

Sunday, December 21, 2014

Fourth Sunday of Advent



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:

God keeps the promise made to David, to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OPENING HYMN: **“Angels We Have Heard On High” #289 ELW**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who shapes the whole creation,
who comes with might and mercy,
who fills the hungry with good things.
Amen.

Let us approach the throne of grace with repentant hearts.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,
we confess that we have been unfaithful to you.
Like dry leaves and withered grass,
our lives are blown about by our sins
and the powers of evil around us.
Restore us, O God;
let the light of your face shine on us,
and we shall be saved. Amen.

God is patient, not wanting any to perish,
but all to come to repentance.
In the name of + Jesus Christ,
I bring you this good news:
You are free from all that imprisons you;
your sins are forgiven;
God heals your broken hearts.
Live in peace and harmony
as you wait for the day of God.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.
With your abundant grace and might,
free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy,
that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world,
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.**

FIRST READING:

Romans 16:25-27

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith — ²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever!
Amen.

PSALM

Luke 1:46b-55

You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Luke 1:52)

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**
From this day all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,
and holy is your name.
⁵⁰**You have mercy on those who fear you,**
from generation to generation. R
⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm;
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
⁵²**casting down the mighty from their thrones**
and lifting up the lowly.
⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,**
to remember the promise of mercy,
⁵⁵the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever. **R**

GOSPEL:

Luke 1:26-38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people (Mary) from littleknown places (Nazareth). This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in his gospel.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

SERMON HYMN:

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

#276 ELW

SERMON: “An Announcement to a Virgin”

OFFERTORY SONG: “What Child is This”

#296 ELW

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives.

Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

With longing and hopeful expectation, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Fill the church with your Spirit, that it may be a messenger of peace and goodwill. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Anoint the leaders of nations to protect and care for those who are vulnerable, weak, poor, and oppressed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Fill us with gratitude for sun, moon, and stars as we today mark the shortest day of the year and welcome the light. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Shelter all who are hungry and homeless, strengthen all who are perplexed or afraid, and comfort all who are grieving or ill (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Draw near to all in this assembly who will travel or welcome others this week, who are expecting a child or struggling with infertility, and who face the holidays with eagerness or anxiety. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With Mary we ponder the mystery of your grace, and give thanks for those who have gone before us in the faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, faithful God, as we watch and wait for your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Lord God, we give you thanks that you have fed us even now with the banquet that is yet to come.

Keep us alert for signs of your presence in the world around us.

Send us as healing oil and sheltering comfort to those in need,

and make us bold in testifying to the light of 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. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God!

CLOSING HYMN:

“Go Tell It On The Mountain”

#290 ELW

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Marlys Beaver

Greeters: Bruce Gingerich and Carol Schlottman

Ushers: 9:00 am — Jerry and Carolyn Morris

Lector: 9:00 am — JoAnn Haglund

Hospitality Hosts: Judy Wuorio, Jerry and Pat Becker

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week/Month

Attendance: Sunday, December 14: 9:00 am – 156

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda December 21 through December 28, 2014

Monday	12/22	7:00 pm	AA & Alanon
Tuesday	12/23	8:30 am	Pastor's Text Study, Onamia
Wednesday	12/24	3:30 pm	Christmas Eve Service
		5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
Thursday	12/25	10:00 am	Christmas Day Service
Sunday	12/28	9:00 am	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Day Potluck Dinner If you find yourself alone this Christmas Day, plan to participate in a Potluck Dinner in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex with a suggested menu or feel free to bring your favorite dish to share. Ham will be provided

Eye Glasses and Hearing Aids We are collecting used eye glasses and used hearing aids to be donated to the Lions, Int'l for repair and placement with the less fortunate. If you have any and would like to put them to good use, please bring them to church by Christmas. There is a box in the narthex for them.

Make the Holidays More Meaningful! Give a life-changing gift to Heifer International in honor of a friend or loved one. It's a gift that brings promise to hungry families and the opportunity for a better life to the less fortunate. Giving a Heifer gift takes the stress out of shopping while putting the meaning back into giving. Check the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall or call 855.848-6437 or go to their web site: www.heifer.org/catalog.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers needed Volunteers need at Shopko and Paulbeck's County Market in Aitkin. Dates are Nov. 24-Dec. 24. Money collected helps families and elderly in need in Aitkin County. Call the CARE office at 218-927-1383 to schedule a time.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Cantata. We appreciate all the hard work and beautiful music you sang for the Cantata and throughout the year. God Bless you all!

No **Bell Choir** practice till April.

Reminder to pick up your **Offering Envelopes** in the Fellowship Hall. The envelopes are all alphabetically arranged on the table next to the wall. Thank you.

Lake of the Woods Fishing Trip is set for January 12th to January 14th, 2014. One spot left. Sign-up sheet is in the narthex.