Sunday, February 21, 2016

Second Sunday of Lent



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO 21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342 Phone: 320-684-2123 (1-877-684-2123) Fax: 320-684-2836 E-mail address: <u>blcmalmo@frontiernet.net</u> Church Web Site: blcmalmo.org

Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN 320-684-2846 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 is you would like assistance

(Please turn off your cell phone)

Sunday, February 21, 2016 Second Sunday of Lent

INTRODUCTION:

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a Godinitiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek the face of the Lord again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OPENING HYMN: "My Faith Looks Up To Thee" #759 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 brings us safely through the sea, who gives us water from the rock, who leads us into the land of milk and honey.

Amen.

Let us come home to God, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful Father,

we have sinned against heaven and before you. We do not fully live as your sons and daughters. We use your gifts to our own ends. Forgive us and restore us, that we may resist all that draws us away from you, and be at peace with one another. Amen.

We are reconciled to God through Christ; for his sake, God does not count our trespasses against us. Once dead in sin, we are now alive to God. Once lost, we now are found. God clothes you in the finest robe of all, the righteousness of + Jesus Christ, forgiving you all your sins and making of you a new creation. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING:

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a son, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Psalm: Psalm 27

In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter. (Ps. 27:5)

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

²When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh, they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.

³Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear. Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

⁴One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple. R

⁵For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

⁷Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸My heart speaks your message—"Seek my face." Your face, O LORD, I will seek. R

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

¹⁰**Though my father and my mother forsake me, the LORD will take me in.** ¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD; lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

¹²Subject me not to the will of my foes, for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.

¹³This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! ¹⁴Wait for the LORD and be strong. Take heart and wait for the LORD! R

GOSPEL: LUKE 13:31-35

Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³²He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

SERMON HYMN:	"Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling"	#608 ELW
SERMON:	"The World According to Superman"	
OFFERTORY SONG	: "What a Friend We Have In Jesus"	#742 ELW

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

THE PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION

Hearing the call to return to the Lord, let us join the whole people of God in prayer for all who cry out in pain and in hope.

A brief silence.

For an end to killings because of faith, we turn to you, O Lord. Protect all those who risk their lives each time they worship you. Give new vision to the intolerant. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the beauty of the stars, we turn to you in thanksgiving, O Lord. By their vast number and light, remind us of your covenant with Abram and deep love for all creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For peace and justice in our neighborhoods, we turn to you, O Lord. Where gangs, domestic violence, or kidnappings cause your children to live in fear, give courage and wisdom to those in authority. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For older adults with no family to care for them, we turn to you, O Lord. Surround them with social workers, medical professionals, and neighbors to support them. Embrace them with compassion and quell any fear. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the sick in our congregation and our community, we turn to you, O Lord. Gather all who live with illness under your wings *(especially)*. Make us instruments of your healing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

For the prophets and all the faithful departed, we turn to you in thanks, O Lord. Empowered by their witness, may we stand firm in you until the day we see you face-to-face. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

To you, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, we thank you for gathering and feeding us as a mother hen embraces her young. Release us now to go on our way in these forty days, ready to see our work as prayer, ready to fast from complacency, and ready to share with those in need; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

The blessing of God Almighty, the wisdom and power of + Christ Jesus, and the light of the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.** **DISMISSAL** Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God!**

CLOSING HYMN: "Beautiful Savior" #838 ELW

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music:Marlys BeaversGreeters:Del & Dianne JonesUshers:George & Kathy LarsonHospitality Hosts:The Ansells, Ron & Joni MelhopCommunion Servers:Donna Ansell, John Ansell, Nancy Hansen

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week/Month

Attendance: Sunday, February 14th : <u>66</u>

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda			February 22 nd - February 28 th 2016
Monday	2/22	1:00 am 7:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle AA/Alanon
Tuesday	2/23	8:00 am 9:00 am 2:00-4:00pm	Pastor's Text Study Quilting 4H
Wednesday	2/24	8:30 am 9:30 am 5:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study Hardanger Pot Luck Lenten Worship Praise Team

THIS WEEK	AT Bethe	sda (continued)	<i>February</i> 22 nd - February 28 th 2016	
Thursday	2/25	8:00 am 12:30 pm	ROMEOS Fun Timers	
Friday	2/26	10:00 am	Bone Builders	
Sunday	2/28	9:00am	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.

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

<u>4H FRUIT SALES</u> 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.

NEW BIBLE STUDY Now would be a good time to join one of our Bible Studies. At our Wednesday morning 8:30 class we will be beginning "The Parables of Jesus".

MEMORY GARDEN BRICKS If you would like to purchase a brick to honor a loved one, you can pick up an order form in the Secretary's office. Orders must be placed by **today** to insure delivery by Memorial Day.