

Sunday, March 22, 2015

Fifth 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

God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's light and truth into our hearts. We see God's heart most clearly in the way Jesus shares human suffering, in an agony both the John and Hebrews readings describe.

OPENING HYMN: "Open Now the Gates of Beauty" Vs. 1-2-5 ELW#533

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.

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

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST READING:

Jeremiah 31:31–34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

PSALM (ELW): Psalm 51:1–12

Create in me a clean heart, O God. (Ps. 51:10)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment. R

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice. R**

⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. R**

GOSPEL:

John 12:20–33

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine.

³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

SERMON HYMN

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

ELW#879

SERMON:

“The God of Second Chances”

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.

Gracious God, keep your church firm in faith, so that it might trust in your goodness even when the way is difficult and the future seems bleak. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

As the earth spins through another change of season, awaken trees and flowers from their winter's rest. Bring forth grain from the earth and fruit from the vine. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bring peace to nations devastated by war and violence (*especially*). Teach leaders to trust in your deep and abiding peace and make all of us instruments of that holy peace. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You come into a broken world that is never beyond your repair. Heal those who feel the effects of illness and injury in body, mind, or spirit (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bless the ministries of teachers and mentors in the faith and be with those preparing for baptism (*at the Easter Vigil*). Send newcomers into our midst, and prepare us to welcome them. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Remember your covenant with us, and write it on our hearts until we join with (*Jonathan Edwards and*) all the saints around your heavenly throne. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

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

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: "Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" Vs.1-2-3-6 ELW#886

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Marlys Beaver

Greeters: Jack & Paula Spetz

Ushers: 9:00 am — Ron & Joanie Melhop

Lector: 9:00 am — Mary Kramer

Hospitality Hosts: Ellen Burman, Grace Iverson, Marge Garbo, Bev Wedig

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, March 15, 2015: 85

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda March 23 through March 29, 2015

Monday	3/23	7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	3/24	8:30 am	Pastor's Text Study
		9:00 am	Quilters
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
Wednesday	3/25	8:30am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Hardanger
		5:30pm	Pot Luck
		6:30pm	Worship
Thursday	3/26	8:00am	ROMEOS
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	3/27	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Saturday	3/28	9:30am	Choir Practice
Sunday	3/29	8:30 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance Registry Please sign and pass the new attendance registry folders 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 Our last potluck during Lent will be this Wednesday at 5:30pm and Service at 6:30pm

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

Two Services We will return to two services on Sunday, March 29, 2015 (Palm Sunday). Services will be at 8:30am and 10:00am

Easter Sunday Services will be held at 8:00am & 10:00am with coffee and fellowship in between the services.

Choir Practice Choir practice has started on Saturday mornings at 9:30 am. As of April 1, 2015, choir practices will be on Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm. Anyone interested in singing with the choir can just come to practice. Everyone is welcome.