

Sunday, March 18, 2018

Fifth 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

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s light and truth into our hearts. We see God’s heart most clearly in the way Jesus shares human suffering, in an agony both the John and Hebrews readings describe.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: “When I Survey the Wonderous Cross” #803 ELW

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.

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, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, 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: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 51:1-12

Create in me a clean heart, O God. (Ps. 51:10)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”;

⁶as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please Stand for the Reading of the Gospel

Gospel: John 12:20-33

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.
²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. ²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

Please be seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Christ the Life of All Things Living” #339 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.

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. Guide us into a deeper knowledge of your love and grace. Increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and service. We pray for evangelists, pastors, prophets, teachers, and all servants of the church. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the world. For seeds planted in hope of an abundant harvest. For fertile soils and sufficient rains. For shepherds and ranchers, farmworkers and seafood harvesters. For flowers and berries. For orchards, vineyards, and citrus groves. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations. For countries embroiled in long-term conflicts, and for communities scarred by political unrest and upheaval. Grant wisdom to the world's decision makers. Guide them to work for peace and the well-being of all people. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those in need. For all who suffer in any way. For those who are lonely or isolated. For those seeking employment. For those who approach the hour of their death, and all who are ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for this assembly. For those preparing for baptism. For visitors, newcomers, and those who are returning after an extended absence. Deepen us in faith. Fill us with hope, and draw us all into your loving presence. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died, especially those who have been witnesses and examples to us. Bring us with them to the promise of resurrection and 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 stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda (continued)**March 19 - March 25, 2018**

Wednesday	3/21	8:00-Noon	WIC
		9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:00 am	Stitchers-Note the new time
		5:30 pm	Pot Luck
		6:30 pm	Worship
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	3/22	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		1:00 pm	Funtimers
Friday	3/23	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	3/25	9:00 am	Palm Sunday 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.

PRAYS AND CARE CONCERNS:

- Marvin Berry would enjoy visitors or a call. His phone number is in the Narthex.
- Jenny Schuett. She had surgery last month in FL, but may need further surgery to possibly replace a stint.

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. Registration required. See bulletin board in Narthex for more information.

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 COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY CANTATA "Come to the Cross and Remember", March 30, 7:30 pm. at Faith Lutheran Church, Isle. Choir members from 8 area churches invite you to this 40 minute Good Friday presentation, with prayers that it will enriched in your Lenten journey. Refreshments will follow the program.

EASTER LILY SALES Lilies can be purchased for \$15 and will be displayed on Easter Sunday. Look for Elsa Carlson after worship in the Fellowship hall for the next 2 Sundays is you wish to purchase in memory of loved ones.

YOUR GRACE IS ENOUGH

Great is Your faithfulness oh God
You wrestle with the sinner's wrestles heart
You lead us by still waters and to mercy
And nothing can keep us apart
So remember Your people, Remember Your children,
Remember Your promise, Oh God

Your grace is enough; Your grace is enough;
Your grace is enough for me, for me.

Great is Your love and justice God of Jacob
You use the weak to lead the strong
You lead us in the song of Your salvation
And all Your people sing along
So remember Your people, Remember Your children
Remember Your promise, Oh God

Your grace is enough; Your grace is enough;
Your grace is enough for me [x2]

So remember Your people, Remember Your children
Remember Your promise, Oh God

Your grace is enough; Your grace is enough;
Your grace is enough for me.
God I see your grace is enough; I'm covered in your love.
Your grace is enough for me.

"Your Grace Is Enough" by Matt Maher.