

Sunday, February 15, 2015

Sixth 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:

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's beloved son. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OPENING HYMN:

“Day by Day”

#746 WOV

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 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, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST READING:

2 Kings 1:1-12

Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out,

"Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

PSALM (ELW)

PSALM 50:1–6

Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth in glory. (Ps. 50:2)

¹The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken;

calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

²Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God shines forth in glory. R

³Our God will come and will not keep silence;

with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

**⁴God calls the heavens and the earth from above
to witness the judgment of the people.**

⁵"Gather before me my loyal followers, those who have made a covenant with me
and sealed it with sacrifice."

⁶The heavens declare the rightness of God's cause, for it is God who is judge. R

GOSPEL

MARK 9:2–9

Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

SERMON HYMN:

“Precious Lord”

731 WOV

SERMON:

“Like a Butterfly”

OFFERTORY SONG: “I Want Jesus to Walk With Me”

#660 WOV

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

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

A brief silence.

Blessed are you, Holy One. It is your pleasure to shine the light of your presence on all you love. Enlighten your church and help it listen to and follow your Son. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed are you, Holy One. Your creative love shines in every growing thing that stretches toward the sun. Restore your creation to vibrancy and beauty, and open our eyes to see your splendor. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed are you, Holy One. You reveal true glory in the suffering of your Son. By his example, humble the hearts of leaders and quiet the pride of nations. Teach us the way of peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed are you, Holy One. You are the strength of the sick and suffering, the lonely and forgotten, the fearful and despairing. Shine the healing light of your presence on them (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed are you, Holy One. You pour your Spirit into young and old alike. Shine your light in the hearts of this congregation, and send us to carry your light to others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Blessed are you, Holy One. Your saints shine with the glory that fills the face of your beloved Son. At the last, gather us with them on your holy mountain. 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.

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 – All are welcome at the Table of our Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Everlasting God, we bless you that you have brought us to the mountaintop and fed us with the life and light of your Son. Send us in his name from this place to bring light into dark corners, healing where lives are torn, and nourishment to every hungry heart, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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: “Go, My Children, With My Blessing”

#721 WOV

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Marlys Beaver
Greeters: Marge Garbo & Marlys LeClaire
Ushers: 9:00 am — George & Kathy Larson
Lector: 9:00 am — Joan Petersen
Hospitality Hosts: Jack & Paula Spetz

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week/Month

Attendance: Sunday, February 8, 2015: 78

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda January 18 through January 25, 2015

Monday	2/16	7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	2/17	8:30 am	Pastor's Text Study, Onamia
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
Wednesday	2/18	8:30 am	Bible Study
		8:00am-Noon	WIC
		9:30 am	Hardanger
		5:30 pm	Pot Luck
		6:30 pm	Worship
Thursday	2/19	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	2/20	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	2/22	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. March needs a few more names.

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

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

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.