

**Sunday, August 23, 2015**  
**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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Prayer Chain Contacts Char Berg 320-684-2102 or Judy Forester 218-678-2667

Church Secretary: Mary Braun & Mary Kramer-Long

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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## Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### INTRODUCTION

*In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" #807**  
**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, 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**

**Holy God,**

**your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC      “Sweet Hour of Prayer”      Hand Bell  
Choir**

## **FIRST READING: Ephesians 6:10–20**

*Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.*

<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

<sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

<sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.

<sup>16</sup>With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup>Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. <sup>19</sup>Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with

boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

**PSALM (ELW): Psalm 34:15–22**

*The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous. (Ps. 34:15)*

<sup>15</sup>The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and God's ears are open to their cry.

**<sup>16</sup>The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.**

<sup>17</sup>The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them and delivers them from all their troubles.

**<sup>18</sup>The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those whose spirits are crushed. R**

<sup>19</sup>Many are the troubles of the righteous, but the LORD delivers them from every one.

**<sup>20</sup>God will keep safe all their bones; not one of them shall be broken.**

<sup>21</sup>Evil will bring death to the wicked and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

**<sup>22</sup>O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants, and those who put their trust in you will not be punished. R**

**GOSPEL: John 6:56–69**

*The "hard saying" that offends Jesus' disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: "To whom shall we go?"*

<sup>56</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." <sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult;

who can accept it?" <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you?" <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup>And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

<sup>66</sup>Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

**SERMON HYMN      “Rise Up O Savior”      #669**  
**ELW**

**SERMON (Sunday)      “The Choice”**

**OFFERTORY SONG      “Here I Am Lord”      #574**  
**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.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

With confidence in God's compassion and generosity, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

Faithful God, we pray for the church. Lead it always to proclaim its faith in you,

who gives us the words of eternal life. Give your church the gifts of truth and righteousness. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for our fragile and beautiful planet. Renew our sense of wonder and our determination to care for your creation. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the leaders of the world. Equip them to serve with justice and to dispel the forces of evil. Inspire the citizens of every country to love wisdom and mercy. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the brokenhearted and those whose spirits are crushed. Wrap them in the warm embrace of your all encompassing love. Restore them to wholeness (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly as it prepares education ministries. Bless those planning and preparing for Sunday school, confirmation, adult education, and intergenerational learning opportunities. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for all who have gone before us. Give us wisdom to follow their example of faithful living and to stay true to the path of peace. Lord, in your mercy,  
**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.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

### **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 HYMN: “Go Tell It On The Mountain”**

**#290**

**ELW**

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

**THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Worship Leaders: Saturday – John Ansell

Sunday – Valerie Benton & Pat Becker

Music: Saturday – Marilyn Samuelson, Eric Emerson

Sunday – Marlys Beaver & Hand Bell Choir

Greeters: Sunday – Nancy Hansen & Ruth Hammon

Ushers: 8:30am - Nancy Hansen & Diane Sandberg

10:00 am – Jerry Morris

Lector: 8:30 am – Ruth Hamman

Hospitality Hosts: Judy Wuorio, Kathy Berlund, Harold & Ardis Kendall

***Thank you for your service!***

Response to God’s Word Last Week

Attendance: Sat. Aug. 15, 2015: 5:00pm 21 Sun. Aug. 16, 2015: 9:00am 114

**THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA**

August 24 –

August 30

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Monday	8/24	9:00 am	Personnel Committee Meeting
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	8/25	9:00am	Quilters
Wednesday	8/26	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30am	Hardanger
		9:30am	Mission & Evangelism Meeting
		11:00 am	Bible Study
		5:30 pm	Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	8/27	8:00am	Romeos
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
		6:00 pm	Hand Bell Practice

Friday	8/28	10:00am	Bones
Saturday	8/29	5:00 pm	Last Saturday Worship
Sunday	8/30	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.

**Coffee Servers Needed** Signup sheets are to the left of the serving window by the kitchen. Please check it out and take your turn. We need volunteers for September and beyond.

**VEGGIE STAND** is still open every Saturday morning.

**BETHESDA LUTHERAN OF MALMO ANNUAL JAMBOREE** Save the dates to attend! September 11 & 12 at 7:00 PM at Bethesda. The theme this year is “WE ARE THE WORLD” Songs of Inspiration. If you are interested in participating contact Val Benton (218) 879-9364 or Sheila Penoyer (218)534-5337. Spots are filling up so hurry and contact them if you are interested.

**ANNUAL REPORTS** All annual reports are due by August 31<sup>st</sup> and should be sent to Nancy Hansen at [nlhansen@scicable.com](mailto:nlhansen@scicable.com) or put in the “Council Secretary” box in the church office.

**Mission & Evangelism** committee will meet on Wednesday, August 26 at 9:30am.