

Sunday, March 13, 2016

Fifth Sunday in 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

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 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 Lord our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading we recall the transformation of Saul, the persecutor, into Paul, the apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

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

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you

**are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through 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:

Philippians 3:8–14

Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.

More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

PSALM: Psalm 126

R: Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. (Ps. 126:5)

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”

The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the water courses of the Negeb. R

Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. R

GOSPEL:**John 12:1–8**

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

SERMON HYMN**"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"****#742 ELW****SERMON:****"Eyes Fixed Upon the Goal"****OFFERTORY HYMN:****"Arise Your Light Has Come"****#314 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

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

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.

Holy God, in times of both joy and sorrow you call us to worship you. Bless the work of musicians, altar guilds, readers, presiding and assisting ministers, and all who serve in worship. Sustain them with your Spirit as we journey toward Holy Week. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Creative God, you made every living creature and saw that it was good. Teach us to care for the homelands of animals in the wild. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Living God, you require mercy and justice. Bless the work of all organizations that work to restore cities and countries, especially Lutheran Volunteer Corps and Lutheran Disaster Response. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Compassionate God, you make a way out of no way. Give your peace and vision to all who struggle with addiction, depression, grief, or illness (*especially*). Make plain that in the midst of suffering, you are suffering, and that your desire is wholeness and life. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Shepherding God, you tend your flock with mercy and love. Guide the outreach ministries of this congregation (*especially*). Strengthen our relationships in this community as we serve our neighbors in love. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Triune God, in you there is abundant life. Deepen our union with you, that in living we may die and in dying we may live with all your saints. 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.

THE 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:

“Blessed Assurance”

#638 ELW

It has been great having you join us for worship! Please come again.

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Marlys Beavers
Greeters: Chuck & Elsa Carlson
Ushers: Wayne & Janice Olson
Hospitality Hosts: Lynne & Dennis Meidlinger

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, March 6, 2016: 80

Attendance: Wednesday, March 9, 2016: 35

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

March 14 through March 20, 2016

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| Monday | 3/14 | 1:00 pm 7:00 pm | Double Deck Pinochle AA/Alanon |
| Tuesday | 3/15 | 8:30 am 2:00-4:00pm 5:30 pm | Pastor's Text Study 4 H Council Meeting |
| Wednesday | 3/16 | 8:00-Noon 8:30 am 9:30 am 5:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm | WIC Bible Study Hardanger Pot Luck Worship Praise Team |
| Thursday | 3/17 | St. Patrick's Day 8:00 am 12:30 pm | ROMEOS FunTimers |
| Friday | 3/18 | 10:00 am | Bone Builders |
| Sunday | 3/20 | 9:00 am | Palm Sunday Worship |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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.

EASTER SCHEDULE

Sunday March 20 **9:00** am Palm Sunday

Thursday March 24 **6:30** pm Maundy Thursday

Friday March 25 **9:00** am Service of the Nails

Sunday March 27 **8:30** am and **10:00** am **Easter Sunday Services**

COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED Signup sheets are to the left of the serving window by the kitchen. Please check it out and take your turn.

FOOT CLINIC our next Foot Care Clinic will be held Saturday, April 2nd, 2016. Call the church office to make an appointment: 320-684-2123 (M-F 11:00am – 3:00pm).

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. Sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for car pooling.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP 6 week series, Spring 2016. Starts April 14, meets THURSDAYS, Riverwood Healthcare Center, 200 Bunker Hill Drive, Aitkin, MN. Support Services Wing, Conference Room E. Contact Val Thompson, Riverwood Health Care Social worker at 218-927-5524 for more information or to register.