

Sunday, October 1, 2017
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor Jeff Macejkovic

(Pulpit Supply)

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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

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God, such as prostitutes and tax collectors going before others into God's kingdom. In the reading from Ezekiel the people question whether the ways of the Lord are unfair; instead they are to repent and turn to the Lord. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, looking to the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN:

“God Is Here”

#526 ELW

(Verses 1, 2 & 4 – Please Stand on the Last Verse)

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, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Source of all life,

we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation.

Amen.

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, ✠ God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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 love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM: “Glory and Honor and Praise”

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot turn from their wicked ways. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel?

³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live. The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-9

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love. (Ps. 25:6)

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

Glory to you, O Lord

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things.

²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

SERMON: “Whose Spittin' Image are We?”

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word #517 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.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the mission of the gospel. Unite your church in its proclamation and witness. Let the same mind be in us that is in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, you provide daily for our nourishment. Bless fields and orchards, oceans and lakes, birds and animals, insects and fish. Sustain those who harvest your life-sustaining bounty. Help us share the gifts you have freely given. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the nations, give all your people the mind of Christ. Guide national and international leaders to advocate for policies that look to the interests of the most vulnerable. Humble us when we question your mercy toward those who are different from us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Self-emptying God, stir up compassion for those in need. Send your Spirit to those who are in crisis, troubled, weary, or discouraged. (*We pray especially for...*) Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for our congregation and community. Guide our deliberations over difficult decisions. Strengthen our commitment to our ministries (*here specific congregational ministries may be named*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints whose tongues confessed Jesus Christ as Lord. Keep us confident in your promises until we join them in endless praise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.

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.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of life,

you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

BLESSING

God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church: Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “Oh Master, Let Me Walk with You” #818 ELW

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Sound the good news.

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 Hymnal

Greeters: Marilyn Andrews, Bev Wedig

Ushers: 8:30 – Winnie Zahradka, Judy Wozney 10:00 – Winnie Zahradka

Lectors: 8:30 Pat Becker

10:00 - Myra Honl

Hospitality Hosts: Lee & Barb Forrester, Jenny Schuett

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, September 24, 2017: 9:00am 94

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda**October 2, - October 8, 2017**

Monday	10/2	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	10/3	9:00 am	Quilters
Wednesday	10/4	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Stitchers
		1:00 pm	Stewardship
		6:00 pm	Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	10/5	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		10:30 am	Worship & Music
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
		6:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Friday	10/6	10:00 am	Bone Builders
		10:00 am	4H
Saturday	10/7	1:00-4:00 pm	Foot Care
Sunday	10/8	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. Information will be gathered for Evangelism.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR Saturday, October 28th Doors open at 9:00am. Work signup sheets in the Fellowship Hall.

BETHESDA WOMAN OF THE ELC SAVE THE DATE Thursday, October 12, 2017, Heartland Conference Fall Gathering, Crosslake Lutheran Church, Crosslake. "DON'T WORRY BE HAPPY" What God has to say about what creates true happiness and freedom from worry. Presenter: Gail Smith, RN BSN CCRN, Parish nurse, Nurse Clinician for Minneapolis Heart Institute. Coffee and treats at 8:30 a.m. Worship/ Communion at 9 a.m. Brunch will be served. Please bring silent auction items.

FLU SHOT CLINIC will be held at Bethesda on Tuesday, Oct 24th from 9:00-10:00am. Bring your insurance card. See Poster on the bulletin board for other locations, times and dates.

HOLDEN LUTHERAN ANNUAL LUTEFISK DINNER Saturday, Oct. 14th, 1:00-5:00pm. Lutefisk, Meatballs, Swedish Sausage, Lefse, Scandinavian Cookies, Craft & Bake Sale. See Poster on bulletin board for more info.