

Sunday, September 30, 2018

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor James Muske

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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

Egypt had been a house of bondage to Israel, and particularly cruel to the infants of Israel; yet it is to be a place of refuge to the holy Child Jesus. God, when he pleases, can make the worst of places serve the best of purposes. This was a trial of the faith of Joseph and Mary. But their faith, being tried, was found firm. If we and our infants are at any time in trouble, let us remember the straits in which Christ was when an infant.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: “Come, Thou Almighty King”* ELW #408
Please Stand on the Last Verse

* Parishioner Request

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the ☩ holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Source of all life,

we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation.

Amen.

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, ☩ God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of salvation, you rescued the Israelites at the edge of the Red Sea. Rescue us from the things of this world that threaten our lives and livelihoods, so that we might forever place our trust in you. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Please be seated

FIRST READING Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-29

⁵When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the minds of Pharaoh and his officials were changed toward the people, and they said, "What have we done, letting Israel leave our service?" ⁶So he had his chariot made ready, and took his army with him; ⁷he took six hundred picked chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. ¹⁰As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. ¹¹They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? ¹²Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." ¹³But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. ¹⁴The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still." ²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt." ²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand for the Gospel

GOSPEL Matthew 2:13-15

Glory to you, O Lord

¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

Please be seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" ELW #756

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

Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's beloved creation.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, you gather together people of faith in every time and every place to be the risen body of Christ in the world. Enliven the church to nourish its

members, to love the earth, and to serve its neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Creative God, you weave together the fabric of the universe. Forests and fields bear the banner of your abundance. Give us wisdom and discernment to be good stewards of our resources. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Sovereign God, you bless people with intelligence and compassion. Inspire citizens to raise up good leaders who seek peace and reconciliation among nations and who long to repair the world. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Loving God, you house the homeless, free the captive, and heal the sick. Make our hands your hands in service to strangers and friends. We pray especially for

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Welcoming God, you have given us to each other in this congregation. Make us glad to receive those you send to us and ready to receive their unique gifts and perspectives. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In every time and place you raise up witnesses who testify to your love and tender mercy. We remember with thanksgiving all who made your word known in the world (*including Jerome, translator and teacher*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Ushers will begin passing the offering plate.

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of life,

you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Invitation to Communion

Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, and make us one with you.
All are welcome. (Communion by intinction - red wine; white apple juice)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy and compassionate God, **in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.**

BLESSING

God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church: Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen

CLOSING HYMN:

“You Never Let Go”

by Matt Redman

1. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death.
Your perfect love is casting out fear.
And even when I'm caught in the middle of the storms of this life
I won't turn back, I know You are near
And I will fear no evil. For my God is with me. And if my God is with me
Whom then shall I fear? Whom then shall I fear?

(Chorus)

Oh no, You never let go. Through the calm and through the storm
Oh no, You never let go. In every high and every low
Oh no, You never let go. Lord, You never let go of me

2. And I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on
A glorious light beyond all compare.
And there will be an end to these troubles. But until that day comes
We'll live to know You here on the earth.
And I will fear no evil. For my God is with me. And if my God is with me
Whom then shall I fear? Whom then shall I fear? *(Chorus)*

3. Yes, I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on
And there will be an end to these troubles. But until that day comes
Still I will praise You, still I will praise You.
Yes, I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on
And there will be an end to these troubles. But until that day comes
Still I will praise You, still I will praise You. *(Chorus 2 times)*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Sound the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship! Please come again.

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Adult Choir & Digital Hymnal Greeters: Dennis & Lynne Meidlinger

Ushers: 9:00am Lee & Barb Forrester

Hospitality Hosts: Mike & Barb Macioch, Judy Wuorio, Don & Donna Myhre

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sun, Sept. 23: 9:00 am 94

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

October 1 – October 7, 2-18

Monday	10/1	1:00 pm	Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	10/2	9:00 am	Crafters
		12-2 pm	Pastor's Text Study
Wednesday	10/3	9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:00 am	Stitchers
		6:00 pm	Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	10/4	8:00 am	ROMEO's
		10:00 am	Worship & Music meeting
		12:00 pm	Funtimers (12:00 Potluck, 12:30 cards)
		6:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Friday	10/5	10:00am	Bone builders
Sunday	10/7	8:30 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Worship
		5:00 pm	Praise Concert, Faith Lutheran Church, Isle

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER AND CARE LIST Ron & Carol Hass, George Smith, Jerry Becker

USHERS If anyone is interested in ushering, please contact Skip or Lynn.

BETHESDA OUTREACH PROGRAM If you know of someone who may be homebound, has medical issues or recently suffered a loss and would benefit from short or long term visits from someone on Bethesda's visitation team contact Pastor James, a parish nurse or the office.

DEMENTIA FRIENDS WORKSHOP On Wednesday, October 17th at 1pm Terri Mathis from Aitkin County Care will present a face to face presentation about dementia. In this one hour informal session you will learn what dementia is and tips for communicating with people who have dementia. Dementia Friends Minnesota is a growing movement of people who are helping fellow community members living with dementia. Come to this free session to learn about dementia- you never know when you may need to help a family member or a friend. For further information contact Darlene Christensen or Carolyn Morris.

BENEVOLENCE SUGGESTIONS There is a basket in the Narthex for suggestions for additional Benevolence Recipients. If you know of a worthy local or global cause, let us know your suggestions.



MEN'S ANNUAL FISHING TRIP is scheduled for January 21st – 23rd, 2019. If interested contact Skip Hansen (218-839-2005) or Ron Mehlhop (507-276-0798) to make your reservations.

LUTEFISK DINNER Saturday, October 27th, Trinity Lutheran Church in Milaca will be serving a Lutefisk, Ham and Potato Sausage Dinner with all the fixings and topped off with Scandinavian desserts. Serving from 3:30-7:00pm. See poster in the Narthex for more information.

TRUNK OR TREAT Wednesday, October 31st from 5:30-8:30pm, Bethesda will sponsor a "Trunk or Treat" event in our parking lot. Decorate your trunk and bring treats to pass out to neighborhood kids. See poster in the Narthex for more information. This will be a Fundraising Event for our Centennial Celebration.