

Sunday, February 22, 2015

First Sunday in Lent



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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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 Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

OPENING HYMN: “Lord, Listen to your Children Praying” ELW#752

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 brings us out of captivity into freedom, out of the wilderness into the promised land, out of death into life.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin and to serve you in newness of life.

Amen.

By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, + God forgives us all our sins. Almighty God strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

or, especially on Ash Wednesday

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 brings us out of captivity into freedom, out of the wilderness into the promised land, out of death into life.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

For self-centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For longing to have what is not ours, and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For misuse of human relationships, and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For jealousies that divide families and nations, and for rivalries that create strife and warfare:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ, and for squandering the gifts of love and grace:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God

forgives us all our sins. Through the Holy Spirit God cleanses us and gives us the power to proclaim the mighty acts of the one who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin.

Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST READING:

Genesis 9:8–17

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, the Lord destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹²God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." ¹⁷God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness. (Ps. 25:10)

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

³Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths. R

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way. R

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies. R

GOSPEL:

Mark 1:9–15

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

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."

SERMON: “A Reminder to God and Us”

OFFERTORY HYMN: “I Want Jesus to Walk With Me” ELW#325

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Led by Christ in our journey of repentance and moved by his compassion, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Holy God, in baptism you wash us clean from sin and refresh us with your promise of belonging. Unite your church in proclaiming that in your family all are welcome, all are beloved, all are made whole. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer..

The earth thirsts for your life-giving water. We pray for desert places where there is no rain and for restoration of polluted rivers and oceans. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Flood our world with a desire for peace. Where people are oppressed, bring justice. Where there is terror, bring safety. Stir up compassion among leaders and citizens so that every person is treated with dignity, kindness, and love. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Your heart aches with those who are in pain. Tend to those who are hungry, lonely, lost, and those in any need (*especially*). Hear their cries and spur us to respond as your hands and heart in the world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bless ministers, musicians, teachers, visionaries, council members, committees, and all those who strive to lead this congregation faithfully into the future. Ground their work in scripture and prayer and fuel it with your great imagination. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda February 23 through March 1, 2015

Monday	2/23	7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	2/24	8:30 am	Pastor's Text Study
		9:00 am	Quilters
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
Wednesday	2/25	8:30am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Hardanger
		11:00am	Bible Study
		5:30pm	Pot Luck
		6:30pm	Worship
Thursday	2/26	8:00am	ROMEOS
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	2/27	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	3/1	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.

Wednesday Potluck and Service There will be a potluck every Wednesday during Lent at 5:30pm and Service at 6:30pm

Coffee Day Two times a year, when Daylight Savings Time begins and ends, we will receive containers of coffee. Coffee Day will be held March 8. Bring a tub of Folgers-or your favorite coffee-or make an offering-on March 10. Then come for coffee fellowship. Offer to host. Invite a friend! Thanks for your participation!

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.

Earl Julien passed away on Tuesday, February 17, 2015. His son Eric's address is posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship hall if you wish to send your condolences.