

**Sunday, November 16, 2014**  
**Twenty Third 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 LIVE and SERVE through FAITH*

*we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS*

*we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.*

**Hearing Assistance is available during the service.**  
**Please notify usher if you would like assistance**

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**INTRODUCTION**

*Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**OPENING HYMN:**                            **“My Lord What a Morning”**                            **#438 ELW**

**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**

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**

**Lord God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that, always keeping in mind the end of all things and the day of judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of life here and may live with you forever in the world to come, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

## **FIRST READING:**

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

*Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

## **PSALM**

**Psalm 90:12**

*So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.*

<sup>1</sup>Lord, you have been our refuge  
from one generation to another.

<sup>2</sup>**Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or the land and the earth were born,  
from age to age you are God.**

<sup>3</sup>You turn us back to the dust and say,  
"Turn back, O children of earth."

<sup>4</sup>**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past  
and like a watch in the night; R**

<sup>5</sup>you sweep them away like a dream,  
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

<sup>6</sup>**in the morning it is green and flourishes;  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

<sup>7</sup>For we are consumed by your anger;  
we are afraid because of your wrath.

<sup>8</sup>**Our iniquities you have set before you,  
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance. R**

<sup>9</sup>When you are angry, all our days are gone;  
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

<sup>10</sup>**The span of our life is seventy years,  
perhaps in strength even eighty;  
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,  
for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**

<sup>11</sup>Who regards the power of your wrath?  
Who rightly fears your indignation?

<sup>12</sup>**So teach us to number our days  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. R**

## **GOSPEL:**

## **Matthew 25:14-30**

*Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.*

<sup>14</sup>For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in

a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'  
<sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'  
<sup>26</sup>But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

**SERMON HYMM:**                                    **“Blessed Assurance”**                                    **#638 ELW**

**SERMON:**                                            **“Risky Business”**

**OFFERING & OFFERTORY SONG: “Let us Break Bread Together”    #471 ELW**

### **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.**

### **THE PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION**

Remembering the saints who have gone before us and giving thanks for God's blessings, we pray for the church, all in need, and God's good creation.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church, that it continues to sow seeds of mercy, love, forgiveness, and joy, even as it anticipates your coming again to bring restoration to the new heaven and earth. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all creation, for the wonder of climate and tide, of mountains, valleys, rivers, and oceans, that we become better stewards of this bounty. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all nations, their leaders and governments, that they replace power, pride, greed, and enmity with justice, mercy, reconciliation, and peacemaking. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the lonely, the disheartened, those who suffer from debilitating illness, those who cannot speak for themselves, and those in any need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for our congregation's leaders, that they continue to encourage us and send us out in peace and love to follow your call. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for all the saints, for their faithfulness and perseverance in following you, whose examples will bring us closer to you. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and hopes, Good Shepherd, and bring us safely into all joy and peace, through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is your light.  
**Thanks be to God!**

### **CLOSING HYMN:**

**“Soon and Very Soon”**

**#439 ELW**

**Great to have you join us for worship! Please come again.**

## THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Marlys Beaver  
Greeters: Bob and Kathy Carlson  
Ushers: 8:30 am Skip and Lynn Hansen  
10:00 am Dick and Sue Stebbins  
Lector: 8:30 am Sue Samuelson  
Hospitality Hosts: Joni and Ron Mehlhop & Marge and Rich Nelson

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, November 9nd 8:30 am – 62, 10:00 am – 19

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda November 16<sup>th</sup> through November 23<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Monday	11/17	7:00 pm	AA & Alanon
Tuesday	11/18	8:00 am	Pastor's Text Study, Onamia
		1:00 am	Double Deck Pinochle
		6:00 pm	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday	11/19	8 am-noon	WIC
		8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Hardanger
		9:30 am	WELCA
		11:00 am	Bible Study
		6:00 pm	Choir
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	11/20	8:00 pm	R.O.M.E.O.S
		10 am-noon	Navigating Holidays with Loss of Loved Ones
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
		6:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Friday	11/21	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	11/22	8:30 am	Early Service
		10:00 am	Second Service

**Newsline Articles are Due! November 20<sup>th</sup> !**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**November WELCA Meeting** Please come to the Women of the ELCA meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 9:30 a.m. Hope to you there!

**Thank You!** To all who helped with our Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Event. We put together over 50 boxes last Sunday. We had five families bring their young children to help assemble. Thank you to Cheri and Bill Johnson for cooking and serving our pancake and sausage breakfast, to Marilyn Andrews, Mary Kramer and Steve Long for serving and cleanup. And thank you to Laurie Westerlund of Sunrise Cafe for donating our breakfast! Thank you to Darlene Christensen for donating the milk and Coordinating Operation Christmas Child. One can still donate items and cash to help with postage until November 16<sup>th</sup>.

**The Church Choir Needs You!** Check it out on Wednesday night 6:00 -7:00 pm. Practice has begun for the Christmas Cantata. Every voice contributes to our performance.

**Double Deck Pinochle** Join us on Tuesdays 1:00 pm at church. It is great fun! If you want to learn how to play, we'll be happy to teach you.

**Women's Christmas Luncheon** is Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. It is at church. Mark your calendar and watch for signup sheet.

**Church Christmas Dinner** It is time to plan to gather for our Church Christmas Dinner. This is Monday, December 8, 2014 at 6:00 pm. It will be held at the Pine Inn. There will be a sign up sheet next week and more details.

**Navigating the Holidays** This presentation will be offered November 20, 2014 at 10:00am at church. The presenter is Sue Lyback, Mille Lacs Hospital Social Worker. The focus of this presentation is offering support for people who have lost a loved one or maybe a caregiver for someone who is nearing the end of their life. All are welcome.

**Thanksgiving Service** will be held November 26, 2014 at 6:30 pm. Let us gather to offer our praise and thanks!

**Glory Women's Christmas Salad Luncheon** Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 12:30 pm, Glory Baptist Church



