

# Sunday, January 31, 2016

## Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



### **BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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Church Web Site: [blcmalmo.org](http://blcmalmo.org)

Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

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

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

*The glory of God is often revealed when and where it is least expected. God uses our lips to declare that glory, inexperienced and hesitant though they may be. God uses our love to demonstrate that glory and so urges us to exercise it. God uses Jesus of Nazareth, water and the word, bread and wine, to reveal God's glory where and when God chooses. Take heed, lest the glory of God slip through our midst unnoticed.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN**    **“Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”**    #886  
**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, 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 and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

### **First Reading: Corinthians 13:1-13**

*Christians in Corinth prided themselves on their spiritual gifts. Paul reminds them that God gives us many gifts through the Holy Spirit, but the purpose behind all of them is love, the kind of love that God showed us in Jesus Christ.*

<sup>1</sup>If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup>It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup>Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup>For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup>but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup>For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup>And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Psalm: Psalm 71:1-6

*From my mother's womb you have been my strength. (Ps. 71:6)*

<sup>1</sup>In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.

<sup>2</sup>**In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; incline your ear to me and save me.**

<sup>3</sup>Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; you are my crag and my stronghold.

<sup>4</sup>**Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from of the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor. R**

<sup>5</sup>For you are my hope, O Lord GOD, my confidence since I was young.

<sup>6</sup>**I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's womb you have been my strength; my praise shall be always of you. R**

*(From my mother's womb you have been my strength)*

### **GOSPEL: LUKE 4:21-30**

*People in Jesus' hometown are initially pleased when he says that God will free the oppressed. Their pleasure turns to rage when he reminds them that God's prophetic mission typically pushes beyond human boundaries so that mercy and healing are extended to those regarded as outsiders.*

<sup>21</sup>Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." <sup>22</sup>All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" <sup>23</sup>He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.' □" <sup>24</sup>And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. <sup>25</sup>But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; <sup>26</sup>yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. <sup>27</sup>There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." <sup>28</sup>When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. <sup>29</sup>They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup>But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

**SERMON HYMN "You Have Come Down to the Lakeside" #817  
ELW**

**SERMON (Sunday) "I Don't Get No Respect..."**

## OFFERTORY SONG

## “Jesus Loves Me”

#595 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 as children of the same Lord, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

Make your church a prophetic voice for the voiceless, a bold witness of love to the neighbor, and a force for hope in all the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Guard all creatures that fly, swim, creep, and walk upon the earth. Defend and preserve threatened lands and waters (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Stir leaders of all nations to compassion and righteous anger in the face of injustice and lead them to rejoice in the truth that all people are beloved children of the Most High. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Grant patience, endurance, healing, and hope to all those in any need. Give strength to those living with addictions and comfort to those who have lost jobs, homes, health, and hope. We pray especially for . . . . Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Guide the ministries of this congregation (*especially*). Curb our impatience, our envy, and our insistence on our own way, and give us patience, kindness, and love in service to others. 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. Strengthen us in faith, hope, and love 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:        "I Love to Tell the Story"        #661**  
**ELW**

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

### **THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Music                      Marlys Beaver

Greeters:                Nancy Hansen, Marge Garbo

Ushers: Jack & Paula Spetz

Hospitality Hosts: Dennis & Audrey Bistodeau, Arty Heins

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016: 9:00am 90

**THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA**

February 1 -

February 7

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Monday	2/1	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle AA/Alanon
Tuesday	2/2	10:00 - Noon	Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	2/3	8:30 am 9:30am 5:30 pm 6:00 pm	Bible Study Hardanger Praise Team Confirmation
Thursday	2/4	8:00am 10:30 am 12:30 pm	Romeos Worship & Music Committee Mtg. Fun Timers
Friday	2/5	10:00am	Bones
Saturday	2/6	1:00-4:00pm	Foot Care – Nurses Office
Sunday	2/7	8:00 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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

**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 6<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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.