

# Sunday, February 18, 2018

## First Sunday in Lent



### **BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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**320-583-5796**

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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 Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN:            “A Mighty Fortress is our God”            #504 ELW**

(Verses 1, 2 & 4)

## Please Stand on the Last Verse

## CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

*This confession provides extended silence for listening, pondering, and self-reflection.*

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

**Amen.**

God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

*An extended silence may be kept.*

Merciful God,

**forgive us. Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free. We have spoken when we should have kept quiet.**

*Silence.*

**We were silent when we should have said something.**

*Silence.*

# We acted when we knew better.

*Silence.*

**We were still when we know we should have moved.**

*Silence.*

**For the wrong we have done, for the good we have failed to do, have mercy on us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

People of God, look to the ✝ Son, given to heal you and set you free because God loved the world so much. Take hold of life—eternal life!

**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:**

**Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, 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: Genesis 9:8-17**

*Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, the Lord destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.*

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## **Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10**

*Your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness. (Ps. 25:10)*

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup>All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

## **Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22**

*As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.*

<sup>18</sup>Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

*Please Stand for the Reading of the Gospel*

## **Gospel: Mark 1:9-15**

**Glory to you, O Lord**

*The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.*

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to You, O Christ**

*Please be seated*

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**

**“Thy Holy Wings”**

**#613ELW**

*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 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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. For all who preach, teach, and inspire your people to lives of service. Renew your church in ministry, mission, and compassion. Unite us in faith, and uphold us in the promises of baptism. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world. For the well-being of both our own surroundings and of distant places. For favorable weather and sustaining rains. For creatures awakening from hibernation or beginning seasonal migrations. Provide safe habitats and abundant food for all. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations. For all who govern or hold positions of authority. For those who work to make their communities safe from violence. Protect all who place themselves in danger to save others from harm. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in need. For those moving to new communities. For individuals who are incarcerated or recently released from prison. For those who are abused or neglected, for the lonely, and for those who are ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly. For musicians, artists, and poets who help us envision your love through word, image, and song. For those who have faced exclusion or felt forgotten. For all who reach out in love and welcome. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died (*especially Martin Luther*). As they receive the fulfillment of your promises made to them in baptism, sustain us in the hope of resurrection life with you. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**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 stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Merciful God,

**receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord. Amen

## BLESSING

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ☩ peace. Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN:** "Child of the Water" (Insert)

## DISMISSAL

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and 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: Bruce G. & Carol S.

Ushers: Wayne & Janice Olson

Lector: Char Berg

Hospitality Hosts: Dick & Sue Stebbins, Sylvia Tapelt

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sun, Feb. 11, 2018: 9:00 am 80 11:00 am 60 Wed, Feb. 14, 2018 30

## THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

February 19 - February 25, 2018

Monday	2/19	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	2/20	12:00-noon	Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	2/21	8:00-Noon	WIC
		9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:30 am	Stitchers
		5:30 pm	Potluck
		6:30 pm	Worship
		7:30 pm	Praise

Thursday	2/22	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		1:00 pm	Funtimers
Friday	2/23	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	2/25	9:00 am	Worship

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THANK YOU** The Malmo Area Lions and Bethesda WELCA would like to thank everyone who came to our Sweetheart Dinner February 10<sup>th</sup>.

**BETHESDA QUILTERS** need your help. We can use your clean, used mattress pads, blankets and bedspreads to put in our Lutheran World Relief quilts. Please drop off by quilting door in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

**BIBLE STUDY** The Wednesday morning (9am) bible study group just started a new series, so if you have ever been curious, now is a good time to stop by! We will listen to a series of lectures from the popular "Genesis to Revelations" course at Luther Seminary. Working its way through the whole Bible, this series offers a great overview on all the individual books themselves and the connected themes found throughout the Bible. If you happen to miss a week, no worries, you can listen to the audio online!

**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 22 people already registered; sign up soon!

**LENTEN CANTATA** FIRST REHEARSAL TODAY Feb 18<sup>th</sup>. Singers are invited to participate in Isle Community Lenten Cantata "*Come to the Cross and Remember*" REHEARSALS: Sundays in Lent, 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm Feb. 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25, at Faith Lutheran Church, Isle, with performance on Good Friday, March 30, 7:30 pm. For more information contact: 320 676-3161.

**FINAL GIFT WORKSHOP** First Lutheran Church in Aitkin will be sponsoring a Final Gift Workshop on Sunday, March 25, 2018 from 11:00 am-4:00 pm. The cost is \$20.00 and lunch is included. Any death is a shock to the family, whether long expected or a sudden accident. During those first few days the family must make many decisions and cope with a tidal wave of details. Our Final Gift is to leave them as much information as possible, in an organized form, so they can more easily make those decisions and plans. Registration required. See bulletin board in Narthex for more information.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** There are prayer shawls available in the Narthex if you know someone who is dealing with an extended illness or has recently lost a loved one and would benefit from the gift of a prayer shawl.

**SENIOR TRANSPORTATION** We are looking for volunteers to pick up a church member from Onamia Healthcare Center on Sunday's to attend our church service. Signup sheet will be in the secretary's office.



# CHILD OF THE WATER

Hans Peterson  
Larry Olson  
David Lee Brown



You're a child of the wa - ter, child of the word,



guid-ed by prom - ise and stor-ies you've heard. God of the wound - ed



knows you by name and car - ries you home ev - 'ry - day.



1. From your first breath to the last step, all of the  
2. Life is a gift, time car-ries on, and you will



dance; down deep in your laugh - ter, what - ev - er your fears,  
grow; a - midst your be - liev - ing and throughout your doubt,  
3. We jour - ney to - geth - er as chil-dren of God,

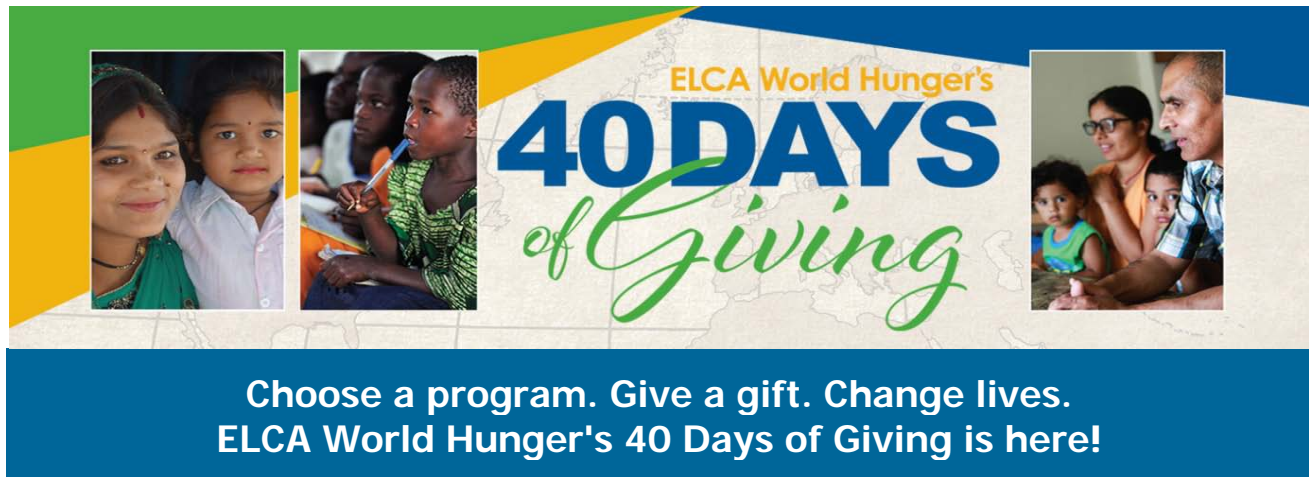


try to re - mem - ber...  
some - thing is \_\_\_\_\_ sure...  
sealed by the \_\_\_\_\_ cross...

You're a



**ELCA World Hunger**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



The 40 Days of Giving is a way for ELCA members to support this church's hunger and poverty ministry during Lent. Choose one of five ELCA World Hunger programs that urgently need support, and walk alongside our neighbors as they address hunger in their communities.

Projects include:

- India: Food and Agriculture
- India: Women's Rights
- Malawi: Education and Income
- Malawi: Health and Wellness
- United States: Accompany Migrants and Refugees

Online giving is open Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14) through Easter (April 1).

**Check back often – we are tracking our progress live, and new programs and projects may be unlocked if those goals are met.** If the funds raised for a specific program exceed the goal, they will be used to address a similar need in that country or region.

Visit [ELCA.org/40days](http://ELCA.org/40days) to learn more about this life-saving, life-changing work and make your gift today.

### **WAYS TO GIVE**

#### **Give online**

[ELCA.org/40days](http://ELCA.org/40days)

#### **By Mail**

ELCA  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

#### **By Phone**

Call 800-638-3522  
Monday through Friday,  
8 a.m.-5 p.m. CST