

Sunday, November 22, 2015
Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

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Church Secretary: Mary Braun & Mary Kramer

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:

Even after Israel had experienced the vagaries of kings, they still longed for a true king to set things right. He would have the king's title of Anointed One (Messiah); he would be the "one like a human being" (Son of Man) given dominion in Daniel's vision. Jesus is given these titles, even though he is nothing like an earthly king. His authority comes from the truth to which he bears witness, and those who recognize the truth voluntarily listen to him. We look forward to the day he is given dominion, knowing his victory will be the nonviolent victory of love.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OPENING HYMN: "Morning Has Broken" #556 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, 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 and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC: “With Peals of Thanks and Praise” Bell Choir

Music selected by Darwin Bruesewitz and provided by the Mel Hamman Memorial Fund.

10:00AM SERVICE:

Today a new brother in Christ will join us in baptism. Weston Robert Roseberg.

First Reading: Revelation 1:4b-8

The book of Revelation begins by celebrating the Almighty God, who spans all of time. Similarly, Jesus is celebrated as the firstborn from the dead who rules over the world’s rulers. He is the one whose return we eagerly await.

^{4b}Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Psalm: Psalm 93

Ever since the world began, your throne has been established. (Ps. 93:2)

¹The LORD is king, robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength. The LORD has made the world so sure that it cannot be moved.

²Ever since the world began, your throne has been established; you are from everlasting. R (*Ever since the world began, your throne has been established.*)

³The waters have lifted up, O LORD, the waters have lifted up their voice; the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

⁴Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea, mightier is the LORD who dwells on high.

⁵Your testimonies are very sure, and holiness befits your house, O LORD, forever and forevermore. **R** (*Ever since the world began, your throne has been established.*)

Gospel: John 18:33-37

In John's gospel, the story of Jesus and Pilate presents two different ways of exercising power: through force or with love.

³³Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

SERMON HYMN: "This Little Light of Mine" #673 ELW

SERMON: "What Kind of King is This?"

OFFERTORY SONG: "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" #836 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

THE 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.

Ancient One, you are beyond our understanding. Forgive us when our imaginations limit the depth of your being. Expand our vision of who you have been, who you are, and who you will be. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Mountain maker, you created Earth and all that is in it. Heal environments damaged by human carelessness. Teach us to honor and care for your whole creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious sovereign, your majesty knows no bounds. Bring your kingdom to violent places. Send us out to share your peace in the world. Help us see how we participate in systems of injustice. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Divine nurse, you care for all people. Stir us to care for all your children. Be with all who experience unemployment, homelessness, abuse, or who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Trinity, you call some to be prophets and some to be priests. Be with all who discern a call to ministry in your church. Bless the work of call committees and candidacy committees. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal truth, your word goes forth in every generation. We give you thanks for the priesthood of all believers and remember with joy and sorrow the saints who shared the gospel with us (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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: “Soon and Very Soon”

#439 ELW

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Sunday: Marlys Beavers & Bell Choir

Greeters: Ron & Joni Melhop

Ushers: 8:30 am – George & Kathy Larson
10:00 am – Steve Long

Lector: 8:30 am – Ruth Hamman

Thank you for your service!

Response to God’s Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, November 15, 2015: 8:30 am 81 10:00 am 42

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDANovember 23rd – November 29th

Monday	11/23	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle AA/Alanon
Tuesday	11/24	10-12 9:00 am	Pastor Text Study Quilters
Wednesday	11/25	8:30 am 9:30 am 5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Bible Study Hardanger Pot Luck Thanksgiving Service
Thursday	11/26	THANKSGIVING	
Friday	11/27	1:00 pm	Aitkin Fish House Parade
Sunday	11/29	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.

WELCOME To Weston Robert Roseberg. We pray for God's blessings for Weston and his family

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

THANKSGIVING POT LUCK AND SERVICE We will have a Potluck supper on Wednesday, Nov. 25 at 5:30pm. Our Thanksgiving service will follow at 6:30pm.

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).

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

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 Thank you to the Vukelich family for their offer to do the recycling for Bethesda Church.

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.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN Sign up to join us in packing food on Tuesday, December 1st from 9:30-11:00am in Coon Rapids. Signup sheet is in the Fellowship Hall. Please leave a phone number so we can arrange car pooling.

CHRISTMAS PARTY There is a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall for the Annual Christmas Party. When: Monday, December 7th at 5:30pm. Location: MSA. Enjoy and evening of fellowship and a short program by Val. See signup sheet for more details.

WANTED for next year's bazaar – any deer antlers and grouse tails. Please call Char Berg at 320-684-2102.

DIRECTORY Please stop by the Fellowship Hall and pick up your new church directory. If information is incorrect, please write the changes on a piece of paper and put in the basket on the secretary's desk in the office. We will put any new updates in the monthly newsletter so you can correct your copies.

CHRISTMAS CARING & SHARING project will use part of our local benevolence dollars from the veggie stand and designated donations to give gas and food cards to needy families. If you know someone who needs help this Christmas please complete the forma and place in box in the entry by December 13.