

Sunday, November 26, 2017

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor James Muske

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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

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet awaiting the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN:

“Here I am to Worship”

Insert

(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, ✠ 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 power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Please be seated)

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Since Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the Lord will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The Lord will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.

¹¹Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 95:1-7a

We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. (Ps. 95:7)

¹Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

²Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.

³For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

⁴In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.

⁵The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

⁶Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

^{7a}For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord both of the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

(Please stand)

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the

world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’

³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.’ ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Crown Him with Many Crowns” #855 ELW
(vs 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.

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.

Almighty God, your merciful rule encompasses all the world. As we gather for worship in safety, we pray for places where the church is persecuted. Watch over your people as they witness to your good news. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Give bountiful pastures, safety, and health to herds, livestock, and all animals. May our care for all of your creation reflect your shepherding love for all that you have made.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for international organizations that shine your light in places of strife (*especially*). Lead relief and aid workers, leaders and volunteers to seek the lost and provide safety. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, abused, or ill (*especially*). Give wisdom to counselors, doctors, nurses, and all in professions that provide healing. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Shepherd your churches to welcome the stranger and immigrant in our midst. Call all your people to welcome, clothe, feed, and visit those in need just as you have provided for the lost and despairing throughout the ages. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Give us the hope to which you call us, our glorious inheritance with all your saints. Enrich our lives with the faith and vision of those saints who have died (*especially*).

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.

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

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:

“Jesus Shall Reign”

434 ELW

(vs. 1,2,4)

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: Digital Hymnal

Greeters: (not Pullens)

Ushers: 8:30 – Skip & Lynne Hansen 10:00 Marilyn Andrews

Lector: 8:30 – Steve Lackner 10:00 Laury Nyberg

Hospitality Hosts: Reinhard Family, Marge Garbo

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, November 19, 2017: 8:30am 97 10:00am 30

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

Nov. 27 through Dec. 3, 2017

Monday	11/27	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	11/28	No Quilters until after the New Year	
Wednesday	11/29	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Stitchers
		9:30 am	Mission & Evangelism meeting
		6:00 pm	Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda (continued) Nov. 27 through Dec. 3, 2017

Thursday	11/30	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	12/1	10:00 am	Bone Builders
		10:00 am	4H meeting
Sunday	12/3	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.

BETHESDA QUILTERS need donations of clean mattress pads, blankets, and bed spreads to make Lutheran World Relief quilts. **December 3rd between services** there will be quilts available for sale in the Fellowship Hall. The quilters received a Thrivent Action Team award of \$250 to purchase fabric for their new quilts.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS – The tree is up in the Narthex ready for donations for Aitkin County youth, ages 0-18 years. Help trim the tree with hats, mittens, scarves, or any other unwrapped gifts that are age appropriate. Dead line for donations is Sunday, December 10th

CHRISTINGLE Aitkin United Methodist Church is putting on a Christmas Christingle program for children on Saturday, December 2, 2017 @4:30pm. Admission is free but a free will offering will be received to benefit the Aitkin Area Food Shelf. See the announcement on the bulletin board to see what a Christingle is and the history of it.

NEW JOB POSITION – Building Maintenance Coordinator. The purpose of this paid position is to maintain the church property in working and safe condition. This person will be a member of the BLCM church staff and report to the Property Committee. Pick up a job description and application in the church office or talk with Lee Forrester.

BEV FERDELMAN – has moved in with her daughter for the winter. Her new address: 19957 Polk Street, NW, Cedar, MN 55011