

Sunday, October 29, 2017
Twenty-first 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

Jesus' summary of the law in today's gospel echoes our first reading from Leviticus. We are called not only to love God with heart, soul, and mind, but also to love our neighbor as ourselves. It is out of such deep care that Paul shares the gospel with the Thessalonian community. In the confession of sins, we acknowledge that we have not loved God, neighbor, and self; yet we gather to hear the word of forgiveness and to be strengthened by word and meal to be signs of God's love and mercy in the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK

ELCA World Hunger

Sandy Pullen

OPENING HYMN:

“Built on a Rock”

#652 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

O Lord God, you are the holy lawgiver, you are the salvation of your people. By your Spirit renew us in your covenant of love, and train us to care tenderly for all our neighbors, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Jesus is My Lord”

First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

The holiness code in Leviticus urges people to be holy because God is holy. Holiness is lived out in partiality for and consideration of the poor and the weak. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves. God’s people exercise justice and love in their dealings with one another.

¹The LORD spoke to Moses, saying ²Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. ¹⁵You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

¹⁷You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 1

Their delight is in the law of the LORD. (Ps. 1:2)

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night.**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

⁴It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked hall be destroyed.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Paul uses maternal imagery to depict the caring and nurturing relationship he shares with the Thessalonian Christians. When he first came to their city it was not to benefit himself but to share the gospel with them, which was his responsibility as an apostle of Christ.

¹You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, ²but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. ³For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; ⁶nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-46

Glory to you, O Lord

Put on the spot by the Pharisees, Jesus displays wisdom by summarizing the law of God in just two commandments and by demonstrating the Messiah must be more than the son of David.

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: ‘You

shall love your neighbor as yourself.’⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

⁴¹Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴²“What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴“The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet””? ⁴⁵If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ

SERMON:

HYMN OF THE DAY: “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” #504 ELW
Verses: 1, 2 & 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.

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

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

A brief silence.

Holy God, grant courage to your church. In all things and among all people of faith, prosper our Lord’s call to love and serve in strength and humility. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Creator, protect this world so lovingly made. Align our stewardship with yours so that plants offer shelter and nourishment, water sources sustain life, habitats thrive, and all creation flourishes as you intend. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Sovereign God, bring justice to the nations. Turn enemies from vengeance and warfare, direct leaders in fair and honest governance, and equip citizens to seek the needs of their neighbors. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Provider, you care for all your children. Heal those in need: the sick and their caregivers (*especially*), victims of family strife, and any who grieve this day. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, you bless this congregation and community. Reveal your servant-love through our ministries, that our work on behalf of our neighbors bears fruit that endures. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks, Holy One, for those who served you in this earthly life (*especially*). Renew our hope until that day when all are nourished by your tree of life. 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

OFFERATORY HYMN

“Family of Christ”

OFFERING

Ushers will begin passing the offering plate. Please rise as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.

Offering Prayer

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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: “The Church’s One Foundation” #654 ELW
Verses: 1, 2 & 5

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: Visiting Choir from Aitkin United Methodist Church & Pine Lake Chapel

Pianist: Edie Orazem

Flutist: Luanne Beyreuther

Greeters: Lee & Barb Forrester

Ushers: 8:30am Lee & Barb Forrester 10:00am Darrell Kelly

Lectors: 8:30am Sandy Pullen 10:00am JoAnn Haglund

Hospitality Hosts: Dave & Joanne Stueven, Dick & Sandy Pullen

Thank you for your service!

Response to God’s Word Last Week

Attendance: October 22, 2017: 10:00am: 105

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

October 30 through November 5, 2017

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| Monday | 10/30 | 1:00 pm | Double Deck Pinochle |
| | | 7:00 pm | AA/Alanon |
| Tuesday | 10/31 | HALLOWEEN | |
| Wednesday | 11/01 | 8:00 am | Women’s Bible Study |
| | | 9:30 am | Stitchers |
| | | 6:00 pm | Choir |
| | | 7:00 pm | Praise Team |
| Thursday | 11/02 | 8:00 am | ROMEOS |
| | | 12:30 pm | Funtimers |
| Friday | 11/03 | 10:00 am | Bone Builders |
| | | 10:00 am | 4H |

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

October 30 through November 5, 2017

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| Saturday | 11/04 | 1:00-4:00 pm | Foot Care |
| Sunday | 11/05 | 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.

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.

MALMO LION’S PANCAKE BREAKFAST Saturday, November 11th from 7am to 11am. \$5 per plate, Veterans and kids 5 & under eat free. Located at Bethesda Church Malmo, with proceeds going towards community projects. Bake Sale also.

SUNDAY COVERAGE FOR NOVEMBER 5th & 12TH: *VILLAGE OF HOPE* will cover our service on November 5th. Pastor Suzi Orlopp will preach along with other people from the organization. *LUTHERAN PARTNERS IN GLOBAL MINISTRY* will cover the service on November 12th. Pastor Dan Ruth, Executive Director, will be preaching that day. Both of these organizations are members of our 2017-2018 Benevolence Organizations. Come listen to the wonderful things these organizations do and learn more about what they do. A free will offering will be passed each of these Sundays.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD During coffee fellowship on November 5th you will be able to pack a shoebox for a needy child. We have 34 boxes filled by VBS kids that are ready to be sent. There are assorted left over items that need to be packed so stop at the packing area and fill a box. You can still bring toys, school supplies and other items to help fill the boxes.

BLESSING BOX Next Sunday, November 5th is Blessing Box Sunday. Members are encouraged to save up coins and put them in the box during the offering. Local benevolence this year will go to Christmas Joy, Bethesda Emergency Fund, Camp Onomia, Aitkin County Human Services and True Friends Camp of McGregor.

WINTER COATS FOR CHILDREN The local Knights of Columbus has purchased new winter coats for children in need, sizes 4 to 18 for boys and girls. Coats may be picked up at the Isle Recreation Education Center (IREC) M-F from 7:30-11:30 am. Supplies are limited. Questions call 320-676-1050, Kathy Young.