

Sunday, October 4, 2015
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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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

Today's gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus' saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God's law. Jesus' rebuke of the disciples who are fending off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?

OPENING HYMN: "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us" #789 ELW

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, whose name is majestic in all the earth, who rescues and heals in every time of trouble, who does all things well.

Amen.

Let us come before God, seeking forgiveness and life.

Silence is kept for reflection

Steadfast and saving God,
have mercy on us. We confess to you all the ways we turn from you and harm one another. In your compassion, forgive our sins and heal our hurts. Bring forth from us a harvest of righteousness, the fruits of gentleness and peacemaking, the sheaves of wisdom and justice; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

In the name of ✚ Jesus, the Son of God, receive mercy and find grace in your time of need. Your transgressions are forgiven; God's love is healing balm for your wounds. Rejoice, for God raises you up to new life in Christ.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM: “Blessing After Blessing”

First Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Quoting from the psalms, this passage from Hebrews emphasizes that Jesus, the one through whom God created everything and who sits at God’s right hand, is also the one who experienced human suffering and death in order to blaze the path of salvation for us.

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. ⁶But someone has testified somewhere,
“What are human beings that you are mindful of them,
or mortals, that you care for them?
⁷You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned them with glory and honor,
⁸subjecting all things under their feet.”

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them,⁹but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

Psalm: Psalm 8

You crown us with glory and honor. (Ps. 8:5)

¹O LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

²you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.

³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

⁴what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them? R

⁵Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them.

⁶You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet:

⁷all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,

⁸the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

⁹O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! R

GOSPEL: Mark 10:2-16

Jesus announced and enacted in history the new reality of God's surprising activity. These two stories demonstrate this new reality: Women and children are accepted and valued, not dismissed as inferior to adult men.

²Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" ³He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" ⁴They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." ⁵But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' ⁷'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that

the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

SERMON HYMN

“You Servants of God”

#825 ELW

SERMON:

“How God Looks at Marriage”

OFFERTORY HYMN:

“This Is My Father’s World”

#824 ELW

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.
Made alive with God in Christ, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

A brief silence.

Holy and loving God, through the cross of Christ, continue your redeeming and unifying work among your people. Show us how to live well with each other as one family. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Strengthen the bonds between humans and the animals who work with them: on farms, in households, and in emergency situations. Teach us to value all animals. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Walk faithfully with those who find great joy in relationships and with those who experience the pain of broken relationships. Make the church a place where all people may come to know loving companionship. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lift up your children who are bent and broken in times of crisis or long periods of suffering (*especially*). By your presence, restore their hope. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide and direct sisters and brothers in Christ who are engaged in specialized ministry for the sake of the world (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We bless you for the lives of the saints (*especially Francis of Assisi and Theodor, whom we commemorate today*), through whom you have revealed your love for the world. Continue to reveal your covenant life through us until the last day. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gather these concerns and all who are in need into your abundant care, O God, remembering your promise of mercy, through 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

We give you thanks, O God, that you welcome us to your table and satisfy our deepest hunger and thirst. By your gifts of word and holy meal, strengthen us to take up the cross as we go about our callings in this world, following after Jesus Christ, our servant Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

Like children in the arms of Jesus, receive blessing: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" #543 ELW

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Marlys Beavers & Choir

Greeters: Chuck & Elsa Carlson

Ushers: 8:30 am Paula Spetz, Lynn Hansen 10:00 am Ron & Joanne Haglund

Lector: 8:30 am Carolyn Morris

Hospitality Hosts: Quilting Group

Communion Servers: Gale and Warren Rolek and Diane Sandberg

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, September 27: 9:00am: 105

September Operating Expenses: **\$13,517.01**

Building / Facility Fund for September: **\$1,145.00**

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

October 5 – October 11

Monday	10/5	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	10/6	10:00-12:00	Pastor Text Study
		9:00 am	Crafters
Wednesday	10/7	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Hardanger
		11:00 am	Bible Study
		6:00 pm	Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team

Thursday	10/8	8:00 am 12:30 pm 6:00 pm	Romeos Fun Timers Bell Choir Practice
Friday	10/9	10:00 am	Bones
Sunday	10/11	8:30 am 10:00 am 1:30 pm	Worship Worship NE Synod Macedonia Project

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENDANCE REGISTRY Please sign and pass the new attendance registry folders which you will find in the pew.

St. FRANCIS OF ASSISSI DAY He is the patron saint of animals. For those interested in having your pet blessed, please join us at 1:30pm at the fire pit for a service of Blessing of the Animals. If you cannot meet today, another service will be held Saturday, October 10th at 1:30pm.

WORLD HUNGER SUNDAY has been designated for October 18. Please pick up a World Hunger Coin Box to save your change.

FOOD SAFETY CLASS Calling all women who work in the kitchen. There is a food safety class scheduled October 22nd from 9:00am – 12:00 noon at Bethel Lutheran Church in Palisade. These classes are very informative and necessary for everyone who works in the kitchen. Signup sheet is in the narthex. If you have taken the class before it needs to be repeated at least every 3 years.

HEARTLAND FALL GATHERING of Women of the ELCA will be held Oct. 24th, at Church of the Cross in Nisswa, MN. Signup sheet in the Narthex for car pooling. These conferences are very enjoyable and interesting. They usually have an excellent program. The topic this year is “Change”.

WELCA is in need of a co-chair. This is a 2 year term. The first year s mainly spent observing and the second year as chair. Basically all this involves is making the agenda and leading the meetings. There are only 6 meetings a year. Please consider this opportunity to serve. Without co-chairs WELCA will cease to continue and the organization is a vital part of the functioning of the church. If interested please contact Elsa Carlson 218-678-3408.

LUTEFISK, HAM & POTATO SAUSAGE DINNER Oct. 24th, from 3:30pm – 7:30pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Milaca. Meal price for all three entrees: \$15; Meal price for Ham & Potato Sausage dinner: \$10; Children (6-12) \$5; Ages 5 and under – free.

BRITHDAY PARTY for Dick Grip’s 90th birthday will be held on Saturday, Oct. 24th from 11:00am-4:00pm in the fellowship hall. All are invited.

