

Sunday, January 25, 2015
Third Sunday after Epiphany



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Church Secretary: Mary Braun

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:

Stories of the call to discipleship continue as the Time after Epiphany plays out the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of fisherman brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OPENING HYMN:

“Arise, Your Light Has Come”

#314 ELW

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who spoke light into creation,
who calls us to listen and follow,
who sends us to shine like stars.

Amen.

Let us come before God, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy and merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against our sisters and brothers and against you.
We cherish the values of this world. We cause others to stumble.
The earth is wounded by our excess. Have mercy, O God.
Forgive us, renew us, and raise us up on eagles' wings, that we may do your will
with courage and delight.

Amen.

Hear the voice from heaven: "You are my own, my beloved."
God gives power to the weary and strengthens the powerless.
Be cleansed, be healed, for in the name of + Jesus Christ,
I declare to you the forgiveness of your sins and the revealing of God's reign.

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 God,
by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service.
Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Today we welcome Barry & Donna Ansell

FIRST READING:

Jonah 3:1–5, 10

The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you. ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

PSALM

Psalm 62:5–12

God alone is my rock and my salvation. (Ps. 62:6)

⁵For God alone I wait in silence; truly, my hope is in God.

⁶God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.

⁷In God is my deliverance and my honor; God is my strong rock and my refuge.

⁸Put your trust in God always, O people, pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge. R

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted.

Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

¹⁰Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride; though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

¹¹God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, that power belongs to God.

¹²Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord, for you repay all according to their deeds. R

GOSPEL:

Mark 1:14–20

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as "the gospel" or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news."

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea — for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

SERMON HYMN:

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

#344 ELW

SERMON:

“The Kingdom is at Hand”

OFFERTORY SONG:

“I Love to Tell the Story”

#661 ELW

THE PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION

Called to know, love, and follow you, O God, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Lord God, call your whole church beyond small hopes and halfhearted witness. Stir your people to risk everything for the sake of your plan of salvation among us. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Call our hearts to greater love for your creation, that we see its goodness and bounty as a common trust to preserve for ages to come. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Call parliaments, councils, legislatures, and all governing bodies to put aside divisive rhetoric and partisan rancor. Diminish our thirst for personal victory and move us to seek the common good. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Call to the brokenhearted and all who hunger for healing. Enfold them in the fullness of your embrace. Restore wholeness of body and soul to all in need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Call this assembly to expand our vision to see your kingdom present and working among us. Free us from all that hinders us from following you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Call us to greater service through the example of your saints. We thank you for the faith of those who have led us to know and follow you (*especially the apostle Paul*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Trusting your love and healing, O God, we commend to you all for whom we pray, knowing you will hear and answer, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING 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.

BLESSING

God the Father, light-creator;
God the Son, Light from Light;
and God the Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
bless you and + give you peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God!

CLOSING HYMN: “Morning Has Broken”

#556 ELW

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Marlys Beaver

Greeters: Kathy Larson & Winnie Zahradka

Ushers: 9:00 am — Dick & Sandy Pullen

Lector: 9:00 am — Laury Nyberg

Hospitality Hosts: Bev Wedig, Marge Garbo, Marlys LeClaire, Judy Wozney

Thank you for your service!

Response to God’s Word Last Week/Month

Attendance: Sunday, January 18, 2015: 128

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda January 18 through January 25, 2015

Monday	1/26	7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	1/27	9:00am 1:00 pm 6:00 pm	Quilters Double Deck Pinochle Council Meeting
Wednesday	1/28	9:30 am	Hardanger
Thursday	01/29	12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	01/30	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	02/1	9:00 am	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance Registry Please sign and pass the attendance registry which you will find in the pew. This is a new process we are trying. This will replace the green cards. Information will be gathered for Evangelism.

Learning Opportunity for Everyone in our Congregation Bishop Patricia Lull from the Saint Paul Area Synod will be the keynote speaker on “Discipleship Today”, along with a variety of practical workshop options to attend. Saturday, March 14, 1-4 pm, Grace Lutheran Church in Mora. There is no charge plus coffee and refreshments will be served.

Coffee Servers Needed Signup sheets are to the left of the serving window by the kitchen. Please check it out and take your turn.

Ash Wednesday Potluck and Service There will be a potluck on Wednesday, February 18, at 5:30pm and Service at 6:30pm and every Wednesday during Lent.

Vacation Bible School Reserve the week of June 15-19, 2015 for our annual VBS.

Sunday Services Note that all Sunday Services will be held at 9:00 am during the months of January, February and March.

2015 Northeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly Quilt Auction is May 1-2 at Breezy Point Resort. The Synod quilt auction team has decided to expand the usual offering of beautiful quilts to ‘quilts and all things quilted!’ Create a quilt or quilt item for the auction or plan to take a spring road trip with friends and attend. Money raised goes to the ministry of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Contact Amy Loken at 218-525-3933, Ruth Mills at 320-679-3462 or Mary Jo Mettler at 320-279-2010.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY Please remember your can of soup or \$1 offering to our local food shelves.