

Sunday, September 11, 2016

Seventeenth 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

The grumbling of the Pharisees and the scribes in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God wills to seek and to save the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As Paul's first letter to Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

CALL TO WORSHIP: "I Will Call Upon the Lord"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: "All of My Life"
Stand for the Last Verse

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 only Sovereign, who dwells in light; Christ Jesus, who came to save sinners; the Holy Spirit, who lives within us.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of overflowing grace,

we come to you with repentant hearts. Forgive us for shallow thankfulness. Forgive us for passing by the ones in need. Forgive us for setting our hopes on fleeting treasures. Forgive us our neglect and thoughtlessness. Bring us home from the wilderness of sin, and strengthen us to serve you in all that we do and say; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

There is joy in heaven over every sinner who repents. By the grace of God in † Christ Jesus, who gave himself up for us all, your sins are forgiven and you are made free. Rejoice with the angels and with one another! We are home in God's mercy, now and forever.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please Sit

PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM: “Amazing Love – You Are My King”

First Reading: Exodus 32:7-14

While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people and boldly asks mercy for them.

⁷The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ □” ⁹The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

¹¹But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ □” ¹⁴And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Psalm: Psalm 51:1-10

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment. R

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.

⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. R

Please Stand

Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that his or her recovery brings joy in heaven.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ⁴"Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will

be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Please Sit

SERMON:

OFFERTORY HYMN: “Wonderful Merciful Savior”

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION

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

Rejoicing in the Spirit’s work among us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, we thank you for your word that strengthens the weak and the faint in heart. We thank you for your word that encourages the believer and saves sinners. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for those places in our world ravaged by fires or floods (*especially*). Restore the land, and bless the efforts of those who work to save and protect it. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the leaders of nations and all those in positions of authority. Guide them as they make decisions for the good of all. Lead them in the ways that make for peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for those who suffer as the result of war, violence, terrorism, or natural disaster. And we pray for those who willingly serve others in dangerous situations: first responders, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, members of the military, law enforcement (*and others we name now*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for our congregation. Prepare us to welcome newcomers. Make this a place of hope for the least of these in our community. Be with those who are sick, injured, or in any need (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Let us remember with thanksgiving the blessed dead who rest from their labors (*especially*). Gladden us by their lives of faith, and at the last day unite us in the joy of heaven. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Please Stand

THE LORD'S PRAYER – LED BY THE PRAISE TEAM

BLESSING

God Almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN: “As You Go On Your Way”

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: The Praise Team
Greeters: Lee & Barb Forrester
Ushers: 8:30 – Wayne & Janice Olson
10:00 – Marilyn Andrews
Lector: 8:30 am – Sheila Penoyer
Hospitality Hosts: Jan Aho, Diane S.

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, Sept. 4, 2016: 8:30am 92 10:00am 49

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

Sept. 12 through Sept. 12, 2016

Monday	9/12	9:00 am	Women's Devotion at Pat Beckers
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	9/13	9:00 am	Quilters
Wednesday	9/14	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Stitchers
		5:30 pm	Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	9/15	8:00am	ROMEOS
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
		1:00 pm	Stewardship Meeting
		6:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Friday	9/16	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	9/17	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.

OUTREACH WELCOME GIFT BAGS These welcome gift bags are available in fellowship hall. If you have a new neighbor or friend who would appreciate a warm invitation please consider giving them our gift.

COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED Signup sheets are to the left of the serving window by the kitchen. Please check it out and take your turn. We need volunteers for the last week of September and October and beyond.

BETHESDA LUTHERAN OF MALMO ANNUAL JAMBOREE

Save the dates to attend! September 23 & 24 at 7:00 PM at Bethesda.

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

PLAYGROUND TOYS If you have any good, used playground toys like balls, hula hoops, etc. please consider donating them to our playground.

BRIDGE LESSONS Bridge lessons are Tuesday's at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS SUNDAY is today, September 11th. If you're available please join our group as we pick up the Carlsona – Reddy Creek beach again this year. Meet at the beach parking lot at 11:00am today.

JAMBOREE TIME

Friday & Saturday, Sept. 23rd & 24th – 7:00pm.
Come join in on the fun, with wonder music & laughter!
Admission is \$5.00, kids under 12 are Free!

