needs contact Pastor Paul Brown, Faith Lutheran Church in Isle. The phone number there is (320) 676-3171.

It is time to work on your Annual Report contributions. Articles and nominees for offices are due the first week of September. Information can be forwarded to the Church Council Secretary, Nancy Hansen. You can contact her by phone (320) 676-3506 or email her at nlhansen@scicable.com when you have your report completed or have questions.

If you are in need of prayer, Bethesda Lutheran has a prayer chain of caring people who are willing to pray for you. To ask for prayer through the Prayer Chain call Char Berg (320)-684-2102 or Judy Forester (218) 676-2667. If you feel you are being called to pray and would like to participate call either Char or Judy to join. Your name will be added to the list.

Worship and Music Committee will be August 7, 2014 at 10:00 am. Please mark your calendars.

New Members will be received on the last Sunday of each month. Please contact Pastor Raisanen to learn more about joining.