

# Sunday, November 12, 2017

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost



## BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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**Randy Tofteland**

and

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(Executive Director of Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry)

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

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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

*Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**            **"I Just Came to Praise the Lord"**            **CCLI#15025**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN:**                    **"Lord I Lift Your Name on High"**                    **#857 ELW**  
*(Please stand on 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, ✙ one God, who calls us into an everlasting hope, who guides us to springs of the water of life, who enlightens us with the spirit of wisdom.

**Amen.**

One with the communion of saints in all times and places, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

O God, our merciful redeemer,

**we confess the ways we live only for ourselves. We fail to see you in our neighbor's face. We turn our ears from voices that cry out. We pass by the hungry and the oppressed. In your great mercy, forgive our sin and strengthen us for service to all in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for ✙ his sake, God forgives you all your sin. Blessed are you! Rejoice and be glad, beloved people of God.

**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 God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM:**

**“Glorious Day”**

Jim Christensen  
Sheila Penoyer

**SCRIPTURE ACCLAMATION:**

**“Thy Word”**

**First Reading: Amos 5:18-24**

*In the days of Amos people thought that the day of the Lord would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The Lord demands justice and righteousness in the community.*

<sup>18</sup>Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; <sup>19</sup>as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. <sup>20</sup>Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? <sup>21</sup>I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. <sup>22</sup>Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. <sup>23</sup>Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. <sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm: Psalm 70**

*You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry. (Ps. 70:5)*

<sup>1</sup>Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me.

<sup>2</sup>**Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;**

**let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**

<sup>3</sup>Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me turn back because of their shame.

<sup>4</sup>**Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;**

**let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great is the LORD!”**

<sup>5</sup>But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

**Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

*Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the*

*resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.*

<sup>13</sup>We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46**

**Glory to you, O Lord**

*Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup>But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to You, O Christ**

**SERMON: “Waiting Is The Hardest Part”**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**

**"Give Me Jesus"**  
(verses 1,3,5)

**#770 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

Welcoming God's reign of righteousness and mercy, let us pray with people of every time and place.

*A brief silence.*

Awaken your church to be ready to respond when Christ meets us in the cries of those in need. We lift up the church's mission of care through Lutheran World Relief and other agencies (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for natural resources like oil, coal, trees, sun, water, and wind. Help us to use them wisely. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Answer the cries of your people in nations caught in war and destruction (*especially*).

Hold in your care all veterans and their families. Ease the burden of tough memories and bring restoration and wholeness. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Shine your merciful and healing light on the despairing places of our minds and souls.

Bring hope in the midst of danger, depression, and illness. (*We pray especially for . . .*)

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Bless those who prepare for marriage or who have been married in this place. Strengthen all bonds of friendship and relationship in our community. Give us joy in life together.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Keep us alert for Christ's coming, sustained by the promise that we will be reunited with all the faithful who have died (*especially*). Thank you for their lives of witness. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers and the hopes and concerns of our hearts, O God, as we entrust into your loving care all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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 HYMN**

**“Give Thanks”**

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Creator God,**

**you made everything, and you provide for every need. The bread we break and the wine we pour come from you. As we eat and drink with thanksgiving, fill us with your love; let that love flow through us to others; and join us to the saints before us in a holy and boundless communion; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER – LED BY THE PRAISE TEAM**

## **BLESSING**

The love of God surround you; the grace of ✝ Christ release you; and the Holy Spirit be your guide and strength, now and forevermore.

**Amen**

## **CLOSING HYMN:**

**"Battle Hymn of the Republic"**

**#890 ELW**

## **DISMISSAL**

Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

## **THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Music: Praise Team

Greeters: George & Patti Smith

Ushers: 8:30 – Ron & Joni Mehlhop

10:00 – Ron & JoAnn Haglund

Lector: 8:30 – Val Benton

10:00 – Val Benton

Hospitality Hosts: Mike & Barb Macioch, Judy Wuorio and Ray Piispanen

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, November 5, 2017: 8:30am 69 10:00am 10

## **THIS WEEK AT Bethesda**

**November 13 thru November 19, 2017**

Monday	11/13	9:00 am	Women's Devotions at Pat Becker's
		1:00 pm	Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	11/14	No Quilting	
Wednesday	11/15	8:00 am	WIC
		8:00 am	Women's Bible Study
		9:30 am	Bethesda Women of ELCA
		9:30 am	Stitchers
		6:00 pm	Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	11/16	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	11/17	9:30 am	Council Meeting
		10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	11/19	8:30 am	Worship – Pastor James 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday at Bethesda
		10:00 am	Worship – Pastor James 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday at Bethesda

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ATTENDANCE REGISTRY** Please sign and pass the attendance registry which you will find in the pew. Information will be gathered for Evangelism.

**COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED** Signup sheets are to the left of the serving window by the kitchen. Please check it out and take your turn. There will always be someone to help you with making coffee and running the dishwasher.

**CORRECTION TO UPCOMING EVENTS:** Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> is the **Bethesda Women of the ELCA Christmas luncheon**; not the church Christmas dinner. Signup sheet will be in the Fellowship Hall all week.

**BLESSING BOX** – Last week’s contributions to the Blessing Box was \$96.42. This money will be used for Local Benevolence.

**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.

**BETHESDA QUILTERS** need donations of clean mattress pads, blankets and bed spreads to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

**TIME & TALENT SHEETS** – If you haven’t turned in your “Spiritual Gifts I’d Like to Share at Bethesda” forms. All should have received a copy in their latest Newsletter, or you can pick up a copy in the Narthex. You can fill them out and return them to the basket that is also in the Narthex.