

Sunday, November 15, 2015

25th 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

November begins with All Saints Day and ends in or near Advent, when we anticipate Christ's coming again. So the readings today tell of the final resurrection and the end time. In the turmoil of hope, fear, and disbelief that these predictions provoke in us, Hebrews sounds a note of confident trust. Christ makes a way for us where there is no way, and we walk it confidently, our hearts and bodies washed in baptismal water, trusting the one who has promised. The more we see the last day approaching, the more important it is to meet together to provoke one another to love.

OPENING HYMN: "My Lord What A Morning" #627 WOV

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, clothed in majesty ever since the world began, who loves us and frees us from our sins, who leads us with all the saints to everlasting life.

Amen.

Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God.

Silence is kept for reflection

God our maker and redeemer,

we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We come for refuge to your infinite mercy. You have given your only Son to die for us; have mercy on us, and for his sake, forgive us all our sin. By your Holy Spirit, increase in us true knowledge of you and your will, and true obedience to your word, that by your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Almighty God has had mercy on us, and God's only Son has been given to die for us, and for his sake God + forgives us all our sin. Believing in Jesus' name, you have received power to become the children of God; you have received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

CHOIR ANTHEM: “A Celtic Thanksgiving”

First Reading: Hebrews 10:11-18

Images of worship and sacrifice are used throughout Hebrews to highlight what Christ has uniquely accomplished through his death. Because we have received forgiveness through Christ’s death, we live with sincere hearts by trusting in God’s promises and encouraging love and good works from each other.

¹¹Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹²But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God,” ¹³and since then has been waiting “until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.” ¹⁴For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. [¹⁵And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying,

¹⁶“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds,” ¹⁷he also adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” ¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.]

Psalm: Psalm 16

My heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; my body shall rest in hope. (Ps. 16:9)

¹Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

²**All my delight is in the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people.**

³But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴**I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods, never take their names upon my lips. R**

⁵O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.

⁶**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

⁷I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

⁸**I have set the LORD always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. R** (*My heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; my body shall rest in hope.*)

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰**For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.**

¹¹You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. **R** (*My heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; my body shall rest in hope.*)

Gospel: Mark 13:1-8, 24-32

In the last week of his life, Jesus warned his disciples concerning trials that were to come upon them and upon the world. He exhorts the listener: Do not be alarmed.

¹As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” ²Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

³When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴“Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” ⁵Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁷When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.”

²⁴But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.

²⁶At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

²⁸“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. ³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

SERMON: “When the Unthinkable Happens”

OFFERTORY HYMN: “I Was There To Hear Your Borne Cry” #770 WOV

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.

United into one by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray with all God’s saints for healing, wholeness, and peace in all the earth.

A brief silence.

Holy One, we pray for healing in the church; for forgiveness when we are quick to judge; for mercy when we are slow to love neighbors; for an end to racial divisions on Sunday mornings. Let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For stars and planets, black holes, and all the wonders of the universe; for astronomers and aerospace engineers; for science teachers and curious students; for the renewal of all creation. Let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For political refugees and all who seek asylum; for war-torn nations and our global neighbors accustomed to the sound of bombs and gunfire (*especially*); for our national enemies and for our country. Let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For people living with Alzheimer’s disease and Parkinson’s disease; for the family, friends, and caregivers who love them; for all who cannot afford medical care when they are sick; for all who mourn and suffer (*especially*). Let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For new parents and grandparents; for families grieving a miscarriage; for foster parents and homeless youth; for families living with domestic violence; for the newly married, recently divorced, and happily single. Let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In thanksgiving for all the faithful departed who now sing your glory (especially), that our voices might join with theirs in praise today and always. Let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Into your care, Alpha and Omega, we entrust all for whom we pray. Be with us now and always, through 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

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

The love of God who created you, the mercy of ✝ Jesus Christ who died for you, and the power of the Holy Spirit who strengthens you, keep you at one with all the faithful, living and departed, and remain with you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN:

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

#771 WOVS

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Marlys Beavers & Choir
 Greeters: Warren & Gale Rolek
 Ushers: 8:30 am- George & Kathy Larson 10:00 am- Steve Long
 Lector: 8:30 am- Char Berg
 Hospitality Hosts: Jack & Paula Spetz
 Communion Servers: Bruce Gingerich, Carol Schlottman, John Ansell

Thank you for your service!

Response to God’s Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, November 8: 8:30am 64 10:00am: 29

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

November 16 – November 22

Monday	11/16	9:00 am	Women’s Devotions at Pat Beckers
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	11/17	10:00-12:00	Pastor Text Study
		2:00 – 4:00 pm	4-H
		5:30 pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday	11/18	8:00-12:00	WIC
		8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	WELCA Meeting
		9:30 am	Hardanger
		10:30 am	Mission & Evangelism Meeting
		6:00 pm	Choir Practice
		6:15 pm	Cantata Practice
		7:00 pm	Confirmation Class
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	11/19	8:00 am	Romeos
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
		5:30 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Friday	11/20	10:00 am	Bones
Sunday	11/22	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.

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.

WELCA MEETING November 18th at 9:30am. The scheduled speaker, Julie Swaggert, will have to reschedule her talk. Everyone is welcomed.

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON is Saturday December 5th at 11:00 am. It is at church. Mark your calendar and watch for signup sheet.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD We at Bethesda will be participating in the collection scarves, socks, etc. Please place them on the tree in the narthex. The gifts will be distributed on December 14th.

RECYCLING HELP Than you to Lloyd & Shirley Lilienthal for their many years of recycling. They have retired and Bethesda needs volunteers to help recycle cardboard, paper, glass and tin. The office and events in the fellowship hall generate lots of recycling. Malmo and Isle offer free recycling the 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month. Please contact the church office if you are interested in volunteering to help out the recycling.

FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER at Appledorn's Sunset Bay Resort. The Appledorn's Family would like to make sure everyone has a warm meal & family to spend Thanksgiving with. Bring a non-perishable food donation. Call 320-676-8834 so they can prepare appropriately.

FOOT CLINIC our next Foot Care Clinic will be held on Saturday, December 5th. Call the church office to make an appointment: 320-684-2123 (M-F 11:00am – 3:00pm).