

Sunday, February 4, 2018

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"?

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

The LORD heals the brokenhearted. (Ps. 147:3)

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

²**The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem, and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

³The LORD heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

⁴**The LORD counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names.**

⁵Great is our LORD and mighty in power; there is no limit to God's wisdom.

⁶**The LORD lifts up the lowly, but casts the wicked to the ground.**

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music upon the harp to our God,

⁸**who covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.**

⁹God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they cry.

¹⁰**God is not impressed by the might of a horse, and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD, in those who await God's steadfast love. ^{20c} Hallelujah!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please Stand for the Reading of the Gospel

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

Glory to you, O Lord

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals them and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to You, O Christ

Please be seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Praise the One who Breaks the Darkness" #843 ELW

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.

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 the church, its pastors, deacons, musicians, artists, teachers, seminarians, and all proclaimers of the gospel, that your gift of steadfast love and mercy will spread

throughout the world, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the earth and all living creatures, for those preparing fields for planting, and for favorable weather, that all of us who care for this life will find voice to help creation thrive, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For all rulers of the earth in local, regional, national, and international offices, and those without the power of official office, that they will be given the courage to work for the protection of all people and act as servants of all, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For all who suffer this day: the sick and wounded, the grieving and brokenhearted, the hungry and exploited, those with malaria, and all who need our prayers (*especially*), that they will be consoled and healed by health care workers, counselors, family, and friends, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who gather in fellowship and festivities, for the ministries of this congregation in our community and throughout the world, that in all our service we see ourselves centered around Christ, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In thanksgiving for those who have died in the faith and now sing praises around the throne of God, and that we be assured of the promise of everlasting life, 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.

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 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day— that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. Amen.

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: "I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me" #860 ELW
(Verses 1,2,3 and repeat 1)

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: Chuck & Elsa Carlson

Ushers: George & Kathy Larson

Lectors: Kathy Berland

Hospitality Hosts: Del & Dianne Jones

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, January 28, 2018: 9:00 am 95

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

February 5 - February 11, 2018

Monday	2/5	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	2/6	12:00-noon	Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	2/7	9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:30 am	Stitchers
		6:00 pm	Confirmation
		6:00 pm	Praise Team

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda (continued) February 5 - February 11, 2018

Thursday	2/8	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		1:00 pm	Funtimers
Friday	2/9	9:30 am	Council Meeting
		10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	2/11	9:00 am	Worship
		11:00 am	Worship - Baptism

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 Thank you to all who signed up last week!

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!! 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. Signup sheet is in the Narthex. 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 Feb & Mar. 2. Mark your weekly envelope with a special donation for Feed My Starving Children (FMSC).

BLESSING BOX The first Sunday of every month we pass the "Blessing Box". If you feel blessed, please contribute to the Blessing Box to help others. All donations this month will go to Feed My Starving Children. Thank you! What a Blessing!

WELCA & MALMO AREA LIONS would like to invite you to a "Sweet Heart Dinner" on Saturday, Feb. 10. Doors open at 4:30pm with dinner served at 5:30pm. Cost: \$15. Last day of reservations is **today, Feb. 4th**.

BAPTISM Next Sunday we will have a special worship service at 11:00am to celebrate the baptism of twin boys born December 24, 2017 to Scott & Brittany Nyberg.

LENTEN CANTATA Singers cordially 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.

POCKET PRAYER SQUARES There are miniature versions of prayer shawls that are small enough to fit in a pocket or purse. The crafter infuses each stitch with prayer with the intention to provide love & goodwill to whoever receives it. Feel free to take one from the basket in the Narthex for anyone in need of prayer. If you can knit or crochet, there are directions by the basket & completed ones can be placed in the nurse's office.