

Sunday, December 3, 2017

First 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

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK

Dara's Mission in Mozambique

Sandy Pullen

OPENING HYMN:

“My Lord, What a Morning”

#438 ELW

(verses 1-3) 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 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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

CHOIR ANTHEM: “Just One Star”

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— ²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever.

Now consider, we are all your people.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned up on the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸And so will we never turn a- way from you; give us life, that we may call up on your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God

Please Stand for the Reading of the Gospel

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

Glory to you, O Lord

In today's reading, Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with

great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to You, O Christ

Please be seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY:

“The King Shall Come”

#260 ELW

(Verses 1-5)

Please stand if 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

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.

Give light to your people, Lord. As the darkness grows and we await the return of daylight, give new life to your church. Shape our communities to be faithful vessels of the gospel for the sake of the world. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Restore your creation, Lord. You give the earth opportunities for both sleep and awakening. Thank you for the gift of restful seasons so new life may grow according to your appointed time. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bring peace to the nations, Lord. Keep us alert to injustice and oppression, give us courage to cry out for what is right, and guide world leaders toward fairness and peace for all. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Stir up compassion in us for all who wait for you. Be near to those whose lives are shaken, those who are experiencing loss, those who long for healing and wholeness, those who live with HIV and AIDS, and those who are in any kind of need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for child care workers, teachers, Sunday school leaders, and all who nurture and educate children. We give you thanks for their diligence and devotion. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

From ages past, your faithfulness has never failed. Shine your face upon us and bring us into the company of all your saints in light (*especially the missionary Frances Xavier*).

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

"How Far Is It To Bethlehem?"

Randy & Laurina Tofteland

Ushers will begin passing the offering plate.

Please rise as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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: "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder" (insert)

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: Adult Choir & Digital Hymnal Greeters: Wayne, Janice Olson
Ushers: 8:30 – Don & Donna Myhre 10:00 – Dick & Sue Stebbins
Lectors: 8:30 Susan Samuelson 10:00 – JoAnn Haglund
Hospitality Hosts: Wally & Bev Swenson; Denny & Lynne Meidlinger

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, November 26, 2017: 8:30am 88 10:00 am 28

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

December 4, - December 10, 2017

Monday	12/4	1:00 pm	Stewardship & Finance Meeting
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	12/5	12:00noon	Pastor Text Study

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda (continued) December , - November 25, 2017

Wednesday	12/6	8:00 am	Women's Bible Study
		9:30 am	Stitchers
		10:00 am	Property Committee Meeting
		6:00 pm	Choir
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	12/7	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		10:30 am	Worship & Music Meeting
		1:00 pm	Funtimers
Friday	12/8	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Saturday	12/9	1:00-4:00 pm	Foot Care
Sunday	12/10	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. 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.

BETHESDA QUILTERS need donations of clean mattress pads, blankets, and bed spreads to make Lutheran World Relief quilts. **TODAY - 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. Along with the quilt sale today the remainder of the jelly will also be on sale. **Reduced to \$3.00 a jar.**

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.

TREE TRIMMING will take place on Thursday December 7th at 10 AM. We will welcome any interested helpers!

POINSETTIAS will be on sale Sunday December 3rd and 10th. Price will again be \$15.00 and the sign-up sheet will be in the fellowship hall.

CAROLING All are welcome to join the choir to go caroling on Sunday, December 10th. Potluck after the 10AM service then go caroling.

SANTA LUCIA LUNCHEON Friday, Dec 8th, 11am-1pm Zion Lutheran Church, Milaca, MN. Traditional Swedish meal & music by Swedish Singers. Cost per person \$9.00. See bulletin board.

When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder

When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound,
And time shall be no more,
And the morning breaks, eternal, bright and fair
When the saved of earth shall gather
Over on the other shore,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there

CHORUS

When the roll, is called up yonder,
When the roll, is called up yonder,
When the roll, is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder I'll be there.

On that bright and cloudless morning
When the dead in Christ shall rise,
And the glory of His resurrection share
When His chosen ones shall gather
To their home beyond the skies,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there

CHORUS x 2

When the roll, is called up yonder,
When the roll, is called up yonder,
When the roll, is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder I'll be there.

When the roll, is called up yonder,
When the roll, is called up yonder,
When the roll, is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder I'll be there.