

**Sunday, October 23, 2016**  
**Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost**



**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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## Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost

### INTRODUCTION

*Genuine repentance and pretentious piety stand in stark contrast in the gospel and all around us. All creation stands in need of God's forgiveness. Keep the faith. God's people—"all who have longed for his appearing"—shall be accounted righteous for Jesus' sake. Our God is merciful to sinners. For all this the assembly glorifies God forever.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN: "Holy God We Praise Your Name" #414 ELW**  
(Verses 1, 2, 4)  
*(Please rise for the singing of 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**

**Holy God, our righteous judge, daily your mercy surprises us with everlasting forgiveness. Strengthen our hope in you, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may find their glory in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**BELL CHOIR ANTHEM: “Take My Life and Let It Be”**

**First Reading: Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22**

*In a time of drought, the people pray for mercy, repenting of their sins and the sins of their ancestors. They appeal to God to remember the covenant, to show forth God’s power, and to heal their land by sending life-giving rain.*

<sup>7</sup>Although our iniquities testify against us, act, O LORD, for your name’s sake; our apostasies indeed are many, and we have sinned against you. <sup>8</sup>O hope of Israel, its savior in time of trouble, why should you be like a stranger in the land, like a traveler turning aside for the night? <sup>9</sup>Why should you be like someone confused, like a mighty warrior who cannot give help? Yet you, O LORD, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name; do not forsake us!

<sup>10</sup>Thus says the LORD concerning this people: Truly they have loved to wander, they have not restrained their feet; therefore the LORD does not accept them, now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins.

<sup>19</sup>Have you completely rejected Judah? Does your heart loathe Zion? Why have you struck us down so that there is no healing for us? We look for peace, but find no good; for a time of healing, but there is terror instead. <sup>20</sup>We acknowledge our wickedness, LORD, the iniquity of our ancestors, for we have sinned against you. <sup>21</sup>Do not spurn us, for your name’s sake; do not dishonor your glorious throne; remember and do not break your covenant with us. <sup>22</sup>Can any idols of the nations bring rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Is it not you, O LORD our God? We set our hope on you, for it is you who do all this.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks Be to God**

## **Psalm: Psalm 84:1-7**

*Happy are the people whose strength is in you. (Ps. 84:5)*

<sup>1</sup>How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts!

**<sup>2</sup>My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

<sup>3</sup>Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young, by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king and my God.

**<sup>4</sup>Happy are they who dwell in your house! They will always be praising you. R**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are the people whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

**<sup>6</sup>Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a place of springs, for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.**

<sup>7</sup>They will climb from height to height, and the God of gods will be seen in Zion. R

## **Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18**

*The conclusion of this letter to a young minister offers a final perspective on life from one who is now facing death. Though others have let him down, Paul is sure of his faith in the Lord, who has stood by him and lent him strength.*

<sup>6</sup>As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

<sup>16</sup>At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! <sup>17</sup>But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. <sup>18</sup>The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks Be to God**

*Please rise for the Reading of the Gospel*

## **Gospel: Luke 18:9-14**

*The coming reign of God will involve unexpected reversals of fortune with judgment rooted in mercy. Jesus tells a parable in which the one who humbles himself is exalted and the one who exalts his own righteousness is humbled.*

<sup>9</sup>[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:<sup>10</sup>“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ <sup>13</sup>But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ <sup>14</sup>I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

*Please be Seated*

**SERMON**

**“Fought, Finish & Kept”**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**

**“Amazing Grace”**  
(Verses 1, 2, 5)

**#779 ELW**

*After Hymn of the Day, Ushers will begin passing the offering plate. 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.*

Set free by the truth of God’s gracious love, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God’s good creation.

*A brief silence.*

Only you are righteous, O God. Lead your church to true repentance so that we reflect your light and truth to the world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Only you can bring rain, O God. Be with those who lack clean water or must walk miles to quench their thirst. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Only you can judge the nations, O God. Raise up leaders with humble hearts so that your peace spreads across the earth. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Those who live in your house are happy, O God. Keep us by your grace until we join (*James of Jerusalem, martyr, and all*) the saints around your throne. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, faithful God, we place ourselves and our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **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:**                    “Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”                    #890 ELW

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

### **THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Music:                                Bell Choir  
Greeters:                            Dennis & Lynne Meidlinger  
Ushers:                               8:30 am Skip & Lynn Hansen   10:00 am Barry & Donna Ansell  
Lector:                               8:30 am Sandy Pullen  
Hospitality Hosts:

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

Response to God's Word Last Week:

Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>:    8:30am:   82                      10:00am:   16

**THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA**

October 24 – October 30

Monday	10/24	8:30 am	Lefse Making
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	10/25	8:30 am	Lefse Making
Wednesday	10/26	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Stitchers
		5:30 pm	Choir Practice
		6:00 pm	Cantata Practice-All Members Welcome!
		6:00 pm	Confirmation Classes
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	10/27	8:00 am	Romeos
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
		4:00 pm	Bazaar Set Up
		6:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Friday	10/28	9:00-4:00pm	Bazaar Setup
		10:00 am	Bones
Saturday	10/29	9:00am	Holiday Bazaar
Sunday	10/30	8:30 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Worship

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**BAKE SALE** Malmo Area Lions will be holding a Bake Sale on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> outside the Sunrise Café (Westerlund Complex Highway 47 in Malmo) 7:00am until gone. All money raised goes back to the community.

**HOLIDAY BAZAAR** our annual bazaar will be held on Saturday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-2:00pm. Volunteers are needed to help setup and take down and work the day of the sale. Signup sheets are in the Fellowship Hall.

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES** will start on Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at 6:00pm.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** Christmas is about sharing the gift of Jesus with the world. You can share joy and hope with needy children around the world by taking part in this shoebox ministry. These are the ways you can help:

1. Bring new, small gifts such as balls, cars, dolls, stuffed animals, school supplies, T-shirts, caps and personal care items (no liquids) to the church by November 13th. Empty (preferably wrapped) shoeboxes are also needed.
2. Fill a shoebox and bring it to church-this is a good project to do with grandkids.
3. Donate money (\$7.00/box) to cover the cost of postage.
4. Help fill boxes after the second service on November 13th.

**SPECIAL CONGRAGATIONAL MEETING** We will hold a special congregational meeting on November 20 to vote on whether the church will replace our existing parsonage or proceed into the future without parsonage ownership. The special meeting will be held at 10AM following one service at 9:00 AM.

**NEW FLORAL ARRANGEMENT** that is in the front of the sanctuary was donated as a memorial to Bill Wuorio. Flowers were given by Judy Wuorio and vases by Dick and Sandy Pullen.



We are still looking for church members who are interested in becoming a member of the Interim Transition Team. Any member is welcome to be a member of the Interim Transition Team. Please give your name to our church secretary or Pastor Terry no later than Sunday, November 6.

We need 7 people on this team, and so far, we have three signed up. A copy of the Job Description is included in the bulletin.

**CHRISTMAS CANTATA** We will begin practicing for our annual Cantata starting Wednesday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. All voices are welcome to join us! Just show up.

**COME HEAR THE PRAISE CHOIR** on Sunday, November 13th for a lively journey through the Old Testament. You will sing songs and learn about some of the most notable characters in the Old Testament.