

**Sunday, April 23, 2017**

**Second Sunday of Easter**



**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

*In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN: "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" #619 ELW (vs. 1-4)**

## 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 fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Let us come into the light, the revealing and healing light of God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of grace and glory,

**you have brought us through the night of sin into the light of Jesus' resurrection. Yet our lives are still shadowed by sin. Make us alive in Christ, O God. Make us new as you make all things new. Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin, renew us in grace, and restore us to living in your holiness, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.**

**Amen.**

Rejoice with all creation around God's throne! The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil deeds, washes away sin, restores innocence to the fallen, casts out hate, brings peace, and humbles earthly pride. Jesus Christ loves you and ✠ frees you from your sins by his blood. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever!

**Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ...

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

### **First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32**

*After the Holy Spirit came to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.*

<sup>14a</sup>Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], <sup>22</sup>“You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—<sup>23</sup>this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law.

<sup>24</sup>But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. <sup>25</sup>For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; <sup>26</sup>therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope.

<sup>27</sup>For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption.

<sup>8</sup>You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ <sup>29</sup>“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup>Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup>Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ <sup>32</sup>This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks Be to God**

### **Psalm: Psalm 16**

*In your presence there is fullness of joy. (Ps. 16:11)*

<sup>1</sup>Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

<sup>2</sup>**All my delight is in the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people.**

<sup>3</sup>But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.

**<sup>4</sup>I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods, never take their names upon my lips.**

<sup>5</sup>O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.

**<sup>6</sup>My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

<sup>7</sup>I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

**<sup>8</sup>I have set the LORD always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

<sup>9</sup>My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

**<sup>10</sup>For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.**

<sup>11</sup>You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

### **Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9**

*This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even in the midst of difficult circumstances and surroundings.*

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks Be to God**

*Please rise for the reading of the Gospel*

**Gospel: John 20:19-31**

**Glory to you, O Lord**

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their numbers is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.*

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name. This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to You, O Christ**

*Please be Seated*

**SERMON**      **“Peace, Purpose and Power: Gifts of the Resurrected Jesus!”**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      **“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”**      **#619 ELW** (vs. 5-8)

**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.*

Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. Breathe your Spirit into us. Renew us with your power. Unite us in mission and send us into the world with your love. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For the earth. For fields and forests, gardens and vineyards, and all newly planted crops. Sustain our world with clean water and favorable weather. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For the nations. Empower leaders to work for the well-being of all. Send peace into every place where people live in the shadow of violence and displacement (*especially*). Free all who are isolated behind walls of fear. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For those in need. Look with compassion toward those who bear hidden wounds. Draw near to those who seek you. Comfort the dying, console the grieving, and heal the sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For this assembly. Give us courage to welcome newcomers graciously. Walk with those who are inquiring, those who harbor doubts and questions, and those who are absent from us. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died in faith (*especially Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society*). Inspire us by their witness. Bring us with them to the heavenly feast. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus 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**

**Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen.**

## LORDS PRAYER

### BLESSING

May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### CLOSING HYMN:

**“Thine is the Glory”**

**#376 ELW**

### DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

**Members! The Spirit sends us forth to serve!**

### THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Digital Hymnal: Jim Christensen

Greeters: George & Patti Smith

Ushers: 8:30am - George & Kathy Larson

10:00am - Darrel Kelly

Lectors: 8:30am – Ruth Hamman

10:00am - JoAnn Haglund

No fellowship between services today.

Hall is set up for funeral service for Gloria Westerlund at 1:00pm today.

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God’s Word Last Week: Sunday, April 16, 2017 - 8:30am 96 10:00pm 75

### THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

April 24 thru April 30, 2017

Monday	4/24	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	4/25	9:00 am	Quilters
		10:00-12:00	Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	4/26	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Stitchers
		6:00 pm	Choir Practice
		6:00 pm	Catechism
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	4/27	8:00am	ROMEOS
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers

**THIS WEEK AT Bethesda** (continued) **April 24 thru April 30, 2017**

Friday	4/28	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	4/30	8:30 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Worship

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER AND CARE CONCERNS**

- Arlene Westerlund

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** There is now a decorated box in the Fellowship Hall for donations for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Donations will be collected all year so if you find new articles at garage sales or thrift stores or want to pick up items when you go to the Dollar Store they can be placed in the box. Also bring in any shoe boxes (wrapped if possible).

**THE DATE OF OUR ANNUAL JELLY MAKING** has been set for Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM. Please come and join in the fun. No experience needed. Sign up sheets are in the fellowship hall. The jelly will be sold at the veggie stand this summer. All proceeds go to the Benevolence Fund. Donations are welcome. Some items needed are: sugar----150 lbs; strawberry jello----16-20 (3 oz) boxes; Sure Jell----about 17-20 boxes; Regular mouth lids----10-12 boxes (we have plenty of rings); Also need a few more jars, so bring in your empties. If you have rhubarb or hot peppers in your freezer from last year we could use them. Monetary donations are appreciated as well made out to Bethesda Lutheran with a notation for jelly making. **All donations need to be in by April 30<sup>th</sup>.** Thank you to everyone that helps out.

**JOYFUL NOISE MUSIC FESTIVAL** If you like contemporary Christian music there is an opportunity to enjoy several artists at this outdoor family music festival on June 9th and 10th Go to [www.joyfulnoise.com](http://www.joyfulnoise.com) for details or talk to Jim or Darlene Christensen if you are interested in attending.

**QUILT DISPLAY** Bethesda quilters will be displaying the quilts they have made for Lutheran World Relief in the sanctuary on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please take a few minutes to look at them and see the beautiful work they have done.

**NEW WEBSITE** – the new website is up and running. You can listen to the gospel and the sermon for each week, view Sunday digital bulletins, find forms for prayer requests, recent events and more! Go check it out today and bookmark this site to your favorites! **<http://www.blcmalmo.org>**

**THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** is pleased to announce that we have reviewed and approved a group of volunteers to form a Call Committee in the search for our new pastor. We are blessed with 10 great volunteers and look forward to them representing our congregation during this upcoming process. The 10 volunteers are:

Ron Haglund	Darlene Christensen	Carolyn Morris	Steve Lackner
Karen Carron	Ron Melhop	George Smith	Mary Braun
Carol Hass	Julie Swaggert		

The next step in the process is for the congregation to approve the list of volunteers. On May 7<sup>th</sup> at coffee, we will ask the congregation to approve this list of volunteers. Please plan on attending that meeting to meet the volunteers and pray for a speedy and successful mission.

**NEW MEMBERS** We will be receiving new members on May 14<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to join at this time, please contact Pastor Terry.