

Sunday, August 7, 2016

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Church Secretary: Mary Braun & Jenny Schuett

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

Jesus says, “It is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” It is God’s promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the “little flock” of which we are a part today in assembly. Faith, God’s baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: **“My Lord, What a Morning”** **#438 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, abounding in steadfast love toward us, healing the sick and raising the dead, showering us with every good gift.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection

Just and gracious God,

we come to you for healing and life. Our sins hurt others and diminish us; we confess them to you. Our lives bear the scars of sin; we bring these also to you. Show us your mercy, O God. Bind up our wounds, forgive us our sins, and free us to love, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

The apostle Paul assures us: “When we were dead in our trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ, nailing the record of our sins to the cross.” Jesus says to you, + “Your sins are forgiven.” Be at peace, and tell everyone how much God has done for you.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM:

“Here I Am to Worship”

First Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God’s promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Psalm: Psalm 33:12-22

Let your loving kindness be upon us, as we place our hope in you. (Ps. 33:22)

¹²Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD! Happy the people chosen to be God’s heritage!

¹³**The LORD looks down from heaven, and sees all humankind.**

¹⁴God sits firmly enthroned and watches all who dwell on the earth.

¹⁵**God fashions all their hearts and observes all their deeds. R**

¹⁶A king is not saved by the size of the army, nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

¹⁷**The horse gives vain hope for victory; despite its great strength it cannot**

save.

¹⁸Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD, upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

¹⁹**to deliver their lives from death, and to keep them alive in time of famine. R** (*Let your loving kindness be upon us, as we place our hope in you*)

²⁰Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD, our helper and our shield.

²¹**Surely, our heart rejoices in you, for in your holy name we put our trust.**

²²Let your loving kindness, O LORD, be upon us, even as we place our hope in you. **R** (*Let your loving kindness be upon us, as we place our hope in you*)

Gospel: Luke 12:32-40

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

[Jesus said:] ³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

SERMON HYMN

“Lord Listen to Your Children”

#752 ELW

(Repeat 3 times)

SERMON:

“Blessed are Those Who are Awake”

OFFERTORY HYMN:

“Have No Fear Little Flock”

#764 ELW

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer 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 Christ and rising to serve, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Faithful God, encourage your church in new ventures of faith: new congregations, ministries, conversations, and partnerships. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, the abundance of your creation fills us with awe and delight. Call us daily to be vigilant and responsible stewards of all you have made. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Merciful God, calm the fears that produce wars, prejudice, and injustice. Equip governments, leaders, and peacemakers to be models of cooperation and reconciliation among the nations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restoring God, comfort all who long for relief from circumstances of grief or sickness (*especially*). Bless hospitals, mental health facilities, and all places of healing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Steadfast God, we pray for those in life transitions that bring anxiety. Heal those hurt by broken promises, and sustain them with your never-ending love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for all the saints who now enjoy unfailing treasure in heaven, and we rejoice that we are united with them in your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting your promise to hear us; through Jesus 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, as a mother comforts her child, so you comfort your people, carrying us in your arms and satisfying us with this food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Send us now as your disciples, announcing peace and proclaiming that the reign of God has come near; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN:

“Shout to the Lord”

#821 ELW

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

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, July 31: 8:30am 68 10:00am: 30

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Choir

Greeters: Lynn & Denny Meidlinger

Ushers: 8:30-Chuck Carlson 10:00-Ansells

Lector: Char Berg

Communion Servers: Skip and Lyn Hansen and Shirley Moe

Hospitality Hosts:

Thank you for your service!

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

August 8 – August 14

Monday	8/8	9:00 am	Women’s Devotion – at Pat Becker’s
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	8/9	7:00-9:00 am	Pastor Text Study
		9:00-12:00	Quilters
		1:00 pm	Bridge Lessons
Wednesday	8/10	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Stitchers
		1:00-3:30 pm	Glen Homemakers
		5:30 pm	Jamboree/Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	8/11	8:00 am	Romeos
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
		6:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Friday	8/12	10:00 am	Bones
Saturday	8/13	8:00 am	Veggie Stand
Sunday	8/14	9:00 am	Garms Family Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT All committee and event annual reports need to be in to Judie Birk by August 29th in preparation for the congregational Annual Report which will be distributed mid September. They can be emailed to me at jimjudiebirk@gmail.com or put in council secretary inbox in the church office. Thank you! Judie Birk

AITKIN COUNTY TRIAD FREE PROGRAMS and LUNCH Programs focus on helping seniors stay active, healthy and safe. The next program is on August 16, 2016 at 11:00am . “**ID Theft and Computer Hacking: Keeping your information safe**”. Fireside Restaurant, McGregor. Free lunch served by restaurant. Reservations for free lunch required: call Sandy

Liepins at 218-768-3355 or email: liepins@frontiernet.net or call Ginny Eksrand 218-752-111 or email: ekstrand@frontier.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS **(continued)**



Join the team! Please take a turn with lawn mowing this summer. The signup sheet is in the Narthex.

PASTOR'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION: Sunday - August 28th

We will be celebrating Pastor Jim's retirement with one worship service at 10:00 am, with a brunch and program to immediately follow in the fellowship hall. Please join us to send off Jim and Karen into retirement with a little joy in their heart and peace in their soul. Please contact a committee chairperson or council member if you would like to help plan the details of this event. We will be forming member groups to organize and complete the various duties to prepare for this celebration. If you not sure who to contact to volunteer, please call Craig Kullberg at 320-684-2336 to get your name on the list.

FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM We all need to feel needed and to have a chance to share our life time of wisdom. The Foster Grandparent Program is looking for caring, older adults, age 55+ to assist in the classroom, reinforce learning, helping with spelling and reading with students. Grandpas and Grandmas are needed. If you love children, you have what it takes to have a positive influence on the younger generation. In return for volunteering 15 or more hours per week Foster Grandparents receive a tax-free stipend of \$2.65 per hour and transportation reimbursement. For more information, please contact Pat Braun, Area Supervisor at 612-390-0617 or pbraun@ccstcloud.org

GARAGE & BAKE SALE The Malmo Area Lions will be having a Garage & Bake sale on Thursday & Friday, September 1st and 2nd. 8:00am to 4:00pm at the Lakeside Community Center. Donations of useable items (no electronics-i.e. computers, TV's, large appliances, etc.) may be made by calling: Sharon at 218-390-0526 or any Malmo Lions Member. We will accept donations until August 31, 2016. All money raised goes back to the community.

SERVICE OF ORDINATION Bethesda Lutheran Church will be hosting John Ansell's ordination. It will be at 2:00pm on Sunday afternoon on August 21st. All are welcome.

SETUP & DECORATING FOR PASTOR'S RETIREMENT PARTY There is a signup sheet in Narthex to help with setup and decorating on Saturday, August 27th at 1:30pm. If you have fresh flowers from your garden that you would like to share, please bring them to the Church on Saturday, August 27th before noon. Lots of hands make for little work.

