

**Sunday, February 21, 2016**

**Second Sunday of Lent**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

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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**

*(Please turn off your cell phone)*



## 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.*

<sup>1</sup>After 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." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup>But 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." <sup>5</sup>He 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." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup>Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." <sup>8</sup>But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" <sup>9</sup>He 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." <sup>10</sup>He 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. <sup>11</sup>And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

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

<sup>17</sup>When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup>On 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)*

<sup>1</sup>The 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?

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

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

**<sup>4</sup>One 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**

<sup>5</sup>For 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.

**<sup>6</sup>Even 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.**

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

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

<sup>9</sup>Hide 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.

**<sup>10</sup>Though my father and my mother forsake me, the LORD will take me in.**

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O LORD; lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

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

<sup>13</sup>This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

**<sup>14</sup>Wait 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.*

<sup>31</sup>At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup>He 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. <sup>33</sup>Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it



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 Beavers

Greeters: Del & Dianne Jones

Ushers: George & Kathy Larson

Hospitality Hosts: The Ansell, Ron & Joni Melhop

Communion Servers: Donna Ansell, John Ansell, Nancy Hansen

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God’s Word Last Week/Month

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

**THIS WEEK AT Bethesda**

**February 22<sup>nd</sup> - February 28<sup>th</sup> 2016**

|        |      |         |                      |
|--------|------|---------|----------------------|
| Monday | 2/22 | 1:00 am | Double Deck Pinochle |
|        |      | 7:00 pm | AA/Alanon            |

|         |      |             |                     |
|---------|------|-------------|---------------------|
| Tuesday | 2/23 | 8:00 am     | Pastor’s Text Study |
|         |      | 9:00 am     | Quilting            |
|         |      | 2:00-4:00pm | 4H                  |

|           |      |         |                |
|-----------|------|---------|----------------|
| Wednesday | 2/24 | 8:30 am | Bible Study    |
|           |      | 9:30 am | Hardanger      |
|           |      | 5:30 pm | Pot Luck       |
|           |      | 6:30 pm | Lenten Worship |
|           |      | 7:30 pm | Praise Team    |

**THIS WEEK AT Bethesda (continued)****February 22<sup>nd</sup> - February 28<sup>th</sup> 2016**

|          |      |          |               |
|----------|------|----------|---------------|
| Thursday | 2/25 | 8:00 am  | ROMEOS        |
|          |      | 12:30 pm | 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.

**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.

**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.