

Sunday, January 24, 2016

3rd Sunday After Epiphany



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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

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

The glory of the Lord is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of the glory of God. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

OPENING HYMN: **“This Little Light of Mine”** #627 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, 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

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read,

mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

FIRST READING

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?

³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a}But strive for the greater gifts.

Psalm: Psalm 19

The teaching of the LORD revives the soul. (Ps. 19:7)

¹The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

²**One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

⁶**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat. R**

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb. R**

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer. R**

Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

SERMON HYMN **“Will You Come and Follow Me”** **#798 ELW**

SERMON: **“Shall We Waddle or Fly?”**

OFFERTORY HYMN: **“God, Whose Almighty Word”** **#673 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.

Gathered together by God’s Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Grant unity in the body of Christ, your church. Replace dissension with reconciliation, and strengthen its witness to the world. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

When your creation is harmed, all suffer together. Guide your people to make wise choices that protect the land, sea, and all life. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Put an end to strife, violence, and hate in nations where there is turmoil (*especially*). Guide leaders and movements for change to seek peace above all else. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Be present where there is loneliness. Be comfort where there is pain. Be healing where there is brokenness. We pray especially for Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Grant health and new life in this assembly. Send us to share the good news of your abundant love in Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the faithful departed who have come to know the fulfillment of your promises. Assure us of your hope until we join the saints in light. 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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 HYMN:

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

#671 ELW

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Winnie Zahradka, Bev Wedig
Ushers: Dick and Sandy Pullen
Hospitality Hosts: Dick and Sue Stebbins

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, January 17: 9:00am: 67

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

January 25 – January 31

Monday	1/25	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	1/26	9:00	Quilting
		10:00-12:00	Pastor Text Study
		2:00-4:00	4H
Wednesday	1/27	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	WELCA Meeting
		9:30 am	Hardanger
		6:00 pm	Confirmation Class
Thursday	1/28	8:00 am	Romeos
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	1/29	10:00 am	Bones
Sunday	1/31	9:00 am	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

DONATION STATEMENTS Your 2015 tax contribution statements are also available to pick up at the fellowship hall.

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

PORTALS OF PRAYER Remember to pick up your copy of PORTALS OF PRAYER January-March 2016. This is a personal and family daily devotions booklet and it is free to all who wish to have a copy. They are on the table in the front entry.

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, February 6th, 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.

SCHOOL KITS FOR CHILDREN *WELCA* is collecting school kits for children in the refugee camps. These kids have little or no papers, pens or other supplies to take to school. Their parents are often too poor to buy these supplies for their children. We have made backpacks and we are asking for help in filling them with school supplies. They are located in a tub in the Fellowship hall. **PLEASE** take a backpack home and fill it from the list of supplies that is included with the backpack. If you can't fill a bag, money for supplies would also be good. The filled backpacks will be taken to the Synod meeting in June.



4H FRUIT SALES The East Side Eagles 4H Club meets at Bethesda Lutheran Church. If you are interested in supporting our club through the annual 4H fundraiser of fruit sales, please contact Mary, Emilie or Will Vukelich by phone or email. (Some order forms are on the table near the entrance to church too.) All orders must be placed by Sunday, February 21 (with payment made to our club) and delivery will be made on Friday, March 11 in the afternoon and evening hours. The Vukelich family can be reached by email at mmvuke@yahoo.com or by phone at 651-230-4512. Thanks in advance for your support; it helps offset our costs to 4H summer camp, the State Dog Show and other similar expenses.