

Sunday, December 10, 2017

Second Sunday of Advent



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

John called people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing would get in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

CALL TO WORSHIP

"Go Tell it on the Mountain"

#290 ELW

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN:

"Away In a Manger"

#277 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 comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

Amen.

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of all time,

we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us.

We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace.

In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In ✝ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

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:

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; 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

PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM: “Mary Did You Know?”

SCRIPTURE ACCLAMATION: “Thy Word”

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God’s people in Babylon is over. The Lord will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for his sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of the Lord.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!”

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 85:1-2, 8-13

Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God. (Ps. 85:13)

¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD; you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.**

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand if you are able

GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

Glory to you, O Lord

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’ ”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

Please be seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY:

"Little Drummer Boy"

Please stand if you are able

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

Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God’s people.

A brief silence.

We long to see your glory. Prepare our hearts for your arrival by healing divisions in your church and blessing those who work for reconciliation within it. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your creation. Bring renewal to open spaces, parks, forests, mountains, and grasslands. Restore the creatures and lands that are damaged or destroyed. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We long for your peace. Make places of welcome for people fleeing violence. For nations facing conflict or crisis, deliver relief. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We seek healing for all people who long for justice, freedom, and comfort. Sustain them in their time of need. Be with all who wait for you, who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give thanks for those who are ready to help in times of crisis. Give courage to disaster and emergency response teams, police officers, nurses, doctors, surgeons, chaplains, and all who work for the sake of others. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We are your beloved flock and you are our shepherd, O God. Along with the saints already at rest in you, bring us together as your people under your holy rule. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, 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

“Silent Night”

#281 ELW

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light.

Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER – LED BY THE PRAISE TEAM

BLESSING

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:

"Joy to the World"

#267 ELW

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of 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: Ron & Joni Mehlhop

Ushers: 8:30 – Don & Donna Myhre

10:00 – Dick & Sue Stebbins

Lector: 8:30 – Darlene Christensen

10:00 – Darlene Christensen

Hospitality Hosts: Jack & Paula Spetz

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, December 3, 2017: 8:30am 102 10:00am 32

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

December 11 thru December 17, 2017

Monday	12/11	9:00 am	Women's Devotions at Pat Becker's
		1:00 pm	Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	12/12	Noon	Pastor's Text Study
Wednesday	12/13	8:00 am	Women's Bible Study
		9:30 am	Stitchers
		6:00 pm	Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda (continued)**December 11 thru December 17, 2017**

Thursday	12/14	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	12/15	9:30 am	Council Meeting
		10:00 am	Bone Builders
Saturday	12/16	1:00 pm	Cantata Practice & Performance at Aicota HCC
Sunday	12/17	9:00 am	One Service Only-Cantata

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.

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.

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.

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.

POINSETTIAS will be on sale Sunday December 10th. Price will again be \$15.00 and the sign-up sheet will be in the fellowship hall.

ELCA and HEIFER INTERNATIONAL Pastor James will be explaining these giving programs during announcements today.

MAKE SOME PLANS FOR A GREAT SUMMER EVENT! When you see your loved ones this holiday season, invite the kids ages 4 – 5th grade to Vacation Bible School June 18-22, 2018. Sixth graders and older are welcome as student leaders.

NEED A GIFT IDEA? Check out the display in the fellowship hall and consider ordering farm animals from the ELCA or Heifer International Giving Programs.

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available for pickup in the Fellowship Hall. Please stop and pickup your envelopes.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR CHRISTMAS In the Narthex is a basket and red scratch paper for you to write down a few suggested Hymns to sing at the Christmas Eve day service at 9:00am. The service will be a Prayer & Carol service.

THANK YOU to all the ladies that worked so hard to make the Christmas Luncheon last Saturday very special. It was festive, fun and with a great speaker, much enjoyed by all. Bless you. ~ Your Guests