

Sunday, February 12, 2017

Sixth 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

In today's reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We, too, are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

“Jesus Loves Me”

#595 ELW

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN: “They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

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 GREATING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ...

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM: “Carrier”

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

The Lord sets before the people of God a clear choice. Life and prosperity will come to the faithful; loss of the land will be the consequence of disobedience. Choosing life entails loving and holding fast to the Lord. Life in God’s presence presupposes the promise made to the ancestors.

[Moses said to the people:] ¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God

Psalm 119:1-8

Happy are they who follow the teaching of the LORD. (Ps. 119:1)

¹Happy are they whose way is blameless, who follow the teaching of the LORD!

²**Happy are they who observe your decrees and seek you with all their hearts,**

³who never do any wrong, but always walk in your ways.

⁴**You laid down your commandments, that we should fully keep them.**

⁵Oh, that my ways were made so direct that I might keep your statutes!

⁶**Then I should not be put to shame, when I regard all your commandments.**

⁷I will thank you with a true heart, when I have learned your righteous judgments.

⁸**I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Human leaders in the church are not the ones who control ministry. Rather they are fellow workers who belong to God, the one who truly controls and continuously empowers the ministry of the church.

¹Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, “I belong to Paul,” and another, “I belong to Apollos,” are you not merely human?

⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God

Please rise for the reading of the Gospel

Gospel: Matthew 5:21-37

Glory to you, O Lord

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts his followers to embrace standards of righteousness that exceed legal requirements and traditional expectations.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way

to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

Please be Seated

HYMN OF THE DAY:

“I Love to Tell the Story”

#661 ELW

SERMON

“Empowered by the Law to Look Up!”

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.

Holy Lord, you alone are God. Remove jealousy and quarreling between Christian denominations. Hold us in the unity of our baptism as we work together to serve you.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You called into being the first fruits of the earth. Guide gardeners and farmers who till the soil and tend the fields. Bless their work and in due season bring forth the bounty of the land. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Merciful Lord, your love knows no bounds. Break down barriers caused by nationalism. Challenge our stereotypes. Give us courage to engage in difficult conversations with those whose experiences are different from our own. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on all who struggle (*especially*). Ease the pain of families affected by divorce. Grant life-giving work to all who seek employment. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You know every hair on our heads. Yet we do not even know each of our neighbors. Equip our outreach ministry and this assembly to get to know the people in our community. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal Lord, you are the God of our ancestors in faith. You are our God. Keep us faithful until we join all the saints at your heavenly banquet. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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

OFFATORY HYMN:

“Change My Heart, O God”

#801 ELW

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, our selves, 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 - LED BY THE PRAISE TEAM

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: “Love the Lord” & “Jesus is the Rock”

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

Music: The Praise Team Greeters: Chuck & Elsa Carlson
Ushers: Shirley Moe, Judy Wozney Lector: Darlene Christensen
Hospitality Hosts: Roy & Char Berg, Vukelich Family, Jeannine Bruesewitz

Thank you for your service!

Response to God’s Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, February 5, 2017: 9:00am 85

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

February 13 thru February 19, 2017

Monday	2/13	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	2/14	9:00 am	Quilters
		10:00-12:00	Pastor Text Study
		5:30 pm	Council Meeting

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda (continued)**February 13 thru February 19, 2017**

Wednesday	2/15	8:00-12:00	WIC
		8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Stitchers
		6:00 pm	Catechism
		6:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	2/16	8:00am	ROMEOS
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	2/17	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	2/19	9:00 am	Worship
		10:15 am	Interim Transition Team Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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.

Please call Pastor Terry or the church office secretaries if you need Holy Communion brought to you at your home or in any Health Care Facility. Between our Pastor and Parish Nurses we will gladly visit those in need as soon as possible.

VIEWING PARTY Today after our worship service. Watch this one hour movie on “Luther and the Reformation”. There will be coffee, juice, rolls and donuts this morning. All are welcome!

ELCA Presiding Bishop addresses President Trump’s refugee executive order. A copy of this is available in the Narthex. Pick one up on your way out today.

TAX STATEMENTS are available to pick up in the Fellowship. So are your 2017 Giving Envelopes

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.