

# Sunday, April 3, 2016

## Second Sunday of Easter



### **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**

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### INTRODUCTION:

*In spite of all we have heard and all that we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the Lord Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of the holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**OPENING HYMN:**        **“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”**        **#367 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, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Let us come into the light, the revealing and healing light of God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of grace and glory,  
**you have brought us through the night of sin into the light of Jesus' resurrection. Yet our lives are still shadowed by sin. Make us alive in Christ, O God. Make us new as you make all things new. Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin, renew us in grace, and restore us to living in your holiness, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.**

**Amen.**

Rejoice with all creation around God's throne! The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil deeds, washes away sin, restores innocence to the fallen, casts out hate, brings peace, and humbles earthly pride. Jesus Christ loves you and ✚ frees you from your sins by his blood. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever!

**Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

### FIRST READING:

**Acts 5:27-32**

*Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.*

<sup>27</sup>When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup>saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." <sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. <sup>30</sup>The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

### PSALM

**118:14-29**

*You are my God, and I will exalt you. (Ps. 118:28)*

<sup>14</sup>The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup>**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

<sup>16</sup>The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

<sup>17</sup>**I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD. R**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

<sup>19</sup>**Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup>"This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter."

<sup>21</sup>**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation. R**

<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup>**By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

<sup>25</sup>**Hosanna! O LORD, save us! We pray to you, LORD, prosper our days! R**  
*(You are my God, and I will exalt you.)*

<sup>26</sup>Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD; we bless you from the house of the LORD.

<sup>27</sup>**The LORD is God and has given us light. Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.**

<sup>28</sup>You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

<sup>29</sup>**Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever. R** *(You are my God, and I will exalt you.)*

**GOSPEL:**

**John 20:19-31**

*The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who "have not seen and yet believe."*

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

**SERMON HYMN:**

**"Thine Is the Glory"**

**#376 ELW**

**SERMON:**

**“A Room With Locked Doors”**

**OFFERTORY SONG: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!” #385 ELW**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**THE PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION**

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

Rooted in the abundant life and love of Christ Jesus, we pray for the life of the church, the lives of people in need, and the life of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God of resurrection, fill us with your Holy Spirit to announce the new life you give through Christ Jesus. Lead us to people who need to hear good news. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Breathe new life into all of creation. Send sun to warm and water to saturate yards, fields, and mountains. Set all things in order, that abundance may come forth. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Open paths for cooperation between nations to care for refugees, survivors of natural disaster, and people living through war. Bless the efforts of peacemaking troops, diplomats, and relief organizations to foster peace in the world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Pour out your enduring mercy to strengthen those who persevere in difficult times (*especially*). Guide them to places where they may find shelter in your presence. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gather together the various gifts of this community and unite us in praise. Harmonize the sound and movement of instruments, voices, hands, feet, and, bodies. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You have united yourself with the saints at rest through Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead. Join us all together in his resurrection on the last day. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We deliver all this into your care, O God, trusting in the work of your Holy Spirit to bring all things into the risen life of Christ our Lord.

**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**

The table of life is spread before you. Feast on the goodness and mercy of God.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**We give you thanks, O God, that you make your home with us, bringing heaven to earth in this holy meal. Fill us with your Spirit as we go from here, that we may wipe away tears, tend to those in mourning and pain, seek the healing of the nations, and bring to earth the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

The blessing of the Lord God Almighty, the blessing of ✝ Christ, the Lamb who was slain, and the blessing of the Holy Spirit of truth be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia. Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

**CLOSING HYMN: "Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing" #389 ELW**

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

**THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Music: Marlys Beavers  
Greeters: George & Kathy Larson  
Ushers: 8:30am Cheri Johnson, Diane Sandberg  
10:00 am Dick & Sue Stebbins  
Lectors: Steve Lackner  
Communion Servers: Char and Roy Berg and Ron Aho  
Hospitality Hosts: Chuck & Elsa Carlson, Roy & Char Berg

*Thank you for your service!*

**Response to God's Word Last Week**

Attendance: Sunday, March 27, 2016: 8:30am 89 10:00am: 84 .

**THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA**

**April 4 through April 10, 2016**

Monday	4/4	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	4/5	8:30 am	Pastor's Text Study
Wednesday	4/6	8:30am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Stitchers (formerly Hardanger)
		7:30 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	4/7	8:00am	ROMEOS
		10:30 am	Worship & Music Meeting
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	4/8	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	4/10	9:00 am	Worship (one service only this Sunday)
		10:00 am	Seminarian Sunday-WELCA Breakfast

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**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.

**THANK YOU** to everyone that filled a backpack. So far we have 38 bags returned and they will be packaged up and taken to the Synod Meeting in June, and from there to the refugee children. If your backpack hasn't yet been filled, don't fret, there is still time. Deadline is the end of May.

**SPRING LADIES' RETREAT** at Camp Jim – Pillager, MN. April 15-16, 2016. Brochures and information in the Narthex.

**CHOIR PRACTICE** Choir will start practice on Wednesday night, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Anyone interested in singing with the choir can just come to practice. Everyone is welcome.

**SEMINARIAN SUNDAY** Join WELCA for breakfast on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> after service as a seminary scholarship fund raiser. There will only be one service, at 9:00am, on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

**SHOP AmazonSmile** Earn financial support for Bethesda Lutheran Church with each Amazon purchase. How do I shop at AmazonSmile? Simply go to the website [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) on your computer or mobile device. If you already have an account with Amazon you can use the same one for AmazonSmile, if not simply register for a new account and then select **Bethesda Lutheran of Isle, MN** as your charitable organization. The site will remember your Bethesda selection automatically for every future eligible purchase and will result in a donation to our church. There is also a listing for Bethesda Lutheran Church of Aitkin, so choose the one with the **Isle, MN** address. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of each eligible purchase price, which equates to \$1.00 per every \$200 purchased. PLEASE TELL YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS TO SUPPORT BETHESDA THROUGH AmazonSmile TODAY!!!

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** the April-June booklets are available for pick up in the Narthex of the church. Help yourself to these quarterly booklets.