

# Sunday, February 28, 2016

## Third 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: [blcmalmo@frontiernet.net](mailto:blcmalmo@frontiernet.net)

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

*(Please turn off your cell phones)*

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### INTRODUCTION

*The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Lent is a season of repentance. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN**                    **"I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me"**                    **#860**  
**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**

**Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**



## **BAPTISM**

Today a new brother in Christ will join us in baptism.

Eldon Allen Mitchell.

## **First Reading:**

## **1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

*Paul uses images from Hebrew story and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.*

<sup>1</sup>I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup>And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup>These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup>So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup>No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

## Psalm: Psalm 63:1-8

*O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you. (Ps. 63:1)*

<sup>1</sup>O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

<sup>2</sup>**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.**

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

<sup>4</sup>**So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name. R**

<sup>5</sup>My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

<sup>6</sup>**when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.**

<sup>7</sup>For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

<sup>8</sup>**My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. R**

## GOSPEL: LUKE 13:6-9

*Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.*

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup>He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’ □”

SERMON HYMN

**“Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross”**

#335

ELW

SERMON

**“Second Chances”**

**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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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.*

Incline our ears to you, faithful God. Open us to receive your word. Transform our thoughts into your thoughts and our ways into your ways for the glory of your kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Send rain to dry and weary lands, faithful God. Quench the thirst of the earth and every living creature. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Make all governments thirst for your justice, faithful God. Bring citizens and elected officials together to create communities where all people may live in peace. Sustain us by your grace in this work. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Fill the cups of the thirsty, faithful God. Fill the plates of the hungry. Give peace to all who mourn and healing to all who live with mental illness. Be with all who suffer (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gather the hungry around your table, faithful God. Satisfy and unite us with the body and blood of your Son. Send us out to share the bountiful feast you give to us. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Keep us in your steadfast love, faithful God. We give thanks for all who mentored each of us in the faith and now celebrate life eternal with you (*especially*). By their witness we know you more fully. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

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

**Amen.**

## **LORD’S PRAYER**

### **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:        “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”        #324**  
**ELW**

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

### **THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Music	Marlys Beaver
Greeters:	John & Grace Iverson
Ushers:	George & Kathy Larson
Hospitality Hosts:	The Praise Team

***Thank you for your service!***

## Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016: 9:00am 85

Attendance: February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 6:30pm 30?

## **THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA**

February 29 -

March 6

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Monday	2/29	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	3/1	10:00 - Noon	Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	3/2	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30am	Hardanger
		5:30 pm	Pot Luck
		6:30 pm	Worship
		7:30 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	3/3	8:00am	Romeos
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	3/4	10:00am	Bones
Saturday	3/5	1:00-4:00pm	Foot Care – Nurses Office
Sunday	3/6	9:00 am	Worship



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**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.

**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 this Saturday, March 5<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.

**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".



**COFFEE DAY** Two times a year, when Daylight Savings Time begins and ends, we will receive containers of coffee. Coffee Day this spring is March 13. Be sure to set your clocks ahead 1 hour and bring a tub of Folgers-or your favorite coffee-or make an offering. Then come for coffee fellowship. Offer to host. Invite a friend!

Thanks for your participation!

**COUNCIL SECRETARY** There is an opening for a Secretary on the Church Council. Main duties are: Keep an accurate record of the proceedings of all Council, Annual & Special Congregational meetings. If interested please pick up an application and detailed job description in the office.