

Sunday, March 11, 2018

Fourth Sunday in Lent



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

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith, for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Shall We Gather at the River”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN:

“Blessed Be Your Name”

Please stand

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

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:

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, 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: “Praise the Father Praise the Son” CCLI# 5203251

SCRIPTURE ACCLAMATION: “Thy Word”

First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

You deliver your people from their distress. (Ps. 107:19)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

³gathering them in from the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷**Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death's door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD and you delivered them from their distress.**

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.**

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand if you are able

GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

Glory to you, O Lord

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

Please be seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY:

"Forever"

CCLI# 5826614

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 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

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. Direct and guide us in following your will. Grant us clarity in the midst of confusion, and give us courage in the face of challenge. Make us passionate to share the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the world you so deeply love. For wilderness places. For deserts and mountains, fruit trees and gardens. For places devastated by flooding or drought, by wind, fire, or earthquake. Restore damaged habitats and protect fragile environments. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations. Grant wisdom to our leaders. Teach us to resolve conflicts without violence. Strengthen those who protect human rights, civil rights, and civil liberties. Bring an end to warfare, famine, and hunger. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those in need. For those who lack meaningful employment or stable housing. For those who live with mental illness. For those who have chronic pain, and for all who are grieving, sick, or injured (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for this assembly. For those preparing for baptism. For parish nurses and all who provide health care in our community. For those who make quilts and gather supplies for global relief ministries. For ministries of prayer and visitation.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died in faith, especially those whom we have known and loved. Bring us with them to the fulfillment of your promise of life eternal 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 rise as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

OFFERING HYMN “Jesus Take All of Me (Just As I Am)”

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.

THE LORD’S PRAYER – LED BY THE PRAISE TEAM

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: "As You Go On Your Way"

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: Praise Team

Greeters: George & Kathy Larson

Ushers: Judy Wozney, Winnie Zahradka

Lector: Shelia Penoyer

Hospitality Hosts: Praise Team

Thank you for your service!

Response to God’s Word Last Week:

Attendance: Sun, March. 4, 2018: 9:00am 73 Wed, March 7, 2018: 9:00am 24

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

March 12 thru March 18, 2018

Monday	3/12	1:00 pm	Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda (continued)**March 12 thru March 18, 2018**

Tuesday	3/13	9:00am	Quilters
		Noon-2:00	Pastor's Text Study
Wednesday	3/14	9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:00 am	Stitchers-Note the New Time
		5:30 pm	Pot Luck
		6:30 pm	Worship
		7:30 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	3/15	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	3/16	9:00 am	Council Meeting
		10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	3/18	9:00 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.

BLESSING BOX donations from last week's Blessing Box was \$123.42 which will be directed to Feed My Starving Children.

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.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY There are full size 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.

PRAYS AND CARE CONCERNS: Marvin Berry would enjoy visitors or a call. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex with his phone number. If you have the time, give him a call to plan a visit, or just visit over phone.

CHOIR PRACTICE will start at 6:00pm on Wednesday, April 4th. If you like to sing please come and join the choir or the Praise Team, as we always are in need new voices. The choir sings the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. The 2nd Sunday of each month is Praise Team Sunday.

HOMEBOUND There is a list of homebound members in the secretary's office. If you have a chance, stop by and visit them when you are in town. They would love your company for a just a little while.

ISLE HIGH SCHOOL FOOD SHELF DONATIONS

We will be collecting items for the Isle High School Food Shelf. These are non-perishable items that the school can have in stock to hand out to those unfortunate students who may be going home to a house that is short on food for the day or for the weekend.

Each month, we will be focusing on collecting 5 items from the below list of suggested items. We plan to deliver the items to the School at the beginning of each month.

MARCH

- Applesauce
- Cheese Crackers
- Ramen Noodles
- Microwavable Pasta (water additive only)
- Peanut Butter

MAY

- Fruit Cups
- Jerky
- Pop Tarts
- Bottled Water
- Bottled Juices (that do not require refrigeration)

APRIL

- Soup
- Oatmeal Packets
- Granola or Protein Bars
- Saltine crackers / Flavored crackers
- Cheez it or Cheez Wiz

JUNE

- Cereal
- Instant Pasta/Potatoes–water additive only
- Canned Meats (Tuna, Spam or Chicken)
- Vitamins
- Tooth Brush and Tooth Paste

Other Needed Items: Deodorant, Travel shampoo and conditioner

There is a brightly labeled container on the bottom shelf of the table in the Narthex to collect these items.

You may also consider donations of cash to the school lunch account fund as well. (This will pay off delinquent lunch accounts so the kids may eat at school)

Please consider donating gift certificates to the school for: local grocery stores / used clothing store / Dollar General / etc.

Please consider putting notes of inspiration to be given to the students, so they know they are not alone and that we care!

Thank You and God Bless You and Yours!



What is an RMD? Once you hit the age of 70½, the IRS requires you to start withdrawing from—and paying taxes on—most types of tax-advantaged retirement accounts. You will also need to take RMDs from any retirement accounts you inherit. In most cases, RMDs are treated as ordinary income for tax purposes.

Can I donate my RMD to charity and avoid the taxes? YES! These "qualified charitable distributions" (QCDs) will not be added to your taxable income for the year. *They must go directly to a charity* designated as qualified by the IRS. Making QCDs can be a great strategy for anyone who is charitably minded and does not need his or her full RMD. In many cases, it is more advantageous than taking the withdrawal and then donating it, because cash donations have deductibility limits. (Information taken from the website: <https://investor.vanguard.com/investing/taxes/required-minimum-distributions>)

Making a QCD as opposed to a normal charitable gift has two main advantages. First, a QCD counts toward satisfying the individual's required minimum distribution for that year. Second, the distribution is excluded from the taxpayer's income. (Information taken from the website: <http://www.investmentnews.com/article/20180103/FREE/180109989/new-tax-law-favors-charitable-giving-from-iras>)

Is Bethesda Lutheran Church a QCD? YES! A charity must be a 501(c)(3) organization in order to receive tax-free IRA charitable contributions. Bethesda is a 501(c)(3) organization.

*As always, consult your tax advisor or accountant
to see if this is to your advantage.*