

# Sunday, November 23, 2014

## Christ the King Sunday



### **BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

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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**

*On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet awaiting the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**OPENING HYMN:**

**“Amazing Grace”**

**#779 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**

**Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things to your beloved Son, whom you anointed priest forever and king of all creation: Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united under the glorious and gentle rule of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

## **BELLS**

**“Sweet Hour of Prayer”**

## **FIRST READING:**

**Ephesians 1:15-23**

*In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord both of the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.*

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

## PSALM

Psalm 95:1-7a

*We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. (Ps. 95:7)*

<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of<sup>1</sup> our salvation.

<sup>2</sup>**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup>For you, LORD, are a great God,  
and a great ruler above all gods.

<sup>4</sup>**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are also yours. R**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, for you made it,  
and your hands have molded the dry land.

<sup>6</sup>**Come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

<sup>7</sup>For the LORD is our God,  
and we are the people of God's pasture  
and the sheep of God's hand. R

## GOSPEL:

Matthew 25:31-46

*Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.*

<sup>31</sup>When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' <sup>41</sup>Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty



For our congregation, that we do everything possible to bring joy and peace into our neighborhoods and communities, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

For the blessed gifts of saintly lives, that they inspire the witness of all believers who live in your promises, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

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**

**BENEDICTION**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is your light.

**Thanks be to God!**

**CLOSING HYMN:**

**“Lift High the Cross”**

**#660 ELW**

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

## THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Marlys Beaver  
Bell Choir  
Greeters: Maynard and Kathy Berland  
Ushers: 8:30 am Skip and Lynn Hansen  
10:00 am Dick and Sue Stebbins  
Lector: 8:30 am Lynn Hanson  
Hospitality Hosts: Tom and Judy Forester; Carol Schlottman & Bruce Gingerich

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, November 16: 8:30 am – 95, 10:00 am – 42

## THIS WEEK AT Bethesda November 23 through November 30, 2014

Monday	11/24	7:00 pm	AA & Alanon
Tuesday	11/25	8:00 am 1:00 pm	Pastor's Text Study, Onamia Double Deck Pinochle
Wednesday	11/26	8:30 am 9:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 am 6:30 pm	Bible Study Hardanger Mission & Evangelism Bible Study Thanksgiving Service
Thursday	11/27	Thanksgiving Day	
Friday	11/28	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	11/30	8:30 am 10:00 am	Early Service Second Service

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Poinsettia Plants** Sign-up between services to purchase plants – Cost is \$15

**Quilt Sale** Bethesda Quilters will have their December quilt sale on Sunday, Dec. 7 between services and Sunday, Dec. 14, after the Christmas Cantata.

**Pancake Breakfast** Sunday, Nov. 23, 8 am-1 pm, Wealthwood Rod & Gun Club. Cost is \$7 adults, \$3 children under 12. Food Shelf donations requested.

**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** 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 between service.

**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. Make your reservation by calling 218-927-3678 by December 1.