

Sunday, July 12, 2015
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Church Secretary: Mary Kramer-Long & 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

When Amos told what he saw when God held up the plumb line of justice next to Israel—that the poor were being trampled—he was a threat to the power of priests and king. John the Baptist also spoke truth to power, and Herod had him beheaded. In Herod's fear that Jesus is John returned from the dead, we may hear hope for the oppressed: that all the prophets killed through the ages are alive in Jesus. We are called to witness to justice in company with them.

CALL TO WORSHIP **“We Welcome You”**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK **Lee Forrester**

OPENING HYMN: **“You Are My All in All”**

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, the creator of wind and rain, field and ocean, the bread of life coming down from above, the power at work within us and this world.

Amen.

Before God and in the company of our sisters and brothers, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God and Father of all,

we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have thought better of ourselves than others. We have told lies, said hurtful things, acted in ways we wish we could take back, and looked the other way when action was needed. In your mercy, O God, forgive us, cleanse us, and heal us, for the sake of Jesus, our Savior.

Amen.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; everything has become new! In Christ, + you are a new creation: your sins are taken away and you are made new. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM: “We Believe”

FIRST READING: Ephesians 1:3–14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

PSALM (ELW): Psalm 85:8–13

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying. (Ps. 85:8)

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land. R

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway. R

GOSPEL: Mark 6:14–29

As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist's martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those opposed to the gospel of salvation.

¹⁴King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." ²³And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, "What

should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

SERMON: "Are You a Polar Bear?"

OFFERTORY SONG: "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory" #890 ELW

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer 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.

Gathered by the Holy Spirit and fed by the word, we come together as the people of God to pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Mighty God, raise up prophets in every age who speak truth through and to your church. Inspire preaching in our congregations so that your life-giving gospel is proclaimed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send favorable weather on crops, fields, orchards, and gardens. Provide ample pasture and grazing land for herds and flocks. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Give us leaders who consider the needs of all, especially those who have no advocate. Protect those who speak truth to power. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Tend to all victims of violence, those unjustly imprisoned, and those who are running out of hope. Heal those who are sick and comfort those who grieve (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Strengthen families, guide parents and caregivers, and enfold children with the riches of your grace. Send this assembly to share the gifts of love we have received. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for all your saints who were marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit (*especially Nathan Soderblom, Bishop of Uppsala*). United with them in baptism, keep us faithful until all things are gathered in Christ. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, loving God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the grace of Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER – LED BY THE PRAISE TEAM

BLESSING

Almighty and merciful God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you this day and forevermore.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in love, as Christ loved us.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMNS: “I’ll Fly Away”

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Saturday – Marilyn Samuelson

Sunday - The Praise Team

Greeters: Jerry & Carolyn Morris

Ushers: 8:30 am — Judy Wozney, Winnie Zahradka

10:00 am – Dick & Sue Stebbins

Lector: 8:30 am – Darlene Christensen

Hospitality Hosts: Bruce Gingerich & Carol Schlottman, Diane & Del Jones, Joyce Rimer

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Saturday, July 4, 2015: 5:00pm 138

Sunday, July 4, 2015: 8:30am 38 10:00am 97

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

July 13-July 19

Monday	7/13	9:00am	Women's Devotion (at Pat Becker's home)
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	7/14	7:30-10:00am	Pastor Text Study at Aitkin County Care
		9:00am	Quilters
		1:30 pm	Friendship Day
Wednesday	7/15	8:00-12:00	WIC
		8:30am	Bible Study
		9:30am	Hardanger
		11:00am	Bible Study
		6:00 pm	Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	7/16	8:00am	Romeos
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
		5:30 pm	Council Meeting
		6:00 pm	Hand Bell Practice
Friday	7/17	10:00am	Bones

Saturday	7/18	5:00 pm	Worship
Sunday	7/19	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.

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

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.

WANTED: Church Treasurer for our church. Duties include paying bills, maintaining records and providing monthly reports to Council. Approximately 20 hours/month required. Basic accounting and financial record keeping and fundamental computer knowledge required. If you have these skills and would like to make a difference for our church, contact the church secretary for full job description and application form.

KNOWLEDGE BITES Light of the Cross Lutheran Church program for this month is the *History of Garrison* by Joe Felleggy, Mille Lacs Historian. Church is 2 blocks west of Super Value in Garrison. Tuesday, July 14, 2015 at 2:00pm. Open to the community, everyone is welcome, treats and beverages served.

PLEASE NOTE: Women's devotion meeting will be on **Monday**, July 13th at Pat Becker's home. The Life Line Newsletter incorrectly posted it as Tuesday.

VEGGIE STAND is now open every Saturday morning until fall.

BEEF & CORN FEED will be on Saturday, July 25th from 4:30pm – 7:00pm

UPDATING OUR FILES We are updating our church files for a new directory. Please pick up the envelope with your name on it from the table in the Fellowship Hall and return forms to the church by July 31st.