

Sunday, August 20, 2017
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Kathy Berland RN ANP 218-838-6181

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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

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

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:

“Oh For a Thousand Tongues”

ELW #886

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

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM: “Lord of Life”

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God’s imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

¹Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. ⁸Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM: Psalm 67

¹May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God’s face shine upon us.

²**Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.**

³Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁴**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁶**The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.**

⁷May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable, so that while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

[Paul writes:] ¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a}God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be pagan and unclean approaches him for help.

[¹⁰[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: ¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸Then Jesus

answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

SERMON: “Screaming for Crumbs!”

HYMN OF THE DAY: “In Christ There is No East or West” **ELW #650**

NICENE CREED: page 104 ELW

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.

Unite us, O God, so that all who worship receive assurance and nourishment by faith.

Rescue those who suffer from religious persecution. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Teach us, O God, so that the holy mountains and peaceful valleys of your good creation can be restored to the health you intend. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Empower us, O God, to advocate for those on the margins. Open the hearts of leaders in every nation to serve those who are most vulnerable. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Equip us, O God, with your love for our brothers and sisters. Heal the sick, comfort the grieving, feed the hungry, and calm those in distress (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Rouse us, O God, to praise you with gladness. We give thanks for musicians, worship leaders, intercessors, those who prepare the communion table, and all who make our worship express our joy. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks, O God, for the saints who have deepened our lives of prayer (*especially Bernard, abbot of Clairvaux*). Gather us with them in endless praise of you.

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.

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore.

Amen.

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.

CLOSING HYMN:

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

ELW #810

DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God.

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Adult Choir & Digital Organ

Greeters: Ron & Joni Mehlhop

Ushers: 8:30am Nancy Hansen, Lynn Hansen

10:00am Dick & Sue Stebbins

Lectors: 8:30am George Smith

10:00am Myra Honl

Hospitality Hosts: Cheri Johnson, Judy Seifert, Marilyn Andrews, Diane Sandberg

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: August 13, 2017: 8:30am: 94 10:00am: 32

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

August 21 thru August 27, 2017

Monday	6/19	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	6/20	9:00 am	Quilters
		10:00-Noon	Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	6/21	8:30 am	Women's Bible Study
		9:30 am	Stitchers
		5:30 pm	Choir
		7:00 pm	Praise Choir
Thursday	6/22	9:00 am	ROMEOs
		12:30 am	Funtimers
		6:00 pm	Bells
Friday	6/23	10:00 am	Bones
Saturday	7/26	7:30 am	Veggie Stand
Sunday	6/25	8:30 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

VEGGIE STAND is now open every Saturday morning at 7:30am. Donations of baked goods: pies, cookies, bars, breads, etc. are always welcome. Drop off your donations that morning or leave at the church on Friday. All proceeds go to the Benevolence fund. Let's make this a wonderful year. Any questions please contact Elsa Carlson: home 218-678-3408 cell 218-251-4551

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, Sept. 24th at 10:00am after the one service at 9:00am that day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

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.

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

LECTORS – Thank you for your weekly gift of sharing God’s word with the congregation. If anyone is interested in joining the team of lectors, please contact Paula Spetz (218 678-2138) or Carol Bakken (218-678-3563)

SEPTEMBER COMMUNION communion will be distributed on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in September. Lay people will be preaching the 1st and 3rd Sundays and Pastor Nathan Lundgren, from Pulpit Supply, will be serving on Sept. 10 & Sept. 24.

SAVE THE DATE – The men’s fishing trip is scheduled for January 22-24. This is a different week than usual, so make sure you mark your calendars. If you have any questions please contact Wally Swenson 218-678-2508 or Ron Mehlhop 507-276-0798. There is room for 26 men.

POTLUCK & PRESENTATION Sunday, Sept. 10th at 11:30am, at First Lutheran Church in Brainerd, there will be a discussion on the impact and response to “Sexual Exploitation & Sex-Trafficking in Minnesota”. For more information, see the handout in the Narthex.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR Bethesda members and visitors: my Interim experience with you, reluctant at first, has been more meaningful and important to me than I ever expected. Thank you for your faithfulness and encouragement along the way! And now with your new pastor, look for the good and celebrate progress! God’s peace always!
Pastor Terry Frovik.

COMMITTEE AND ANNUAL REPORTS All committee and event 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. You can email your reports to: jimjudiebirk@gmail.com

COUNCIL MEMBERS WANTED Please consider serving on your church council for the upcoming fiscal year. We will need 4 new council members beginning in Oct and we'd ask you to consider this opportunity. Please contact Pastor Terry or any of the current council members with questions, or to let them know of your interest to serve.

God made you different so you can make a difference.