

Sunday, April 26, 2015

Fourth 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 image of the Good Shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sister or brother in need.

OPENING HYMN:

“Day By Day”

ELW #790

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 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST READING:

Acts 4:5–12

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he is able to proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

⁵The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' ¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

PSALM (ELW): Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. R**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. R**

GOSPEL: John 10:11–18

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away — and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

SERMON HYMN

“Softly and Tenderly”

ELW #608

SERMON:

“When You Reach the Rejection Hotline”

OFFERTORY HYMN: “Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak”

ELW #676

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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 leaders of the church: bishops, pastors, lay professionals; for those who teach the gospel in our seminaries, colleges, and universities; that salvation be preached to all in word and deed, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the beauty of creation, for those who care for the land and all creatures, and for those who find recreation in natural resources, that all see God's goodness revealed there, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the rulers of nations, local and national leaders, and those who provide counsel to them, that they be guided by the command to love one another, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the sick (*especially*), the imprisoned, those living with HIV/AIDS, and those who feel themselves living without hope, that they know the comfort of the Lord surrounding them, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For families and friends, for those absent from worship, and for those celebrating significant events in their lives, that the Holy Spirit guide all God's people in their work and their journeys, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In thanksgiving for those who have died and by whose lives we have been nourished (*especially*), that we be bold in believing God's promise to be with us always, 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

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: "What a Friend"

ELW #742

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Pat & Jerry Becker
Ushers: 8:30 am — Lee & Barb Forrester
Lector: 10:00 am — Darrell Kelly
Hospitality Hosts: Warren & Gale Rolek, Chuck & Elsa Carlson

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, April 19, 2015 8:30am: 104 10:00am: 66

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda April 27 through May 3, 2015

Monday	4/27	7:00 pm 1:00 pm	AA/Alanon Double Deck Pinochle
Tuesday	4/28	9:00 am	Quilters
Wednesday	4/29	9:30 am	Hardanger
Thursday	4/30	12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	5/1	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	5/2	8:30 am 10:00 am	Worship 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.

Double Deck Pinochle will now be meeting on Mondays instead of Tuesdays. Same time: 1:00pm. All are welcome.

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

Spring Salad Luncheon Malmo Evangelical Free Church will host the event on Saturday, May 2nd, at 12:00 noon. Theme: “*The Joy of the Lord is our strength*”. RSVP to: 320 684-2201 by April 30th (please leave a message), or email: malmoefc@frontier.com See posting on bulletin board in Fellowship hall.

Memory Garden Bricks Orders will be taken for Memory Garden paver bricks through the first week of June. Messages engraved on the bricks can be worded to honor anyone important to you life...whether they be living on this green earth or in Heaven with the Lord. Order forms can be found in office for standard size (\$46) or large (\$75) bricks and payment is due upon delivery at summer’s end. Turn completed order forms into Val Benton or place in Nature Trail/Memory Garden office mailbox. Thanks and Happy Spring to all!

Bible Study A new Bible Study “If Grace Is True” is beginning on Wednesday, May 6th at 8:30am. Now would be a good time to begin.

Jelly Making Remember jelly making on Monday, May 11th at 8:00am. Please come and join in the fun. No experience needed. We need Certo, Surejell, sugar and rhubarb. Also needed are 8oz. jelly jars, lids and rings. Please think about donating.

Pie & Ice Cream Social Saturday, May 30. New items are needed for the live auction that is part of the event. More information will be available in the Life Line. Direct questions to Barb Forrester, Elsa Carlson, Char Berg or Pat Becker.