

Sunday, February 24, 2019

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Prayer Chain Contacts: Char Berg 320-684-2102 or Darlene Christensen 218-839-8193

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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Feeding 5,000

INTRODUCTION

Much like Jesus' healing miracles, his feeding of the crowd shows his compassion of human beings and their needs. Jesus cared for the people in their ordinary hunger and demonstrated loving hospitality. Sending the crowds home means sending them back into the oppressive and alienating economic realities of Galilee. Scarcity, hunger, alienation, and fear are symptoms of unjust political, social, and economic arrangements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: **“Wade in the Water”** **#459 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

Generous God,

you helped your son Jesus feed 5,000 hungry people who had gathered to hear of your love. Help us provide for the needs of all who hunger for your word. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 14:13-33

Glory to you, O Lord

¹³Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

²²Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." ²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM RESPONSE Psalm 95:1-5

¹O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

²Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

³For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

⁴In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

⁵The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Break Now the Bread of Life” #515 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. Fill us with a spirit of generosity and care. Lead us to forgive as we have been forgiven. Show us new ways to be helpful to others.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the earth. Grant seasonable weather for the planting and harvesting of crops. Protect farms, orchards, and gardens from damage. Bless those who till fields, those who care for livestock, and all who provide food. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the nations. For all researchers and leaders who work to resolve complex issues; for all who teach peace and reconciliation to communities in conflict; for those affected by earthquake, drought, or storms, and all who come to their aid.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For those in need. For those who lack adequate food, shelter, or access to medical care; for those unable to find gainful employment. Heal the sick, and comfort the grieving (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For this assembly. Inspire us to be good stewards of the resources you have entrusted to us. Teach us to give freely of ourselves and to offer our lives in service. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died (*especially*). Even in the midst of death, give us faith to trust your promise of everlasting life. 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: "My Life Flows on in Endless Song" #763 ELW

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: Wally & Bev Swenson

Ushers: Wayne & Janice Olson

Hospitality: Shirley Gosselin, Dennis & Audrey Bistodeau

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, February 17, 2019: 9:00 am 81

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda **February 25 thru March 3, 2019**

Monday	2/25	1:00 pm	Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	2/26	9:00 am	Quilters
		12:-2:00 pm	Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	2/27	9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:00 am	Stitchers
Thursday	2/28	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		12:30 pm	Funtimers-Card Players
		1:45-3:00pm	Pastor visits at Aicota & AHS
Friday	3/1	10:00 am	Bone builders
Saturday	3/2		Malmo Lions Winter Carnival @ Deer Lake
Sunday	3/3	9:00 am	Worship
		10:15 am	Sunday School
		10:30 am	Praise Team practice

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.

2019 BETHESDA CENTENNIAL FUNDRAISER CALENDARS are here! Only \$10 and available in the Fellowship Hall after service today and for weeks to come.

JOIN IN THE FUN! Support our Centennial activities in 2019. Purchase a “Heart” for \$1.00 and we will use them 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.

OFFERING ENVELOPES are here! Please pick up your envelopes in the Fellowship Hall.

PICTURE DIRECTORIES are here! If you didn’t have your picture taken, updated smaller directories are available in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like a picture directory, but didn’t have your picture taken, you can purchase a copy for \$10. See the secretaries in the office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

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, TODAY, 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 On Sunday, March 3rd at 10:15 we are starting classes for kids ages 4-12. Kids who are older are invited to be helpers. If you know of families in the area who would be interested, or if you want to help, contact Laury Nyberg, Sue Samuelson, Darlene Christensen or Pastor James.

SINGSPIRATION Join in for an Evening of Singing the Old Time Favorites and some of the new at Glory Baptist Church on Sunday, February 24th at 6:30 pm. There will be fellowship & snacks following the singing.

MALMO LIONS WINTER CARNIVAL will be held on Saturday, March 2nd on Deer Lake. Watch for signs with times and activities.

BENEFIT FOR WHITE'S GARAGE will be held here on Saturday, March 9th from 4:00pm-7:00pm. Jim & Lorna White had a devastating fire at their place of business.

THANK YOU The Malmo Area Lions would like to thank everyone who came to our Sweetheart Dinner on February 16th.