

# Sunday, March 5, 2017

## First Sunday in Lent



### **BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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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

*Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### OPENING HYMN:

**"A Mighty Fortress"**

**#504 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.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ✚ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

Merciful God,

**forgive us. Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free. We have spoken when we should have kept quiet.**

*Silence.*

**We were silent when we should have said something.**

*Silence.*

**We acted when we knew better.**

*Silence.*

**We were still when we know we should have moved.**

*Silence.*

**For the wrong we have done, for the good we have failed to do, have mercy on us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

People of God, look to the ✚ Son, given to heal you and set you free because God loved the world so much. Take hold of life—eternal life!

**Amen.**

## **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ...

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## **First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

*Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.*

<sup>15</sup>The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

<sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

<sup>3:1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; <sup>3</sup>but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' □" <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks Be to God**

## **Psalm: Psalm 32**

*Mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD. (Ps. 32:10)*

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup>**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit**

**there is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

**<sup>4</sup>For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

**<sup>6</sup>Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup>You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

**<sup>8</sup>“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

<sup>9</sup>Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

**<sup>10</sup>Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

<sup>11</sup>Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

## **Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19**

*Through Adam’s disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ’s obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.*

<sup>12</sup>Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—<sup>13</sup>sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man’s trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup>And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup>If, because of the one man’s trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup>Therefore just as one man’s trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man’s act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup>For just as by the one man’s

disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The Word of the Lord.

## **Thanks Be to God**

*Please rise for the Reading of the Gospel*

**Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11**

## **Glory to you, O Lord**

*Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.*

<sup>1</sup>Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

<sup>4</sup>But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' □"

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' □"

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' □"

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' □"

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord

## **Praise to you, O Christ**

*Please be Seated*

**SERMON            Reformation 500    "The Ten Commandments"**

*Please Stand for the Hymn of the Day*

**HYMN OF THE DAY:            "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"    #325 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.*

Lifting our voices and turning toward God, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence*

Holy God, lead your church on earth to do your will and strive for your kingdom. Teach us your ways and increase our understanding. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Show us how to care for your creation and to treasure the fruits of your creating. Guide our actions and increase our commitment. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Give knowledge and wisdom to all leaders throughout your world. Turn hardened hearts of stone toward your nourishing word and let the powerful become providers of daily bread. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Rush to the aid of your people in times of distress. Send your peace and healing to those in need. (*We pray especially for . . .*) Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Guide those preparing for baptism, sponsors, and this whole assembly toward living into the promises made in baptism. Lead us to scripture, the holy supper, and toward your will for all creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Accompany us on our Lenten journeys and inspire us by the witness of the saints who walked faithfully with you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love; through Christ our Lord.

**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 sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ✝ peace.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN:**            **“Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer”**            **#618 ELW**

## **DISMISSAL**

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

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

## **THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Digital Organ Operator: Julie Swaggert

Greeters: Wayne & Janice Olson

Ushers: Ron & Joanie Mehlhop

Lector: Char Berg

Hospitality Hosts: Chuck & Elsa Carlson

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

Response to God's Word Last Week:

Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>: 9:00am: 64 Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>: 6:30pm 39

**THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA**

March 6 thru March 12

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Monday	3/6	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle AA/Alanon
Tuesday	3/7	10-noon	Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	3/8	8:30 am 9:30 am 5:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study Stitchers Pot Luck – Table Talk “The Ten Commandments” Lenten Worship Praise Team practice
Thursday	3/9	8:00 am 12:30 pm	Romeos Funtimers
Friday	3/10	10:00 am	Bones
Sunday	3/12	9:00 am	Worship

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**WELCOME BACK** to Meldon and Kimito Liljenquist as restored members of Bethesda! Meldon and Kimito are both homebound and will be added to our list of homebound members. They received Holy Communion last Wednesday at home. Meldon is the brother of Marilyn Andrews and Dennis Liljenquist.

**PRAYER AND CARE CONCERNS**

- Lyn Haas, Onamia
- Annetta Shaud, ex-dtr-in-law of Patti&George Smith, has 3-6 months to live

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.

**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.

**Reformation 500 - Luther's Small Catechism**

Wednesday's in Lent	-	Table Talk
March 8		The Ten Commandments
March 15		The Apostle's Creed
March 22		The Lord's Prayer
March 29		Holy Baptism
April 5		Holy Communion