

Sunday, December 27, 2015

First Sunday of Christmas



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Church Secretary: Mary Kramer & Mary Braun

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

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OPENING HYMN: **“Angels We Have Heard on High”** **#289 ELW**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh, the Lord and giver of life.

Amen.

Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God’s mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of peace,

we confess that we are not at peace — with others or with ourselves. We bring to you all that tears us apart: discord in our families, violence in our world, our own conflicted hearts. In your mercy, mend us. Reconnect us to one another and to you. Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of peace, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart.

Hear this word of God’s pardon and peace: in the name of ✚ Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins. Rise, shine, for your light has come.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of

your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with white robes upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Psalm: Psalm 148

The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

²**Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away. R**

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

⁹mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

¹²**young men and maidens, old and young together. R**

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all**

faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD.
Hallelujah! R (*The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven.*)

GOSPEL:

Luke 2:41-52

Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.

⁴¹Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover.

⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends.

⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

SERMON HYMM: **"In the Bleak Midwinter"** **#294 ELW**

SERMON: **"Brush Your Teeth with Oreos"**

OFFERING & OFFERTORY SONG: **"What Child is This"** **#296 ELW**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION

Rejoicing with all the faithful, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Let us pray for evangelists and pastors; for teachers and storytellers; for seminarians and those discerning their call to ministry; and for all who proclaim the gospel in word and deed. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the earth and all its creatures; for those seeking refuge from damaging storms; for those who work outdoors in weather that is hard to bear, in winter cold or summer heat; and for all whose labor provides us with food, clothing, shelter, and transportation. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

hear our prayer.

For all nations and their leaders; for those who bring harmony within division; for those who challenge injustice and prejudice; and for those who are sent far from home to serve and protect others. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For parents of missing children; for youth who have no safe place to call home; for travelers; for those who are anxious; for those who grieve and all who are sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For this assembly; for musicians and poets; for elders and youth; for those who ask questions and those who mentor others to deeper faith and compassionate service. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With thanksgiving, we remember all who have died, especially (*the apostle and evangelist John and*) those whose lives have helped us to see your love and compassion.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Pondering the mystery of your love, we offer our prayers in the name of Christ, the Word made flesh.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

Amen.

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

Amen.

May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

Amen.

And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is your light.

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

Music: Marlys Beaver
Greeters: Wayne & Janice Olson
Ushers: Skip & Lynn Hansen
Lector: Winnie Zahradka

Thank you for your service!

Response to God’s Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, December 20, 2015: 9:00 am – 151

Monday	12/28	7:00 pm 1:00 pm	AA & Alanon Double Deck Pinochle
Tuesday	12/29	8:00 am	Pastor's Text Study, Onamia
Thursday	12/31	11:00am	Funtimers – All are Welcome!
Sunday	1/4	9:00 am	Worship Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE Only One Worship Service on Sundays in January, February & March 2016 at 9:00am.

FOOT CLINIC our next Foot Care Clinic will be held on Saturday, January 9th, 2016. Call the church office to make an appointment: 320-684-2123 (M-F 11:00am – 3:00pm).

NEXT YEAR'S BAZAAR will feature a Christmas tree full of used tree ornaments. If you have any to donate, please drop them off in the Craft Room.

Farewell Open House for Perry and Mary Johnson, Sunday, December 27, 2015 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Opstead Baptist Church. Public Invited. Please send a card/letter of encouragement for them to let them know they are loved! Perry and Mary Johnson, 47182 St Hwy 47, Isle MN 56342



***GOD BLESS THIS NEW YEAR,
IN WHICH LOVE OVERCOMES.
HE IS ALWAYS WITH US,
AND HE UNFOLDS GREAT
POSSIBILITIES.
ALL THE BEST FOR
THE COMING YEAR!***