

**Sunday, October 2, 2016**  
**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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Church Secretary: Mary Braun & Mary Kramer-Long

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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## Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

### INTRODUCTION

*A little faith goes a long way is our Lord's point in the gospel. A mustard seed's-worth has miraculous potential. The patience, tenacity, and endurance required for the life of faith are the blessings received in water and the word (holy baptism), bread and wine (holy communion), the word read and proclaimed in this assembly. Anticipate them. Receive them with thanksgiving.*

**OPENING HYMN: "Crown Him with Many Crowns" #855 ELW**  
(Verses 1, 2, 5)  
*(Please rise for the singing of the last verse)*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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

**Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**CHOIR ANTHEM: “Only a God Like You”**

## First Reading: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

*Injustice and violence in the time leading up to the Babylonian exile move this prophet to lament: How can a good and all-powerful God see evil in the world and seemingly remain indifferent? God answers by proclaiming that the wicked will perish, but the righteous will live by faith.*

<sup>1</sup>The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw. <sup>2</sup>O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save? <sup>3</sup>Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. <sup>4</sup>So the law becomes slack and justice never prevails. The wicked surround the righteous—therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

<sup>2:1</sup>I will stand at my watchpost, and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me, and what he will answer concerning my complaint. <sup>2</sup>Then the LORD answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. <sup>3</sup>For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. <sup>4</sup>Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith. The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks Be to God**

## Psalm: Psalm 37:1-9

*Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD. (Ps. 37:5)*

<sup>1</sup>Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

<sup>2</sup>**For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.**

<sup>3</sup>Put your trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

<sup>4</sup>**Take delight in the LORD, who shall give you your heart’s desire. R**

<sup>5</sup>Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD, and see what God will do.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**

<sup>7</sup>Be still before the LORD and wait patiently. Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

**<sup>8</sup>Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**

<sup>9</sup>For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land. **R**  
*(Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD)*

## **Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:1-14**

*This message written from Paul to Timothy is a personal message of encouragement. In the face of hardship and persecution, Timothy is reminded that his faith is a gift of God. He is encouraged to exercise that faith with the help of the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup>To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

<sup>3</sup>I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. <sup>4</sup>Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup>I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. <sup>6</sup>For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; <sup>7</sup>for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

<sup>8</sup>Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, <sup>9</sup>who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, <sup>10</sup>but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. <sup>11</sup>For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, <sup>12</sup>and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. <sup>13</sup>Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

<sup>14</sup>Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.  
The Word of the Lord.

## **Thanks Be to God**

*Please rise for the Reading of the Gospel*

## **Gospel: Luke 17:5-10**

*On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus instructs his followers about the power of faith and the duties of discipleship. He calls his disciples to adopt the attitude of servants whose actions are responses to their identity rather than works seeking reward.*

<sup>5</sup>The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” <sup>6</sup>The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

<sup>7</sup>“Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the table’? <sup>8</sup>Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink’? <sup>9</sup>Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? <sup>10</sup>So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, ‘We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!’ □”

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

*Please be Seated*

**SERMON: “Nobody Said It Will Be Easy”**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: “Blessed Assurance” #638 ELW**

**OFFERTORY HYMN: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” #742 ELW**

*Please rise as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

**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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*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.*

Increase the faith of your church, O God. Raise up faithful parents and grandparents, prophets and teachers who know, love, and spread your gospel. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Tend and nurture the lands and seas, O God. Raise up faithful stewards of all you have entrusted to human care. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Save the nations, O God. Raise up faithful leaders who strive for peace and justice in the midst of violence and destruction. Especially we pray for . . . . Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Guard those in need, O God. Raise up faithful advocates and caretakers for those who are oppressed, poor, lonely, imprisoned, bereaved, or sick. Especially we pray for . . . . Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Give vision to this congregation, O God. Raise up faithful teachers, staff, volunteers, worship leaders, and council members who serve with purpose, joy, boldness, and love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We bless you for the lives of the saints (*especially Francis of Assisi and Theodor, whom we commemorate today*), through whom you have revealed your love for the world.

Continue to reveal your covenant life through us until the last day. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gather these concerns and all who are in need into your abundant care, O God, remembering your promise of mercy, through 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**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**COMMUNION** - *Distribution by intinction.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**We come again to you, O God, giving you thanks that in this feast of mercy you have embraced us and healed us, making us one in the body of Christ. Go with us on our way. Equip us for every good work, that we may continue to give you thanks by embracing others with mercy and healing; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## 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:

**“For the Fruit of All Creation”**

**#679 ELW**

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

## THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Choir  
Greeters: Marilyn Andrews  
Ushers: 8:30 am Winnie Zahradka, Judy Wozney 10:00 am Darrel Kelly  
Lector: 8:30 am Sandy Pullen  
Hospitality Hosts: Mike & Barb Macioch

***Thank you for your service!***

Response to God’s Word Last Week: Sunday, September 25: 9:00am: 119

## THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

October 3 – October 9

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Monday	10/3	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	10/4	9:00 am	Crafters
Wednesday	10/5	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Stitchers
		6:00 pm	Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team

Thursday	10/6	8:00 am 12:30 pm 6:00 pm	Romeos Fun Timers Bell Choir Practice
Friday	10/7	10:00 am	Bones
Saturday	10/8	1:00-4:00	Foot Clinic
Sunday	10/9	8:30 am Between services - Parsonage Info Meeting 10:00 am	Worship Worship

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**AITKIN COUNTY TRIAD FREE PROGRAMS & LUNCH** Aitkin County Sheriff's Department presents "K-9 Unit, Boat and Water Patrol and Investigators". Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at 11:00am. St. James Church, 299 Red Oak Drive, Aitkin, MN. Free lunch served at St. James. Reservations for free lunch required: call Sandy Liepins at 218-768-3355 or email: [liepins@frontiernet.net](mailto:liepins@frontiernet.net) or Ginny Ekstrand 218-752-1111 or email: [ekstrand@frontier.com](mailto:ekstrand@frontier.com)

**FLU SHOTS** The Aitkin Co Public Health flu shot clinic will be held here at Bethesda Lutheran on Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:15-9:45 am. Aitkin Public Health can bill your insurance for you so please be sure to bring your insurance card.

**DIGITAL MUSIC & SOUND SYSTEM COORDINATOR** The Personnel committee will be creating a job description and are searching for the right person to fill this paid position.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED** Worship and Music Committee is seeking new members to join our committee. If you would like to play a key role in shaping our worship service experience, please contact Randy Tofteland with any questions.

**FALL HEARTLAND GATHERING** Ladies of Bethesda the Fall Heartland Gathering will be held at Lord of Life Church in Baxter on October 22, 9-12. Sign up will be in fellowship hall.

**INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS ON THE PARSONAGE.** Remodel? Replace? Sell? What our options are and how it will influence our church's future. Two meetings will be held; Sunday, October 9th between services and Tuesday, October 11 at 1:30pm.