

Sunday, May 3, 2015
Fifth 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:

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding that we read of in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OPENING HYMN:

“Oh Savior, Precious Savior”

#820 ELW

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 God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

CHOIR ANTHEM: I Cry Holy

FIRST READING: 1 John 4:7–21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

PSALM (ELW): Psalm 22:25–31

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the LORD give praise!

May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,**

who rules over the nations. R

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead,

shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,**

whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,

saying to them, "The LORD has acted!" **R**

GOSPEL: John 15:1–8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love would bear fruit, for apart from him, they could do nothing.

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You

have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine,

neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide

in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

SERMON HYMN: “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

#807 ELW

SERMON:

“Abide”

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 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 mission of the church throughout the world, that all be led by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the good news that God is love, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For plants and animals, for clean water and air, for favorable weather, and for the whole of creation, that you guide us to serve as good stewards of the earth, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For judges, lawyers, and all court officials, for the leaders of government, and for all who seek justice in this world, that all be treated with fairness and equity, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who are poor, hungry, bereaved, distressed, and sick (*especially*), and for those who provide care and comfort, that all find assurance of God's unending love for them, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who yearn for meaning and community with others, that the Holy Spirit lead them to mentors in the faith; for those visiting this congregation; and for those who are away with family and friends, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In thanksgiving for the confessors of the faith in past generations, especially those who have died in the Lord, that they inspire future generations to proclaim the gospel, 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.

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God, we give you thanks for nourishing us with the bread of heaven and the wine of love, Jesus our risen Savior. As you send us into the world, guard us from the power of evil, keep us in unity with all your people, and by your Spirit move us to testify to your grace in our words and actions; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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: “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” #858 ELW

Great to have you join us for worship! Please come again.

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Marlys Beavers & Choir

Greeters: Maynard & Kathy Berland

Ushers: 8:30 am — Dennis & Audrey Bistodeau
10:00 am — Dick & Sue Stebbins

Lector: 8:30 am – Ruth Hamman

Hospitality Hosts: Jerry & Pat Becker, Bill & Cheri Johnson

Communion Servers: Gale & Warren Rolek, Dorothy Munding at 8:30 a service

Thank you for your service!

Response to God’s Word Last Week/Month

Attendance: Sunday, April 26, 2015: 8:30 am 90 10:00 am 34

Offerings for April

General: **\$14,959.96**

Building Fund: **\$995.00**

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda May 4 through May 10, 2015

Monday	5/4	7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
Tuesday	5/5	8:30 am	Pastor's Text Study, Onamia
Wednesday	5/6	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Hardanger
		1:30 pm	4H
		6:00pm	Choir Practice
		7:00pm	Praise Team
Thursday	5/7	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	5/8	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	5/10	8:30 am	Worship
		10:00 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.

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.

Memory Garden Bricks Orders will be taken for Memory Garden paver bricks through the first week of June. 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.

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.

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.

Happy Birthday Come celebrate Irene Long's 98th Birthday on May 10th at coffee between services.

Knowledge Bites "Puppy Imprinting & Consequences" seminar. Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 2:00pm. Light of the Cross Lutheran Church in Garrison. Open to the community, everyone is welcome, no charge, treats and beverages served. See Poster in Fellowship Hall for more information.