

**Sunday, January 29, 2017**

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**



**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

*Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, mourners, the meek, those who hunger for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN:**                    “Rise Up, O Saints of God”                    #669 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, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving God,

**we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways.**

**Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as your children.**

**Amen.**

Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. Even when we have messed up, God puts us together. God’s love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of ☐ Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

### APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ...

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

### **First Reading: Micah 6:1-8**

*With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.*

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. <sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup>"O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! <sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. <sup>5</sup>O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

<sup>6</sup>"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" <sup>8</sup>He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

The Word of the Lord.

### **Thanks Be to God**

### **Psalm: Psalm 15**

*LORD, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)*

<sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

**<sup>2</sup>Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup>**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

## **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

*According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.*

<sup>18</sup>The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup>Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks Be to God**

*Please rise for the reading of the Gospel*

**Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12**

**Glory to you, O Lord**

*Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.*

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to You, O Christ**

*Please be Seated*

**SERMON**

“Blessed are You!”

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Give Me Jesus”

#770 ELW

**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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Called to be a light to the nations, let us pray for God’s justice, peace, and healing.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for wholeness in the body of Christ. Bind up fractures within the church. Humble the proud and lift up the lowly. Make us one at your table. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for the beauty of the universe. For the light of the stars, for the majesty of the mountains, we thank you. Mold us into stewards of your creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for peacemakers around the world. End violence. Restore communities (*especially*). Stop bribery within political systems. Reign with justice and peace and commit us to this act of discipleship. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for our neighbors who mourn, who have no clean water, who hunger. Provide their daily bread. Heal the forgotten, the lost, and our enemies, family, and friends (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for this congregation. Bless the work and play of young and old. Deepen our faith. Expand our discipleship. Equip us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We praise you for all the saints who died proclaiming the gospel. Strengthen us through their witness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive these prayers in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

*Ushers will begin passing the offering plate. Please rise as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Merciful God, receive the gifts we bring, ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **LORDS PRAYER**

## **BLESSING**

The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: "I Know That my Redeemer Lives" #619 ELW**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

## **THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Digital Hymnal: Mary Braun  
Greeters: Maynard & Kathy Berland  
Ushers: Nancy Hansen, Paula Spetz  
Lector: JoAnn Haglund  
Hospitality Hosts: Quilters-Bev, Marge, Dorothy

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, January 22, 2017: 9:00am 76

## **THIS WEEK AT Bethesda January 30 thru February 5, 2017**

Monday	1/30	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle AA/Alanon
Tuesday	1/31	10:00-12:00	Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	2/1	8:30 am 9:30 am 6:00 pm 6:00 pm	Bible Study Stitchers Catechism Praise Team
Thursday	2/2	8:00am 10:30 pm 12:30 pm	ROMEOS Worship & Music Meeting Fun Timers
Friday	2/3	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Saturday	2/4	1:00-4:00pm	Foot Clinic
Sunday	2/5	9:00 am	Worship

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED** Signup sheets are to the left of the serving window by the kitchen. Please check it out and take your turn. There will always be someone to assist you with making the coffee and running the dishwasher.

**FOOT CLINIC** our next Foot Clinic will be on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:00pm. Call the church office at 320 684-2123 (between 11-3, Monday-Friday) to schedule your appointment. Walk ins welcome after 2:30pm.

**SCANDINAVIAN TOUR** A 12 day tour to Scandinavia is being offered by Pastor Paul Andell May 21-June 2, 2017 leaving from Minneapolis. The trip includes Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark. For more information call Pastor Paul at 218-927-2398 or 218-429-1502. He needs to know if you are interested by February 23, 2017. Pastor Paul is a pastor at Morningside Lutheran Church in Sioux City, IA and a group from there is going.

### **PRAYER AND CARE CONCERNS**

- Safe travel for all and protection from the cold.

**VIEWING PARTY** Join us on Sunday, February 12th after the 9:00am service to watch a one hour movie on “Luther and the Reformation”. The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is not only a time for reflection on the rich history of our church, but also a chance to look forward to what lies ahead for all of us. It’s an exciting time to be Lutheran as we come together with the Roman Catholic Church on the foundation of our common heritage. Rick Steves’ “Luther and the Reformation” is a wonderful resource for all of us to better understand our Lutheran roots and help us in our continued journey of understanding the Gospel. There will be coffee, juice, rolls and donuts that morning. All are welcome!

**CALL COMMITTEE FOR NEW PASTOR** On the table in the Narthex you will find double sided forms that describe the formation of a Call Committee that will lead the search for our next Pastor. The form includes an overview of the role and its responsibilities as well as an application to be completed if you are interested in being a member of this Committee. This is an extremely important process and we are hopeful there will be a broad and diverse group of people who will be interested in serving on this Committee. We believe the outcome of the Call process will be best if the Call Committee represents the whole of our congregation. So we’re hoping the final committee is comprised of men and woman, old and young, new and longtime members, etc. Please prayerfully consider applying for this important Committee and helping your church identify our next Pastor. The church will be receiving applications over the next couple of months, but if you feel called to apply, there is no better time than now to do so.

**DIGITAL ORGAN OPERATORS TRAINING** Saturday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. Anybody that is interested just show up or contact Jim Christensen. If you can use a TV remote you can run the Digital Organ.