

Sunday, May 1, 2016

Sixth 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

Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. The risen Lord Jesus provides visions of peace that passes human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: “Seek ye First The Kingdom of God” #783 WOV

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. Let us come before God, seeking forgiveness and life.

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

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM: Keep Me Near the Cross

First Reading: Acts 16:9-15

A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.

⁹During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

Psalm: Psalm 67

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy. (Ps. 67:4)

¹May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God’s face shine upon us.

²**Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.**

³Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁴**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth. R**

⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁶**The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.**

⁷May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe. **R** (*Let the nations be glad and sing for joy.*)

Gospel: John 14:23-29

As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.

²³Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.”

SERMON HYMN

“Bind Us Together”

#748 WOV

SERMON:

“God's Peace”

OFFERTORY HYMN: “We Come to the Hungry Feast”

#766 WOV

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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, ruler of the nations, renew your call to all people. Raise up leaders who are eager to follow you into justice, love, and truth (*as the apostles Philip and James did*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Nourish all lands through springs, rivers, lakes, pools, and irrigation systems. Produce abundant food by the flowing of your Spirit throughout creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Help us to extend your hospitality and inspire us to share the grace of Christ in places near and far. Use even small interactions to usher in peace for all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send compassionate servants to those who live with health concerns in body, mind, or spirit. Deliver your healing and peace to all in need (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bear the burdens of people who long to work, yet remain unemployed or underemployed. Give them dignity when they seek help, and place them where their gifts may be used. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You have given blessed salvation to all your saints. Thank you for writing our names also in the book of life. Make us Christ's presence for others while we await his coming. 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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Guest Officiant: Randy Tofteland
Music: Marlys Beavers & Choir
Greeters: Judy Wozney & Winnie Zahradka
Ushers: Chuck & Elsa Carlson, Darrell Kelly
Lector: Pat Becker
Communion Servers: Richard and Karen Carron and Jeannine Buresewitz

Thank you for your service!

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

May 2 – May 8

Monday	5/2	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle AA/Alanon
Tuesday	5/3	7:30-10:00 am	Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	5/4	8:30 am 9:30 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Bible Study Stitchers Choir Practice Confirmation Praise Team
Thursday	5/5	8:00 am 10:30 am 12:30 pm	Romeos Worship & Music Fun Timers
Friday	5/6	10:00 am	Bones
Saturday	5/7	1:00-4:00pm	Foot Care
Sunday	5/8	8:30 am 9:30 am 10:00 am	Worship Celebrating Irene Long's 99 th Birthday during fellowship between services Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU! Your cards, letters and phone calls were greatly appreciated during my road to recovery for my injury. It truly brightens my heart and soul. ~ Jan Aho

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Come and help celebrate Irene Long's 99th birthday May 8th at coffee fellowship between services. She likes cards, hugs and well wishes.

JELLY MAKING Jelly making date is set for May 9th. Please come and help in the production of about 400 jars of jelly. You don't need to know anything about jelly making. There will be a job for you. Come and join in the fun. Sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall.

JELLY MAKING DONATIONS There are still a few items left on the board for donating to the jelly making. The jelly will be sold at the veggie stand and various functions in the church. This money goes into the benevolence fund so it's a very worthwhile donation. Please help. The supplies need to be in church by May 3. Thank You.

HIGHWAY CLEANUP Volunteers are needed for highway 47 cleanup. Bethesda has its own section. Bags are provided, just need the volunteers. Meet at the church at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, May 10th. When many participate the work of cleaning the ditches goes fast.

AITKIN COUNTY TRIAD Invites you to a FREE Program and Lunch. Tuesday, May 17, 2016, 11:00am at Aitkin American Legion Post – "Help for Planning your Funeral". Jerry Thompson from Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home will be the speaker. Reservations for free lunch required: call Sandy Liepins at 218-768-3355 or email: liepins@frontiernet.net Or call Ginny Eksrand 218-752-1111 or email: ekstrand@frontier.com

ARE YOU CREATIVE? We are looking for persons that would like to be on a committee to update bulletin boards and other church related décor. Please contact Melody Lackner – 218-232-7424 or mlackner912@gmail.com

HELP US "TELL OUR STORY" The church is looking for a volunteer (or team of volunteers) to improve the awareness of our church in our lake community through more articles in the local papers. If you are inquisitive and enjoy writing, we'd love to talk with you about becoming our "Bethesda Reporter" and filling a key role in our communication plans. If you'd like to learn more, please contact Joanne Stueven or Mary Braun in the church office. The ground work and plan is all set for this role, all we need now is "YOU". Please inquire if you're interested.



NEW MEMBERS will be received the last Sunday of May. Please let Pastor Jim know if that is something you are interested in.

THRIVENT has made us aware that there is \$250 available to every event Bethesda sponsors but we need to identify who are members of Thrivent. Please let the church office know if you are a member and we will assist you in applying for these funds.