

Sunday, July 23, 2017
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



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

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK – Randy Tofteland

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, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.

Amen.

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

Eternal God our creator,

in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God ✚ forgives you all your sins.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN: “Sing to the Lord of Harvest” #694 ELW

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Bell Anthem: “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8

God claims the right to sole rule, because God announces things that actually do happen, while supposed divine opponents remain silent. God is Israel’s redeemer, that is, the best brother or sister they ever had.

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. ⁸Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM: Psalm 86:11-17

¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

¹²**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and glorify your name forevermore.**

¹³For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the pit of death.

¹⁴**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life; they have not set you before their eyes.**

¹⁵But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

¹⁶**Turn to me and have mercy on me; give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**

¹⁷**Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame; because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.**

Second Reading: Romans 8:12-25

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus tells a parable about the co-existence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

²⁴[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But

he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.
³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ

SERMON: “You Can Pay Me Now or You Can Pay Me Later!”

HYMN OF THE DAY: O Holy Spirit, Enter In” #786 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 together in the Spirit’s embrace, let us pray for the mending of God’s world.

A brief silence.

Enliven your church with love for your world, O God. Give undivided hearts to Christians from Africa and the Americas, Asia and Europe. Make us one in faithful witness to your will. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Renew the life of this earth, O God, even as it groans because of misuse and decay. Cultivate in us an eager longing for a healthy and life-giving earth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bridge the chasms that divide the nations, O God. Inspire a reconciling vision among the world's leaders, and bring together people of differing commitments for the sake of the world's most vulnerable people. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Embrace those who suffer, O God. Give peace to all who are near death, hope to those who are depressed, shelter to the homeless, and healing to the sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Embolden our witness to your love, O God. Send us out into the world with courageous hearts, persistence, and holy wisdom. Inspire us to tend to and delight in our children's faith. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Raise up your saints, O God. Inspire us by the lives of all reformers and renewers of your church (*especially Birgitta of Sweden*). Receive our thanks for the saints among us who have recently died (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your care through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

OFFERING

Ushers will begin passing the offering plate.

Please rise as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.

Offering Prayer

Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN: “On What Has Now Been Sown” #550 ELW

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Bell Choir & Digital Organ

Greeters: Ron & Arty Heins

Ushers: 8:30am Chuck & Elsa Carlson

10:00am Ron & JoAnn Haglund

Lectors: 8:30am Sandy Pullen

10:00am Kathy Berland

Hospitality Hosts: Judy Wuorio, Ray Piispanen, Mike & Barbara Macioch

Thank you for your service!

Response to God’s Word Last Week

Attendance: July 16, 2017: 8:30am: 88 10:00am: 43

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

July 24 through July 30, 2017

Monday	7/24	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	7/25	9:00 am	Quilters
		10-12 am	Pastor’s text study
Wednesday	7/26	8:30 am	Women’s Bible Study
		9:30 am	Stitchers
		10:00 am	Mission & Evangelism Meeting
		5:30 pm	Choir
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	7/27	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		10:00 am	Property Committee
		12:30 pm	Funtimers
		6:00 pm	Bells
Friday	7/28	10:00 am	Bone Builders

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

July 24 through July 30, 2017

Saturday	7/29	7:30 am	Veggie stand
		4:30-7:00 pm	Beef & Corn Feed
Sunday	7/30	8:30 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Worship
		11:00 am	Meeting for Holden Village Travelers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MUSIC MINISTRY Our church would like to experience the talents of your family and friends. Our hope would be to incorporate a one piece selection of special music into our Sunday worship services. Please contact the church office for complete details.

BELL CHOIR If you are interested in joining the bell choir show up at practice on Thursday nights at 6:00pm. All are welcomed.

BEEF & CORN FEED the Annual Beef and Corn Feed is scheduled for Saturday, July 29th from 4:30 – 7:00pm. *Volunteer signup sheets are available in the Narthex.* Pans of bars are needed for the event.

PARSONAGE CELEBRATION SERVICE Sunday, August 6th, 2017 featuring the musical group Dakota Road. One Worship Service that day at 10:00am followed by a free picnic and tour of the new Parsonage. All are welcome! Bars and Cookies will be needed for the picnic that day.

SAVE THE DATE: The Jamboree this year will be one performance only, Friday, September 22, 2017 at 7:00pm

AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES – The movie “The Shack” will be shown in the fellowship hall on Sunday, August 13th at 11:30am. Popcorn and beverages will be provided.

HOLDEN VILLAGE TRAVELERS - There will be a meeting on Sunday, July 30th after the second service for those going to Holden Village.

COUNCIL MEMBERS NEEDED - Please consider serving on your church council for the upcoming fiscal year. We will need 4 - 5 new council members beginning in October and we'd ask you to consider, “Is this your time to serve?” Please contact Pastor Terry or any of the current council members with questions, or to let them know of your interest to serve.