

# Sunday, May 6, 2018

## Sixth Sunday of Easter



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

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## **Preaching Today: Val Benton**

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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

*This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### OPENING HYMN:

**“Gather Us In”**

**#532 ELW**

(verses 1,2 & 4)

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:**

**O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM: "Fall Like Rain"**

**First Reading: Acts 10:44-48**

*While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.

<sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm: Psalm 98**

*Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands. (Ps. 98:4)*

<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

**<sup>2</sup>O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**<sup>4</sup>Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

<sup>6</sup>**With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

<sup>8</sup>**Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

## **Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6**

*God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.*

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

*Please rise for the Reading of the Gospel*

## **GOSPEL: John 15:9-17**

### **Glory to you, O Lord**

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

<sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

<sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any

longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to You, O Christ**

*Please be seated*

**SERMON:** “What a Fellowship”

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** “Blest be the Tie” #656 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, your voice calls us to worship. Where discord bellows within the church, unite us in harmony. Where we lack direction, guide us in singing your song with our unique voices. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creative Lord, your melodies formed the earth and all that is in it. Receive the roar of the sea and the rhythmic clap of the rivers. Rejoice as the hills ring out in praise. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Holy One, you hear all our moans and groans. Where lament and the blues resound, send us to listen. Send us to comfort. Send us to build relationships rooted in your justice and peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Serenade the estranged and all who suffer alone. Accompany high-functioning addicts and the frightened who have no one to turn to. Give rest to overworked caregivers and people living with schizophrenia. Today we pray especially for . . . . Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Eternal Song, you call us to share our gifts for your glory. We thank you and praise you for our musicians and vocalists, choir directors and hymnwriters. Bless all who lead and all who sing in worship. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Your goodness echoes through all time with the songs of the saints. Thank you for all the disciples who have mentored us through their gift of music. Keep your song within us this day and always. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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:**

**“What a Fellowship”**

**#774 ELW**

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

**Please come again.**

## THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Digital Hymnal & Choir

Greeters: Dick & Sandy Pullen

Ushers: 8:30am: Chuck & Elsa Carlson

Lectors: 8:30am Pat Becker

10:00am: Dick & Sue Stebbins

10:00am JoAnn Haglund

Hospitality Hosts: Barry & Donna Ansell, Nancy Hanson

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week: Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> 8:30am: 83 10:00pm 22

## THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

May 7 through May 13, 2018

Monday	5/07	9:00 am	Women's Devotion's at Pat Becker's
		1:00 pm	Stewardship Mtg
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	5/08	9:00 am	Quilters
		12-2 pm	Pastor's text study
Wednesday	5/09	9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:0 am	Stitchers
		6:00 pm	Catechism
		6:00 pm	Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	5/10	8:00am	ROMEOS
		12:00 pm	Funtimers-Pot Luck (Noon) & Cards (12:30pm)
Friday	5/11	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	5/13	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.

**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.

**MALMO LIONS** are looking for gently used stuffed toys to use as prizes for this summer's Community Picnic which will be held in June.

**JELLY MAKING:** The date for our annual jelly making has been set for Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. Please come and join in the fun. No experience needed. Signup sheets will be in the fellowship hall. The jelly will be sold at the veggie stand this summer. All proceeds go to the Benevolence fund. Donations are very welcome. Some items needed are: Sugar, Sure Jell, Certo, 8 oz. jelly jars, and monetary donations for purchasing fruit are also welcome. If you have Rhubarb or hot peppers in your freezer from last year we could use them also. Please mark all items "Jelly making". Thank you to everyone that helps out.

**ITEMS NEEDED FOR ISLE SCHOOL PANTRY** •Oatmeal Packets  
•Ramen Noodles •Peanut Butter & Jelly •Men's Deodorant •Women's Hygiene Products •Bottled Water •Granola or Protein Bars •Pop Tarts •Canned Meats (Tuna, Spam or Chicken) •Tooth Brush & Toothpaste •Athletic Shorts •Money for School Lunch Accounts.

**CHANGES TO WORSHIP AT BETHESDA** Starting on May 27<sup>th</sup>, we will have communion every Sunday at every service. We will also be testing the "Narrative Lectionary" series this summer. The goal of the summer session, which runs from May 27 – Sept. 2, 2018, is to cover the sweeping story of God's people from the beginning through the life of Jesus and the early church. This summer's worship will consist of four series that are more topical sounding, but are based on Scripture. The series will include: The Ten Commandments, I John, Ruth, and Stewardship.

**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.