

Sunday, March 20, 2016
Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday



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

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INTRODUCTION

The voice of the suffering savior, Jesus, can be heard in the prophet Isaiah's words and the pleading of the psalm. We are invited into the agony of our Lord in the extended reading of the story of Jesus' passion. In the second reading, we who have put on Christ in holy baptism are urged to let the mind of Christ be our own. Lent leads us to this holy moment. Embrace it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OPENING HYMN: **“All Glory Laud and Honor” vs.1,2,5** **#344ELW**

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 confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

For self-centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For longing to have what is not ours, and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For misuse of human relationships, and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For jealousies that divide families and nations, and for rivalries that create strife and warfare:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ, and for squandering the gifts of love and grace:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. Through the Holy Spirit God cleanses us and gives us the power to proclaim the mighty acts of the one who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

PRAISE CHOIR ANTHEM: “That’s Why We Praise Him”

FIRST READING

Philippians 2:5-11

Paul quotes from an early Christian hymn that describes Jesus’ humble obedience in his incarnation as a human being, even to death, and his exaltation and glory as Lord of all.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

PSALM

Psalm 31:9-16

R: Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)

Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.

I am the scorn of my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.

Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot. R

For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. I have said, “You are my God.

My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.” R

GOSPEL:

Luke 19:28-40

Entrance into the final days

After he had said this, [Jesus] went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’” So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” They said, “The Lord needs it.” Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!”

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

SERMON HYMN: “Go to Dark Gethsemane” #347 ELW
SERMON: “Pet Rocks and the Big Reveal”

OFFERTORY HYMN: “Were You There “ #353 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 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.

Be with all who wave palm branches and walk the road to the cross. For the mission of the gospel where your church is forgotten, for disciples wrestling with betrayal, for all who seek the Lord, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Renew the waters of the earth and restore us to right relationship with all creation. For villages without access to clean water, for cities with an abundance, for flood lands and drought lands, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

End human trafficking in every nation. For children taken from their families, for men and women without hope, for governments and nonprofits seeking resolutions, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Comfort the afflicted. For those imprisoned, for those waiting on death row, for all overwhelmed by sorrow, and for all who live with disease, chronic pain, and anxiety in this world, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Enrich the children and youth of our congregation with an abundance of your Spirit. For each child in our community, for parents and guardians, for confirmation mentors and faith formation leaders, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Sustain the weary. For all who mourn, for all who yearn to be with you in paradise, for funeral home staff, for hospital chaplains and grief counselors, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

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.

THE 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.

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: The Praise Team
 Greeters: Ruth Hamman, Darrell Kelly
 Ushers: Barry & Donna Ansell
 Communion Assistants: Dorothy Munding, Jim & Donna Metter
 Hospitality Hosts: Wayne & Janice Olson, Lloyd & Shirley Lilienthal

Thank you for your service!

Response to God’s Word Last Week/Month

Attendance: Sunday, March 13, 2016: 60Attendance: Wednesday, March 16, 2016: 40**THIS WEEK AT Bethesda****March 21 through March 27, 2016**

Monday	3/21	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	3/22	8:30 am	Pastor’s Text Study, Onamia
Wednesday	3/23	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Hardanger
		7:30 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	3/24	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
		6:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Service with Communion
Friday	3/25	9:00 am	Worship: Service of the Nails
Sunday	3/27	8:30 am	Easter - Worship
		10:00 am	Easter - Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance Registry Please sign and pass the attendance registry which you will find in the pew. This is a new process we are trying. Information will be gathered for Evangelism.

Maundy Thursday & Good Friday Services will be held at 6:30 pm on Maundy Thursday, March 24. On Friday, March 25 will be the Service of the Nails 9:00 am.

Easter Sunday Services will be held at 8:30am & 10:00am.

Choir Practice Choir will practice on Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm. Anyone interested in singing with the choir can just come to practice. Everyone is welcome.

Coffee Servers Needed Signup sheets are to the left of the serving window by the kitchen. Please check it out and take your turn.

Pancake Breakfast Wealthwood Rod & Gun Club is having a Pancake Breakfast this morning from 8AM-1PM. Pancakes, French Toast, Egg Bake, Sausage, Orange Juice & Coffee. \$7 Adults, \$3 children under 12. Half the proceeds will benefit The Aitkin Fire & Rescue. They will also be collecting food for our local food shelves.

THANK YOU to Bev Ferdelman and Ray Piispanen for volunteering to help our church custodian, Judy Wuorio scrub the ceramic tile in the kitchen and fellowship hall.

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.

EASTER LILIES are 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 plant.

EASTER COFFEE HOSTS ARE NEEDED FOR NEXT SUNDAY!