

Sunday, January 10, 2016
First Sunday after the Epiphany



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Patti Honnold, RN CNP 320-676-8421

Kathy Berland RN ANP 320-495-3988

Prayer Chain Contacts Char Berg 320-684-2102 or Judy Forester 218-678-2667

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

The Baptism of Our Lord cannot help but recall our own and all baptismal blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as daughters and sons, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we “pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire.” On this day the heavens open again, for this assembly, and we receive the gift of the beloved Son of God in bread and wine.

CALL TO WORSHIP

“We Welcome You”

CLLI# 134016

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN:

“We Three Kings”

WOV# 646 Vs 1,2,5

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, who creates us and forms us, who redeems us and calls us, who unites us and sends us.

Amen.

Gathered in God’s presence, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty and loving God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We seek our own way. We divide the body of Christ. In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us. Let the words of our mouths, the thoughts of our hearts, and everything that we do be filled with faith, hope, and love.

Amen.

Hear the voice of Jesus: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim release to the captives.” In the name of † Jesus Christ, I proclaim to you that your sins are forgiven and you are released. The joy of the Lord is your strength, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM: “We Believe”

First Reading: Acts 8:14-17

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Psalm: Psalm 29

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor. R

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

⁷The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. R** (*The voice of the LORD is upon the waters.*)

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, “Glory!”

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace. **R** (*The voice of the LORD is upon the waters.*)

GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God’s beloved Son.

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

SERMON: “An Unforgettable Baptism”

OFFERTORY SONG: “Breathe” CLLI# 1874117

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.

Giving thanks for the gift of baptism and the gifts of grace in the world, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence

For your church on earth, that your Spirit guides your children. Unite us in our common call to live out your justice and stand with our siblings of every faith community. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For this world, which you redeemed, that the powerful in all nations foster its health and care for all its creatures. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Give your people of every land the tools and strength to care for one another. Give passion to strive for justice to your people. Bless all countries with the courage to follow what is wise and good. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Lift up the poor and oppressed, ease the troubled minds and hearts of those in turmoil, and surround those who are ill with the comforts of good medicine and good friends, signs of your healing. We pray especially for Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Guide those preparing for baptism, their sponsors, and this assembly so that we all live into the promises made in baptism. Lead us all to scripture, the holy supper, and toward justice and peace. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks for the lives of the faithful departed and for the assurance of the same resurrection by our baptism into Christ's death. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all of your beloved for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LORDS PRAYER – Led by Praise Team

BLESSING

God Almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMNS: “I Believe”

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: The Praise Team
Greeters: George & Kathy Larson
Ushers: Skip & Lynn Hansen
Hospitality Hosts: Jack & Paula Spetz, Bruce Gingerich & Carol Schlottman

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, January 3, 201: 9:00am 105

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

January 11 – January 17

Monday	1/11	9:00 am	Women's Devotion at Pat Becker's
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	1/12	10:00 am	Pastor Text Study
		9:00 am	Quilters
Wednesday	1/13	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Hardanger
		9:30 am	WELCA
		7:00 pm	Confirmation
Thursday	1/14	8:00am	Romeos
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	1/15	10:00am	Bones
Sunday	1/17	9:00 am	Worship-Special Music Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

SPECIAL MUSIC SERVICE Our January 17th service will be a special music service of contemporary music and classic hymns. Please plan to join us as we think you will enjoy this fun and inspiring service.

WELCA MEETING This month's meeting date has been changed to Wednesday, Jan. 13th at 9:30am. At this meeting we will disperse the Bazaar income. Please save the date, we encourage everyone to be there to help with these decisions. Hope to see you there.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

OFFERING ENVELOPES Please pick up your 2016 offering envelopes located in the Fellowship Hall after service. Directories are still available too.

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

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.

NEW MEMBERS We always receive New Members the last Sunday of every month. Contact Pastor Jim if you are interested.

SEND A CARD OF ENCOURAGEMENT – Barb & Phil Bray's granddaughter-in-law, Natalie, has a critical medical situation and they are hoping to get a huge bunch of cards of hope, encouragement and long distance hugs to send to Natalie so that she will receive them before her surgery on Jan 27th at Mayo Clinic in Rochester. ***THIS WILL BE A SURPRISE FOR NATALIE...SO PLEASE NO COMMENTS ON FACEBOOK, EMAIL, ETC.*** Natalie doesn't need to know who you are...mentioning Barb and Phil's name would no doubt lessen her puzzlement! If you would be so kind to take a minute and send a card...I know she will be overwhelmingly surprised and touched.

Cards are to be sent before January 17th to:

Natalie Bray

c/o Jacqueline Bray

Virginia Theological Seminary

3737 Seminary Rd

Alexandria VA 22304