

Sunday, July 30, 2017
Eighth 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

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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: "God of Grace and God of Glory #705 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

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us

your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Faithful Lord!”

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well. In verse 13 God gives him additional honor and riches beyond compare.

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136

¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰**When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

¹³²**Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.**

¹³³Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴**Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶**My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.**

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

Glory to you, O Lord

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ

SERMON: “Thy Kingdom Come!?”

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Jesus, Priceless Treasure” #775 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.

Generous, compassionate God, we gather before you to pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

hear our prayer.

Shine the light of understanding on your church on earth. Bind us together in the word to share your love with the world. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Protect birds and their nests, fields full of crops, the seas and the fish that swim in them. Inspire us to care for the creation you love. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Raise up just and wise advocates and judges from small-town courts to international tribunals. Enlighten all leaders to discern what is right and do what is good. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Nurture faith in those who doubt. Lift up those who are weak in body, mind, or spirit. Heal the sick, comfort the grieving, and surround with love those facing their last days (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Expand the understanding of this assembly to see our neighbors as you see them. Let the yeast of your word grow beyond us to expand your boundless love to those around us. Lord, in your mercy,

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Sustain us by the intercession of your Holy Spirit. Let the Spirit's sighs, too deep for words, comfort us until we rejoice with those already united with you (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands we place all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in the mercy of Christ Jesus.

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: “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” #547 ELW

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Digital Organ	Greeters: George & Patti Smith
Ushers: 8:30am Lee & Barb Forrester	10:00am Marilyn Andrews
Lectors: 8:30am Jennine Bruesewitz	10:00am Laury Nyberg
Hospitality Hosts: Carolyn & Jerry Morris, Shirley Gosselin	

Thank you for your service!

Response to God’s Word Last Week

Attendance: July 16, 2017: 8:30am: 94 10:00am: 47

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

July 31 through August 6, 2017

Monday	7/31	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	8/1	9:00 am	Crafters
		9:00 am	Quilters
		10-12 am	Pastor’s text study
Wednesday	8/2	8:30 am	Women’s Bible Study
		9:30 am	Stitchers
		5:30 pm	Choir
		7:00 pm	Praise Team

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA (continued) July 31 through August 6, 2017

Thursday	8/3	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		10:00 am	Music & Worship Meeting
		12:30 pm	Funtimers
		6:00 pm	Bells
Friday	8/4	10:00 am	Bones
Saturday	8/5	7:30 am	Veggie Stand
		1:00-4:00 pm	Foot Care
Sunday	8/6	10:00 am	Worship-Dakota Road-Parsonage Dedication-Picnic

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

ALL COMMITTEES The annual reports need to be in to Judie Birk by August 30th in preparation for the congregational Annual Report which will be distributed mid-September.

BEEF & CORN FEED a big “Thank You” to all who helped with the Annual Beef and Corn Feed, especially Skip & Lynn Hansen.

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. Individuals going on the tour are asked to remove shoes and a bag will be provided in which you can place them. The building committee will be on hand to assist and answer questions. All are welcome! ***Bars and Cookies will be needed for the picnic next week. If you can donate, please drop them off at the church by Wednesday, August 2nd.***

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.

ALL GOING TO HOLDEN VILLAGE - There will be a meeting today after the second service for those going to Holden Village.