

Sunday, April 12, 2015

Second Sunday of Easter



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 Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

CALL TO WORSHIP: "I Am the Resurrection"

CCLI #9189

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: "Nothing But the Blood of Jesus"

CCLI #21332

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 calls us beloved children, who gathers us into one flock, who guides us into all truth.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful and just God,

we confess that we are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to atone for our sins. In the name of + Jesus Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven. Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill you with joy, and inspire you to live for others.

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, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, 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: “Every Act of Love”

FIRST READING: Acts 4:32–35

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

PSALM (ELW): Psalm 133

How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity. (Ps. 133:1)

¹How good and how pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity!

²**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe. R**

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore. R

GOSPEL: John 20:19–31

The story of Easter continues as the risen Lord appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

SERMON: "Christians and Grits"

OFFERTORY HYMN:

“Jesus Loves Me”

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION

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

Confident that the resurrection of Christ has defeated sin and death, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For the church throughout the world and its leaders, that their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus give life to all people, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For sun and moon, land and sea, and all living creatures, that the beauty of creation reveal God's good pleasure, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the leaders of the world and those who work for peace, that all live together in unity and work for the common good, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who doubt, the sick, the poor, the imprisoned, and those who are in any need (*especially*), that advocates be raised up in their midst to provide healing and wholeness, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who join in community here, and for those who are absent from our gathering, that all proclaim with Thomas, "My Lord and my God," let us pray. Have mercy, O God.

Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In thanksgiving for those who have died in the faith (*especially*), and for the faith they have made possible in our midst: that Christ has destroyed death and brought eternal life, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Holy God, by the death and resurrection of your Son, you have granted new life, abundant renewal, and salvation. Hear our prayers for the sake of the one who has set us free, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER – LED BY THE PRAISE TEAM

BLESSING

Almighty God, who raised our Lord Jesus from death, lift you up and restore you to wholeness.

Amen.

Jesus Christ, the Word of life, bless you and send you to be his witnesses.

Amen.

God the Holy Spirit, who renews the whole earth, refresh you in the gift of baptism this day and always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

CLOSING HYMN: “Allelu”

CCLI #9110

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: The Praise Team
Greeters: Winnie Zohradka, Judy Wozney
Ushers: 8:30 am — Chuck & Elsa Carlson
10:00 am – Ron & Joanne Haglund
Lector: 8:30 am – Sheila Penoyer
Hospitality Hosts: Ron & Joanie Haglund, Rich & Marge Nelson

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, March 5, 2015: 8:30am 135 10:00am 98

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda April 13 through April 19, 2015

Monday	4/13	9:00 am 7:00 pm	Women's Devotion (Pat Becker's house) AA/Alanon
Tuesday	4/14	8:30 am 9:00 am 1:00 pm	Pastor's Text Study Quilters Double Deck Pinochle
Wednesday	4/15	8:00-12:00 8:30am 9:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	WIC Bible Study Hardanger WELCA Bible Study Choir Practice Praise Team
Thursday	4/16	8:00am 12:30 pm	ROMEOS Fun Timers
Friday	4/17	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	4/19	8:30 am 10:00 am	Worship 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.

Free Program & Lunch Triad of Aitkin County invites you to a free program and lunch on Tuesday, April 21 at 11:00am. Program: “*FRAUDS AND SCAMS TARGETING SENIORS*”. American Legion Lee Post #086 (20 First Ave NE, Aitkin, MN). Reservations for free lunch required: call or email Sandy Liepins at 218-768-3355; liepins@frontiernet.net or Ginny Ekstrand at 218-752-1111; ekstrand@frontier.com

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

Women’s Devotions Monday, April 13th, 9:00am at Pat Becker’s. Study: New Testament.

Knowledge Bites Tuesday, April 14th, 2:00pm, Light of the Cross Lutheran Church Garrison. Topic: New Age Fishing Techniques & Equipment. Open to the public. No Charge. Treats and Beverages Served.

New Members We receive new members the last Sunday of the month. If you are interested in membership or associate membership, please talk to Pastor Raisanen.

Couple’s Retreats There are Still Openings for both retreats presented by: Ron Hunt, MA, MDiv, LP, Licensed Psychologist and Pastor

1. Love for a Lifetime: Marriage Enrichment Retreat - April 17-19 at Clearwater Forest Camp's Retreat House

2. For BetterForever: Marriage and Pre-marriage Retreat - April 26, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Brainerd

See Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall for more details.