

Sunday, April 8, 2018

Second Sunday of Easter



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 Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: **“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”** **#369 ELW**

Please Stand on the Last Verse

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

As an alternative to the assembly's spoken response, a sung refrain may be used.

Just as God's work of creation never ends, so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day. Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life: for water to bathe in, water to drink, for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder, for water that gives life to our planet.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place: for water from our tap, for rain and snow, for [local water sources may be named].

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.

We give you thanks for your salvation through water: for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters, for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom, for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought, for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land, for quenching the Samaritan woman's thirst with living water.

We give you thanks for your salvation through water.

We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized, and for all who gather here; for godparents and baptismal sponsors, for children and grandchildren, for our brothers and sisters in Christ whom we have never seen but to whom we are bound.

We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized.

We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit: for our entry into Jesus' death through these waters, for our new birth into a life of freedom and

service, for our calling to be your people, sent out for the life of the world.
We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God

Psalm: Psalm 133

How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity. (Ps. 133:1)

¹How good and how pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity!

²**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion. For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

Second Reading: 1 John 1:1--2:2

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands,

concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God

Please rise for the Reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

The story of Easter continues as the risen Lord appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and

put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”

²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Glory to you, O Lord

SERMON:

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Good Christian Friends Rejoice and Sing” #385 ELW

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.

Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you speak peace in the presence of fear. Give us courage to testify to your grace with our lives. Embolden prophets, preachers, and teachers to speak your truth. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you create peace in the midst of chaos. Where storms rage and winds howl, bring calm. Protect people and animals from the dangers of weather. Restore damaged lands and homes. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, you are peace in a violent world. Heal neighborhoods ravaged by crime. Reconcile political factions at war. Build relationships where suspicion keeps us apart, and bring us to the day of unity. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, you bring peace to a hurting world. Fill the stomachs of the hungry. Bind up the shattered. Give rest to the weary and hope to the disillusioned. Restore the sick (especially). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, you breathe your Spirit of peace into us. Enlivened by the Spirit, equip us to bring new life to all we meet in our work and in our play. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Holy God, you are our peace in this world and the next. Comfort all who mourn (especially). Hold them in your tender care. Bring us all around the table as we share the heavenly banquet. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Ushers will begin passing the offering plate.

Please rise as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN: “We Have Seen the Lord” #869 ELW

Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship!

Please come again.

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Digital Hymnal

Greeters: Barry & Donna Ansell

Ushers 8:30am: Rich & Marge Nelson

Lectors: Val Benton

10:00am: Dick & Sue Stebbins

Hospitality Hosts: Jerry & Pat Becker, Chuck & Elsa Carlson

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week: Sunday, April 1st: 8:30am: 88 10:00pm 75

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

April 9 through April 15, 2018

Monday	4/9	9:00 am	Women's Devotion at Pat Beckers
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	4/10	10-12 noon	Pastor's Text Study
		9:00 am	Quilters
Wednesday	4/11	9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:0 am	Stitchers
		1:00 pm	Stewardship Meeting
		6:00 pm	Catechism
		6:00 pm	Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	4/12	8:00am	ROMEOS
		9:30 am	Carpool to Feed My Starving Children
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	4/13	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	4/15	8:30 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENDANCE REGISTRY Please sign and pass the new attendance registry folders which you will find in the pew.

FISH FRYS: Friday, April 20 at Light of the Cross Lutheran Church in Garrison. 5:00pm – 7:00pm. See flyer on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN For those of you who signed up for Feed My Starving Children, we will be leaving on Thursday, April 12 at 9:30 am from the church.

MEMORY GARDEN Paver orders will be taken now through mid-June. We have a new preferred customer status that will allow you to purchase pavers at a reduced cost. A 3 line pavers is now \$25.00 and a large paver of up to 5 lines is \$35.00. Order forms are in the narthex and can be completed and returned to the Memory Garden/Nature Trail office mailbox. They can also be given to either church secretary or Val Benton.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS If you have a favorite hymn you would like us to play there is a suggestion basket in the Narthex. Let us know what you want to sing.

TEMPLE TALK Next Sunday Stephanie Carlson for the NE Synod will give a temple talk on the Russian Lutheran Church which is one of the five global mission efforts Bethesda supports through our benevolence fund. There will be a free will offering basket in the Narthex that Sunday.

WELCA MEETING will be on Wednesday, April 18th at 9:30am.

HEARTLAND CONFERENCE will be held at Grace Lutheran Church in McGrath on Thursday, April 26th. Registration is between 8:00-9:00am.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP Riverwood Healthcare center will be starting a new 6-week Grief Support series on Thursdays from 4:30-6:00pm. Starts on April 19, 2018. See the bulletin board in Narthex for more information.

CHOIR PRACTICE Choir practice has started on Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm. Anyone interested in singing with the choir can just come to practice. Everyone is welcome.

WOMEN'S DEVOTIONS will be on Monday, April 9th, 9:00 am at Pat Becker's home.