

Sunday, August 23, 2015
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

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Kathy Berland RN ANP 320-495-3988

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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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.

boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for 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)

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

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

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

¹⁸The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those whose spirits are crushed. R

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

²⁰God will keep safe all their bones; not one of them shall be broken.

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

²²O 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?"

⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This 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." ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

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

who can accept it?" ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you?" ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But 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. ⁶⁵And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

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

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 31st and should be sent to Nancy Hansen at 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.