

Sunday, March 6, 2016

Fourth Sunday in Lent



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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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

Amen

FIRST READING:

2 Corinthians 5:16–21

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

PSALM

Psalm 32

R: Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD. (Ps. 32:11)

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile! R

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them. R

You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

Do not be like horse or mule, which has no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart. **R: *Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD.***

GOSPEL:

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believed it was his obedience that earned his place in the father's home.

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice,

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who thirst, all who hunger, come and be filled with the goodness of God.

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: “Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross” #335 ELW

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Marilyn Andrews, Bev Wedig
Ushers: Wayne & Janice Olson
Communion Servers: Dick & Sue Stebbins, Shirley Moe
Hospitality Hosts: Ron & Jan Aho, Marilyn Andrews, Wally & Bev Swenson

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, February 28, 2016: 90 .

Attendance: Wednesday, March 2, 2016: 35 .

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

March 7 through March 13, 2016

Monday	3/7	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	3/8	8:30 am	Pastor's Text Study
		9:00 am	Quilters
Wednesday	3/9	8:30am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Hardanger
		5:30 pm	Potluck
		6:30 pm	Worship
		7:30 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	3/10	8:00am	ROMEOS
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	3/11	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Saturday	3/12	midnight	Daylight Savings Ends (Spring Forward)
Sunday	3/13	9:00 am	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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!

WEDNESDAY POTLUCK & SERVICE There will be a potluck and service every Wednesday, during Lent. Potluck at 5:30pm and Service at 6:30pm.

SUNDAY SERVICES Note that all Sunday Services will be held at 9:00 am during the months of January, February and until Easter Sunday, March 27th when we will return to two services at 8:30am & 10:00am.

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.

SPRING GATHERING of the Heartland Conference of Lutheran Women will be held at First Lutheran Church in Pine River, MN on Saturday, April 9th. This is always an informative and inspiring gathering of women. The offering for Camp Knutson and Camp Onomia will be brought to this meeting. The camps are a worthwhile place to donate your spare change/dollars. The donation jar is marked by the American Flag. Let's try to get a group together for a fun day. Check the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for car pooling.

EASTER LILIES will go on sale today. See Chuck and Elsa Carlson in the Fellowship Hall to order a lily in memory/honor of a loved one. Help beautify our sanctuary for Easter. The cost is \$15.00 per lily.

GRAD BLAST Aitkin 2016 Fundraiser. Monday March 7, 5:00-8:00 PM Pizza Ranch, Baxter, MN. Pizza Ranch will donate 10% of sales from this event to the Aitkin Grad Blast. Help support our youth. Great salad bar, chicken and pizza!