

**Sunday, January 28, 2018**  
**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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Prayer Chain Contacts: Char Berg 320-684-2102 or Darlene Christensen 320-839-8193

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**

# Sunday, January 28, 2018

## Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

### INTRODUCTION

*In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that trumps any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN: “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”** #886 ELW  
(please stand on the last verse)

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**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:**

**Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

(Please be seated)

## **First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

*Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.*

[Moses said:] <sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." <sup>17</sup>Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## **Psalm: Psalm 111**

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. (Ps. 111:10)*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

<sup>2</sup>**Great are your works, O LORD, pondered by all who delight in them.**

<sup>3</sup>Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup>**You cause your wonders to be remembered; you are gracious and full of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup>You give food to those who fear you, remembering forever your covenant.

<sup>6</sup>**You have shown your people the power of your works in giving them the lands of the nations.**

<sup>7</sup>The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice; all of your precepts are sure.

<sup>8</sup>**They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.**

<sup>9</sup>You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name.

<sup>10</sup>**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.**

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

*Paul is concerned about how some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable, believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause a sister or brother to sin.*

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him.

<sup>4</sup>Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

<sup>7</sup>It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols?

<sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

(Please stand)

**GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28**

**Glory to you, O Lord**

*The story has barely begun, and already the battle is joined. Jesus sides with humanity against every force that would bring death and disease. These forces recognize Jesus and*

*know what his power means for them. This, however, is only the first fight. The war will go on much longer.*

<sup>21</sup>[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to You, O Christ**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**

**“Rise, Shine, You People”**

**#665 ELW**

*(Please stand)*

## **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 to the dead. 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**

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

Confident that God our light and our salvation hears us when we pray, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

*A brief silence.*

For those who speak your word throughout the church in the world, O God, and for educational institutions that prepare leaders, that you will lift up prophets in our congregations, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For the works of God revealed in and through creation, for an end to pollution and unjust use of natural resources, and for good weather this season, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For peace and justice throughout the world (*especially*), for political leaders at all levels, and for those who provide public services, that you will grant them wisdom as they carry out their tasks, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For the homeless, the unemployed, the underemployed, and their advocates; for the sick, the suffering, and their caregivers; and for the weak in body, mind, and spirit (*especially*), that your compassion be felt by all in need, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For those in our congregation celebrating special events, for those missing from our worship today, and for friends and family both near and far, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed (*including the theologian Thomas Aquinas, whom the church commemorates today*) who witnessed your love in their lives and in this world, that through them our own faith will grow stronger, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, you hear our prayers even before we speak them. Receive them for the sake of the one through whom you have revealed your goodness, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**OFFERING**

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

*(Please stand)*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Merciful God,

**receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BLESSING**

The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN:**

**“Stir Us Lord”**

(Insert)

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**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: Char Berg & Bev Wedig

Ushers: Nancy Hansen, Diane Sandberg

Lector: Steve Lackner

Hospitality Hosts: Jack & Paula Spetz; Don & Donna Myhre

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God’s Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, January 21, 2018: 9:00am 108

**THIS WEEK AT Bethesda**

**January 29 through February 4**

Monday	1/29	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	1/30	Noon-2:00	Pastor’s Text Study
Wednesday	1/31	9:00 am	Bible Study – <i>Note New Time</i>
		10:00 am	Stitchers – <i>Note New Time</i>
		6:00 pm	Catechism
		6:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	2/1	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		10:00 am	Altar Care Meeting
		10:30 am	Worship & Music Meeting
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	2/2	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Saturday	2/3	1:00-4:00pm	Foot Care
Sunday	2/4	9:00 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.

**FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN** The date is set!! Please join us in packing meals at Feed My Starving Children on Thursday, April 12 from 12 noon-2pm in Coon Rapids. Those interested in car-pooling will meet at Bethesda Lutheran at 9:30 am. Registration is required so please email the church with the names of those interested in participating. If packing isn't for you, but you are interested in supporting a special donation from Bethesda Lutheran of Malmo, consider any or all of the following opportunities: 1. Blessing box offering in February and March. 2. Mark your envelope with a special donation for Feed My Starving Children (FMSC). There are over 15 people already registered; sign up soon!

**POINSETTIAS** There are more poinsettias left from Christmas. If anyone would like one please bring one home. Any left after today will be tossed. Please give them a home!!!

**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY CHANGES TO 9:00** You are invited to join in the Bible study called Genesis to Revelation. This audio study is by Craig Koester who is a professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary. He says, "Through my teaching I want to help people enter the world of the scriptures, so that the old story takes on new life for them." He takes specific stories in the Bible and highlights key ideas, making them more understandable. Please consider this class as a way to get to know your Bible better. There is room at the table for you. See the February Newsletter for the topics and you can access the topics and the audio at:

[http://www2.luthersem.edu/ckoester/gen\\_to\\_rev\\_audio.asp?pf=y](http://www2.luthersem.edu/ckoester/gen_to_rev_audio.asp?pf=y)

**STITCHERS** – will be meeting at a new time on Wednesdays. 10:00 am – following Bible Study. The February Newsletter calendar reflects the wrong time. My apologies.

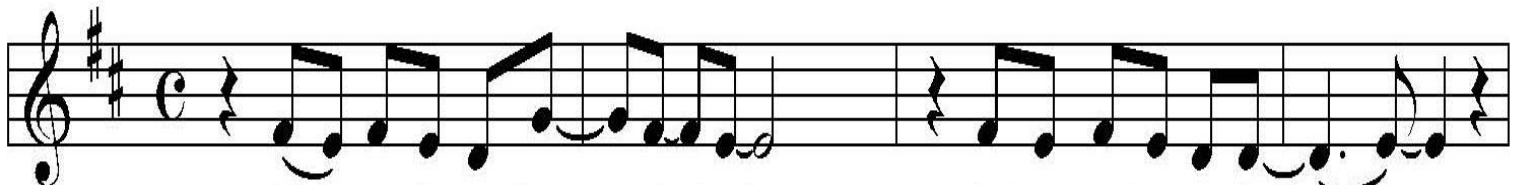
**TIME & TALENT MEETING** Today's meeting is on Coffee Fellowship.





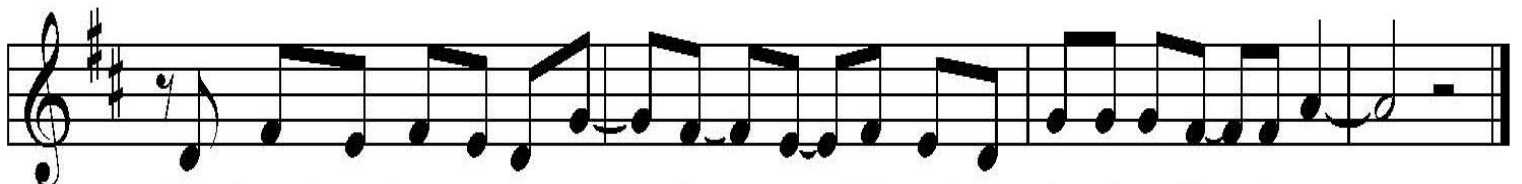
# STIR US, LORD

Hans Peterson  
Meg Sander



Musical staff 1: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), common time (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes.

Stir up in our hearts, oh Lord, what you want us to do.




Musical staff 2: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), common time (C). The melody continues with quarter and eighth notes.

You showed your love up up - on the cross. We want to give of our lives to you.



Musical staff 3: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), common time (C). Includes a triplet of eighth notes. The melody continues with quarter and eighth notes.

Show us the fac - es of all of those in need.  
With gifts we've been giv - en help us see where we fit in.



Musical staff 4: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), common time (C). Includes a triplet of eighth notes. The melody continues with quarter and eighth notes.

Move us to ac - tion, giv - ing with a joy - ful heart,  
We're part of one fam - ily, know - ing that we have a place,



Musical staff 5: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), common time (C). The melody concludes with quarter and eighth notes.

lov - ing is the place to start. Let your spir - it plant the seed.  
serv - ing by your gift of grace. Keep your spir - it stirred with - in.