

Sunday, February 19, 2017
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Prayer Chain Contacts Char Berg 320-684-2102 or Judy Forester 218-678-2667

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 first reading we hear, "You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy." Yet we know we cannot achieve perfection. Our attempts to love neighbors and even our enemies fall short of what God desires for us. Yet in Jesus we see one who loved even those who persecuted and killed him. We are made holy in baptism, and forgiven at the table of God's mercy. As a people made holy by God, we go in peace to love as we have been loved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN:

"Built On a Rock"

#652 ELW

(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, 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 of compassion, you invite us into your way of forgiveness and peace. Lead us to love our enemies, and transform our words and deeds to be like his through whom we pray, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

The Holiness Code in Leviticus urges people to be holy since God is holy. Holiness is lived out in partiality for and consideration of the poor and the weak. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves.

¹The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

²Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

⁹When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God.

¹¹You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another.

¹²And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the LORD.

¹³You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. ¹⁴You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

¹⁵You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

¹⁷You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God

Psalm: Psalm 119:33-40

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes. (Ps. 119:33)

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching; I shall keep it with all**

my heart.

³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.

³⁶**Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life in your way.

³⁸**Fulfill your promise to your servant, which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for your commandments; by your righteousness enliven me.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

Jesus Christ is the foundation of the church and its ministry. We are God's temple because God's Spirit dwells in us, and we belong to Christ. Hence we are called to build wisely upon this sure foundation not for our own benefit but for others to experience Christ's benefits.

¹⁰According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

¹⁶Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

¹⁸Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. ¹⁹For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," ²⁰and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."

²¹So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, ²²whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all belong to you, ²³and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God

Please rise for the Reading of the Gospel

Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

Glory to you, O Lord

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declares an end to the law of vengeance. God's people will respond to evil with love and forgiveness.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³⁸"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' ³⁹But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; ⁴⁰and if anyone wants to sue you and take your

coat, give your cloak as well; ⁴¹and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. ⁴²Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Please be Seated

SERMON: “Love & Forgiveness! (They Makes All the Difference)”

Please Stand for the Hymn of the Day

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Lord of Glory, You Have Brought Us” #677 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

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

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

A brief silence

Make the church in every land holy as you are holy, O God. Join the voices of rich and poor, young and old, friends and enemies, in praise of you. Orchestrate harmony among us. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for clean air, clean water, and clean soil. Renew the sky, land, and waterways. Teach us how to care for the earth as you desire. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for an end to war and for peace throughout the world (*areas experiencing conflict may be named*). Prosper the work of peacemakers, erase hatred, and stop violence. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for all who live with cognitive disorders or eating disorders. Provide them with supportive communities. Restore the forgotten; comfort the mourning; heal the hurting (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for all who are discerning a call to ministry and those who accompany them. Empower them with your grace and wisdom to continue building on the foundation of faith we have in Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the faithful departed (*especially*) and we pray for those who will die today. Hold them in your loving embrace. Breathe your Spirit of peace into them. 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

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION - *Distribution by intinction.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever.

Amen.

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: **“The Church of Christ, in Every Age”** **#729 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 Operator: Jim Christensen Greeters: Bruce Gingerich & Carol Schlottman
Ushers: Wayne & Janice Olson Lector: Steve Lackner
Hospitality Hosts: Ron & Joanne Melhop, Rick & Marge Nelson

Thank you for your service!

Response to God’s Word Last Week: Sunday, February 12th: 9:00am: 67

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

February 20 thru February 26

Monday	2/20	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		5:30 pm	Council Meeting @ Mary Braun’s
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	2/21	10-noon	Pastor Text Study
		1:30-4:00 pm	4H
Wednesday	2/22	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Stitchers
		6:00 pm	Praise Team
		6:00 pm	Catechism

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA (continued)

February 20 thru February 26

Thursday	2/23	8:00 am	Romeos
		12:30 pm	Funtimers
Friday	2/24	10:00 am	Bones
Sunday	2/26	9:00 am	Worship

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

- Arlene Westerlund

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.

FOOT CLINIC our next Foot Clinic will be on Saturday, March 4th 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.

VETS & FRIENDS COMMUNITY NETWORK RETREAT Theme: Post-traumatic Growth. WHEN: Wednesday evening, March 8 – Sunday noon, March 12, 2017. WHERE: Luther Point Camp, Grantsburg, Wisconsin. WHO: Veterans, Family, Friends, Community Team Leaders. No cost for veterans, family members, friends and past retreat participants. Cost for first time Community Leader Team Attendees: Individual - \$250; Team of 2 - \$400; Each additional team member-\$150 (Stipends available). For more information on stipends or the retreat contact Retreat Hospitality Coordinator, Cindy Macaulay at riskhc@gmail.com. See more information on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

PRAISE TEAM will be practicing after the Lenten services on Wednesday nights starting March 8. After Easter they will practice at 7 PM after choir practice. All voices are welcomed to join. Just show up!

CHURCH CHOIR PRACTICE will start on Saturday, April 1 at 9 AM and Saturday, April 8 at 9 AM then Wednesday, April 12 at 7 PM. If we need an additional practice for the Easter Cantata we will do it on Saturday, April 15 at 9 AM. After Easter the choir will return to Wednesday night practice at 6 PM. All voices are welcomed to join. Just show up!

PLEASE PICK UP your yearend statements and envelopes if you have not done so. They are in the Fellowship Hall.