

Sunday, April 17, 2016

Fourth Sunday of Easter



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 gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those “who have come out of the great ordeal” in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OPENING HYMN: **“Let Christians Sing” (verses 1, 2, 5) #389 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

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Revelation 7:9, 14-17

Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering, in whose blood the saints have washed their robes and made them white.

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. ¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; ¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Psalm: Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. R

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. R

Give your wisdom to people who make decisions that affect others. Fill human institutions with your reconciling justice. When we oppress people, disrupt us and heal our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Respond to the call of people who cry out in grief, in loneliness or despair, or in chronic pain or illness (*especially*). Embrace them with your compassion. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With your very presence sustain communities that are formed out of common struggle: among those who are widowed, among children without parents, and among people who have no permanent shelter. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You give strength to the saints by fulfilling your promise of eternal life. Shepherd us in paths of righteousness, that we may know life now and in the age to come. 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.
All are welcome.

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:

“Be Thou My Vision”

#793 ELW

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Marlys Beavers

Greeters: Maynard & Kathy Berland

Ushers: 8:30am - Jerry & Carolyn Morris

10:00 am - Barry & Donna Ansell

Lector: 8:30am - Lynn Hansen

Communion Servers: Chuck and Elsa Carlson and Marge Garbo

Hospitality Hosts: Jerry & Pat Becker

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, April 10, 2016: 9:00 am: 114

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

April 18 through April 24, 2016

Monday-Friday	4/18-4/22	Pastor Gone – No Bible Study, Confirmation, or ROMEOS this week.	
Monday	4/18	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	4/19	2:00 pm	4 H
		5:30 pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday	4/20	9:30 am	WELCA Meeting
		9:30 am	Stitchers
		6:00 pm	Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	4/21	12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	4/22	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	4/24	8:30 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CHOIR PRACTICE Choir practice has started on Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm. If you are interested in singing with the choir please join us. Everyone is welcome.

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 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!!!

WELCA MEETING Wednesday, April 20th at 9:30am. Julie Swaggert will speak about her trip to Zambia. Men and women welcome. We hope to have a good turnout.

SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON at Malmo Ev. Free Church, Saturday, April 30, at noon. Theme: "New Beginnings". See the bulletin board for more information. RSVP to 320-684-2201 or email: malmoeffc@frontier.net

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING May 1, 2016. Only one worship service that day at 9:00am. At 10:00 a.m. there will be a Special Congregational Meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on moving ahead in paving and re-sealing our church parking lot. By Constitution the church council cannot move forward on this project as it will cost more than ten percent of our general church budget.