

# Sunday, March 8, 2015

## Third Sunday in Lent



### **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 third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The ten commandments are one of the chief parts of Luther's catechism, a core piece of baptismal instruction. They begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP: “Lord I Lift Your Name On High”** CCLI#117947

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN: “Just As I Am – Jesus Take All of Me”**

### 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.*

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.**

## **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**

**Holy God,**

**through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously.**

**Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM:                    “I Will Rise”**

**FIRST READING:**

**Exodus 20:1–17**

*After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The ten commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.*

Then God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup>You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>You

shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work — you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup>You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

## PSALM (ELW): Psalm 19

*The commandment of the LORD gives light to the eyes. (Ps. 19:8)*

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

<sup>2</sup>**One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

<sup>3</sup>Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

<sup>4</sup>**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

<sup>5</sup>It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

<sup>6</sup>**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat. R**

<sup>7</sup>The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

<sup>8</sup>**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true

and righteous altogether.

**<sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb. R**

**<sup>11</sup>By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.**

**<sup>12</sup>Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

**<sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.**

**<sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer. R**

GOSPEL:

**John 2:13–22**

*Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.*

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

**SERMON: "A Guide to a Rich and a Joyous Life"**

**OFFERTORY HYMN: "Jesus My Lord"**

**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.**

## THE PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION

*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.*

We pray for church leaders everywhere, that they be guided by your Spirit, preach the gospel faithfully, and lead a broken world into reconciliation. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for your creation everywhere: for the waters that nourish life, for vegetation that fills the earth, and for animals of every shape and species. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for missionaries everywhere, that they encounter the face of Christ and see your hand at work as they venture into new places and meet new people. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for hurting people everywhere, that they receive hope and healing. Be with those looking for work, battling addiction, mourning the loss of someone they love, or experiencing illness (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for this worshiping community. Make us faithful companions to those preparing for baptism, marriage, or participation in holy communion, and prepare us to welcome newcomers in our midst.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Remember your covenant with us, and keep us faithful to your commandments until we join with all the saints around your heavenly throne. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER – LED BY THE PRAISE TEAM

### BLESSING

The blessing of God Almighty, the wisdom and power of + Christ Jesus, and the light of the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CLOSING HYMN: “Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross”**

**ELW#335**

**It has been great having you join us for worship! Please come again.**

## THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: The Praise Team

Greeters: Marge Garbo & Marlys LeClaire

Ushers: 9:00 am — Bill & Cheri Johnson

Lector: 9:00 am — Dale Siems

Hospitality Hosts: Berry & Donna Ansell

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God’s Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, March 1, 2015: 98

## THIS WEEK AT Bethesda March 9 through March 15, 2015

Monday	3/9	7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	3/10	8:30 am	Pastor’s Text Study
		9:00 am	Quilters
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
Wednesday	3/11	8:00am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Hardanger
Thursday	3/12	8:00am	ROMEOS
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	3/13	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	3/15	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 Day** Two times a year, when Daylight Savings Time begins and ends, we will receive containers of coffee. Coffee Day this spring is March 8. Be sure to set your clocks ahead 1 hour and bring a tub of Folgers-or your favorite coffee-or make an offering. Then come for coffee fellowship. Offer to host. Invite a friend! Thanks for your participation!

**Wednesday Service & Potluck** There will be a potluck and service every Wednesday, during Lent. Potluck at 5:30pm and Service at 6:30pm.

**Choir Practice** Choir will start practice on Saturday, March 21st & Saturday, March 28th at 9:30 am. After that it will be Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm. Anyone interested in singing with the choir can just come to practice. Everyone is welcome.

**Sunday Services** Note that all Sunday Services will be held at 9:00 am during the months of January, February and until Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> when we will return to two services at 8:30am & 10:00am.

**Coffee Servers Needed** Signup sheets are to the left of the serving window by the kitchen. Please check it out and take your turn. The last Sunday in March needs a few names.