

Sunday, February 17, 2019

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany



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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Parable of the Kingdoms

INTRODUCTION

In the parable of the weeds and wheat, an “enemy” comes when everyone is sleeping and sows “weeds.” For the disciples, the enemy could be opponents of Jesus who, threatened by the good seed he sows, attempt to spoil his harvest. For the ruling class, the enemy might be Jesus himself, plundering the “strong man’s house”. The strange practice of allowing the wheat and weeds to grow up together is understood as a symbol of God’s patience.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” #631 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.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who creates us and forms us, who redeems us and calls us, who unites us and sends us.

Amen.

Gathered in God’s presence, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Mighty and loving God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We seek our own way. We divide the body of Christ. In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us. Let the words of our mouths, the thoughts of our hearts, and everything that we do be filled with faith, hope, and love. Amen.

Hear the voice of Jesus: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim release to the captives.” In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, I proclaim to you that your sins are forgiven and you are released. The joy of the Lord is your strength, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord of stories,

Jesus taught us through stories and the wisdom of the shared word. Teach us through your stories that we may learn, grow, and love. For the sake of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen

Please be seated

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 13:24-43

Glory to you, O Lord

²⁴He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

³¹He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

³⁴Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. ³⁵This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: "I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world."

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM RESPONSE Psalm 84:1-7

¹How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

²**My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

³Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

⁴**Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. Selah**

⁵Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

⁶**As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.**

⁷They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” #693 ELW

Please stand if able

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are not alone, we live in God’s world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God’s presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

United as one body in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Raise up faithful leaders to proclaim the gospel. Guide us in the ways of love. Empower us in ministry and service. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the earth. Bless deserts and canyons, farmlands and vineyards. Bring sufficient rainfall to lands parched by drought, and restore places scorched by wildfire. Protect fragile environments from harm. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the nations. Grant wisdom to our elected leaders for the sake of the common good. Give courage to those who suffer persecution. Give patience and perseverance to those who work to bring an end to injustice. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those in need. For those who do not have enough food; for those who lack money; for those who are estranged from their families; for those who worry about many things. Comfort those who mourn. Heal and strengthen those who are sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For this assembly. For newcomers, visitors, longtime members, and those who are absent from us today. Root us deeply in your word and increase our faith. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died (*especially*). Encourage us by their example and lead us in faith until we are united at your unending feast. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers and fill us with the radiance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 and Blessing Box.

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of all creation,

all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Invitation to Communion

Come to the table. Feast on God's abundant life for you.

All are welcome! (Communion by intinction - red wine; white apple juice)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, O God,

that you have fed us at your banqueting table with bread and wine beyond compare, the very life of Christ for us. Send your Spirit with us now, that we may set the captive free, use your gifts to build one another up, and in everything reflect your glory revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN:

“Right by the Water”

Dakota Road

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is your light.

Thanks be to God.

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Digital Hymnal

Greeters: Marge Garbo & Bev Wedig

Ushers: Wayne & Janice Olson

Hospitality: Jerry/Pat Becker; Chuck/Elsa Carlson; Doris Reinhard&MargeGarbo

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, February 10, 2019: 9:00 am 100

RIGHT BY THE WATER

Hans Peterson



You are a tree right by the wa-ter with roots that came



from a small seed. Drink deep from the source, sons and daugh-ters.



Bear fruit, reach for who you can be.



Come one and all, lost, lone - ly, poor. Blest are you;
Christ stands be - side, calls out your name: "I am with
The riv - er brings a proph - et's dream: "Let jus - tice



God's realm is yours. All hun - gry souls you
you in your pain." May liv - ing wa - ters
flow like a stream." Love has come so



will be fed. All you who weep will laugh in - stead.
make you whole. May you find peace for your soul.
all may live. In - spir - ed we joy - ful - ly give.

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda **February 4 thru February 10, 2019**

Monday	2/18	10:00 am	Council Meeting
		1:00 pm	Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	2/19	12:-2:00 pm	Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	2/20	8:00-Noon	WIC
		9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:00 am	Stitchers
Thursday	2/21	8:00 am	ROMEOs
		12:30 pm	Funtimers-Card Players
Friday	2/22	10:00 am	Bone builders
Sunday	2/24	9:00 am	Worship
		10:15 am	Drawing for Raffle winner
		10:30 am	Praise Team practice
		3:00 pm	Pizza and a Movie

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.

JOIN IN THE FUN! Support our Centennial activities in 2019. Purchase a “Heart” for \$1.00 and we will use to decorate the fellowship hall and have a drawing the last Sunday of the month. All funds raised will be used for our Centennial Celebration on August 11, 2019.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX MINISTRY During February, hygiene items will be collected to be packed in shoeboxes by VBS kids in June. Items needed include: toothbrushes, bars of soap, washcloths, combs/small brushes, necklaces, bracelets, hair ties/barrettes. These individual items can be brought to the church or put together in a packet. To make a packet, wrap a bar of soap in a washcloth and put it in a ziplock bag with a comb and toothbrush so it will be ready to be packed in a shoebox.

SAVE THE DATE April 11, 2019. Heartland Conference NE MN Synod Ladies Spring Gathering at Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo. 8:00am-12:00 noon. Guest Speaker, Brunch & Worship. More info to follow.

PIZZA and a MOVIE Centennial committee will have their first ever Pizza & a Movie afternoon, Sunday, February 24th, 2019 at 3:00pm. The movie “I Can Only Imagine” will be shown in the fellowship hall with popcorn and beverages followed by pizza after the movie. Kids’ movies will be shown in the nursery if requested.

SUNDAY SCHOOL will be coming to Bethesda in March!