

Sunday, October 15, 2017

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

Phone: 320-684-2123 (1-877-684-2123) Fax: 320-684-2836

E-mail address: blcmalmo@frontiernet.net

NEW Church Web Site: blcmalmo.org

Pastor Jeff Macejkovic

(Pulpit Supply)

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN 320-839-8193

Kathy Berland RN ANP 218-838-6181

Prayer Chain Contacts: Char Berg 320-684-2102 or Darlene Christensen 320-839-8193

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

Sunday, October 15, 2017

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: **10,000 Reasons** (see insert for words)

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:

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM: “Where the Spirit Is”

First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing everyone up—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

¹O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. ²For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. ³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, ⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. ⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; ⁸he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 23

You prepare a table before me, and my cup is running over. (Ps. 23:5)

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the day of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL: Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned

their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

SERMON: “An Outrageous Parable”

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”

#873 ELW

(verses 1-4)

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.

You rejoice in your church, gracious God. Welcome your children to the table you have prepared and send us forth to share the saving mercy we meet in Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You rejoice in your good creation. Provide moisture for parched places, wind and sun for flooded lands, and shelter and sustenance for creatures of every kind. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You rejoice in the people and places of the world. We pray for nations who cannot sit at table together, for leaders distracted by anxiety and fear, and for refugees unwelcome in their homelands. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You bring peace that surpasses understanding. We pray for all who cannot worship with us this day: those who are homebound, hospitalized, imprisoned, or working (*especially*). Comfort their hearts and ours with your healing presence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You rejoice in this congregation. We pray for its ministries of hospitality: for ushers, greeters, wedding coordinators, and all who welcome guests in this place. 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.

You promise an eternal feast. We give thanks for the saints of every time and place (*especially Teresa of Avila, whom we commemorate today*). Hold us in communion with them until all are united at your heavenly banquet. 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: “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” #547 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: Charlie & Jackie Follmer

Ushers: 8:30 – Skip & Lynn Hansen

10:00 – Barry & Donna Ansell

Lectors: 8:30 Dawn Kellen

10:00 – Julie Swaggert

Hospitality Hosts: Jerry & Pat Becker, Wayne & Janice Olson

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, October 8th, 2017: 8:30am 95 _ 10:00 am 40

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

October 15, - October 21, 2017

Monday	10/16	9:00 am	Women's Devotions @ Pat Becker's
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	10/17	9:00 am	Crafters
Wednesday	10/18	8:00 am	WIC
		8:00 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Stitchers
		6:00 pm	Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	10/19	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
		6:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Friday	10/20	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	10/22	9:00 am	Congregational Meeting
		10:00 am	Worship – Polka! - Free Will Offering

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENDANCE REGISTRY Please sign and pass the attendance registry which you will find in the pew. This information is gathered for annual reports to the Synod.

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

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.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING We will be holding a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Oct. 22nd at 9:00am to vote to elect our Candidate of Choice as pastor. This will be a paper ballot vote with two items to vote on:

1. To extend the call to the pastor.
2. To accept the compensation package.

There is only one service that Sunday at 10:00am. It is also our annual Polka Service with coffee and Fellowship before the service. Be sure to attend the Congregational meeting to cast your ballot confirming the new Pastor.

WOMEN'S DEVOTIONS - MONDAY, OCTOBER 16th Please consider joining us as we begin a new Bible study using the ELCA Gathering magazine for women of the Lutheran church. We meet once a month at 9:00 in the morning at the home of Pat Becker. It is a time for sharing, for prayer and for studying God's word.

NEED VOLUNTEER to assume the job duties of the ditch clean up that is done twice a year. Please speak with Jerry Morris if interested.