

Sunday, September 21, 2014
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO
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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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Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables, in which Jesus says the reign of God is like workers who get paid the same no matter when they start. When God changes his mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN:

“Be Thou My Vision”

#776 WOV

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the Sovereign over all the earth,
the Wisdom from on high,
our merciful Judge and Savior.

Amen.

Let us boldly approach the throne of grace, trusting in God's mercy and love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Generous and faithful God,
we confess to you all the ways, known and unknown, that we reject and undermine your steadfast love. Though you made us your people, we treat strangers with suspicion.

Though you forgave our debts, we collect without mercy.

Yet we are quick to pass judgment on others.

Have mercy on us, O God,

and remember your promise to us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Through the living Word, + Jesus Christ, God forgives your every debt, your every sin, and gives you a new heart and a new spirit.

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

Let us pray.

Lord God, you call us to work in your vineyard and leave no one standing idle. Set us to our tasks in the work of your kingdom, and help us to order our lives by your wisdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

CHOIR

FIRST READING:

Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well — since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Psalm 145: 1-8

Refrain: The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Ps. 145:8)

I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

**One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power. R**

I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your^l marvelous works.

**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. R**

GOSPEL:

Matthew 20: 1-6

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

HYMN: “Softly and Tenderly” #734 WOV

SERMON: “That’s Not Fair”

OFFERTORY HYMN: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” #771 WOV

OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Generous God, you claim us as your own and your church declares your greatness. Make all who serve you, especially our bishops, pastors, missionaries, diaconal ministers, and chaplains serving institutions and the military, firm in one spirit. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The goodness of your creation is a celebration of your mighty acts. Enable us to appreciate the smallest to the largest of wonders and to be worthy stewards of all your gifts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

People of all nations sing aloud of your righteousness. Incite us to commit acts of peace, break down barriers, crush complacency, and stand up to intolerance. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Strengthen those who suffer (*especially*). Transform pain into purpose, sorrow into courage, fear into generosity, and loneliness into compassion. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Form the desire of our congregation to live as the body of Christ in the world. Place among us overflowing fonts and tables set as a feast for all people. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

The lives of your saints (*especially Matthew, apostle and evangelist*) are evidence of your salvation. Give meaning to all our days, then grant us peaceful deaths and unite us with those we love in praising your name. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your mercy and goodness, we bring before you these prayers and whatever else you see that we need, in the name of the one who sets us free, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We thank you, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have fed us in a way our hearts can understand, with the saving body and blood of Jesus Christ.

Enliven us by your presence in this meal, that we may be your presence in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

The blessing of almighty God, the Father of glory, + Jesus Christ our peace, and the Spirit of truth, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN:

“Go My Children”

721 WOV

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Organist: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Ron & Jan Aho
Ushers: 8:30 a.m. Cheri & Bill Johnson
10:00 a.m. Jerry & Carolyn Morris
Lector: 8:30 a.m. Sue Samuelson
Coffee Servers: Karen & Rick Carron

RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD LAST WEEK

Attendance:

Sunday 9/14/2014 Attendance: 8:30 a.m. - 85 10:00 a.m. – 41

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA Sept 21 THRU Sept 28, 2014

PASTOR OUT MONDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY

Attending Ministerial Conference

Sun	Sept 21	8:30 am & 10:00 am /Communion
Mon	Sept 22	7:00 p.m. AA & Alanon
Tues	Sept 23	9:00 a.m. Quilters
Wed	Sept 24	Newsline Articles are Due!! 8:30 a.m. No Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Mission & Evangelism 9:30 a.m. Hardanger 11:00 a.m. No Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Choir 7:00 p.m. Praise Team
Thurs	Sept 25	8:00 a.m. R.O.M.E.O.S. 12:30 p.m. Fun Timers 6:00 p.m. Bells
Fri	Sept 26	10:00 a.m. Bone Builders
Sat	Sept 27	10:00 a.m. Brunch Young Family Focus
Sun	Sept 28	9:00 a.m. One Worship Service Annual Meeting follows Service

