

Sunday, February 3, 2019

Fourth 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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Treasure in Heaven

INTRODUCTION

Prayer requires more of the heart than of the tongue. The eloquence of prayer consists in the commitment of desire, and the simplicity of faith. The abundance of thoughts, motions, and excess expressions are things which compose of lectures, not a humble and Christian prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN:

“Beautiful Savior”

#838 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

Extravagant God,

you have promised treasure in heaven that outweighs any we could envision or imagine on earth. Help us to be grateful for the amazing gifts you have already given to us. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 6:7-21 [25-34]

Glory to you, O Lord

⁷"When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹"Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us this day our daily bread.

¹²And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.

¹⁴For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; ¹⁵but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

¹⁶"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²²"The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; ²³but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

²⁴"No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

²⁵"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you — you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' ³²For

it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM RESPONSE Psalm 20:7

⁷Some take pride in chariots, and some in horses, but our pride is in the name of the LORD our God.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: "O Day of Rest and Gladness" #521 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. Inspire us by your Spirit as we respond to your call.

When we are reluctant, strengthen us; when we are doubtful, encourage us.

Above all, let your love shine through us. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the earth. For mountains and prairies, cities and farms, rain forests and deserts. Awaken us to the mystery and diversity of your creation. Nurture all living things and protect your creation from harm. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the nations. Kindle within us a spirit of respect for one another. Protect those fleeing their homes to escape danger or oppression. Bring peace to communities torn apart by warfare and violence. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those in need. Protect those who suffer abuse and encourage those who lack hope. Guide all who provide medical care. Comfort those who grieve and bring healing to the sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For this assembly. Bless our children and our elders. Gather us into a community guided by your love. Inspire in us a spirit of hospitality and kindness. Teach us to bear one another's burdens with compassion. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for those who have gone before us in faith, and who now see you face-to-face (*especially Ansgar*). Inspire us by their example and bring us into your everlasting presence. 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:

"Be Thou My Vision"

#793 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: George & Kathy Larson Ushers: Dennis & Audrey Bistodeau

Hospitality: Don & Donna Myhre

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, January 27, 2019: 9:00 am 60

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

Monday	2/4	9:00 am	Women's Devotion @ Pat Beckers
		1:00 pm	Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	2/5	12:-2:00 pm	Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	2/6	9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:00 am	Stitchers
		6:30 pm	Holden Evening Prayer around the World
Thursday	2/7	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		10:00 am	Personnel Meeting
		11:00 am	Worship & Music Meeting
		12:30 pm	Funtimers-Card Players
Friday	2/8	10:00 am	Bone builders
Sunday	2/10	9:00 am	Worship
		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.

BLESSING BOX The first Sunday of every month we pass the "Blessing Box". If you feel blessed, please contribute to the Blessing Box today to help others. All donations will go to local area benevolences. Thank you! What a Blessing!

2019 BETHESDA CENTENNIAL FUNDRAISER CALENDARS are here! These will make great gifts! 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. For the month of February you have the opportunity to win a fabulous prize by purchasing a "Heart" for \$1.00 that we will use to decorate the fellowship hall. The winner will be drawn the last Sunday of the month after worship service. The prize for February is donated by WELCA. Buy tickets after Sunday service or find the can on the secretaries' desk during the week. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

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.

YEAR END TAX STATEMENTS are available. They are on the table next to the Offering Envelopes in the Fellowship Hall.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIS Judie Birk is looking for old cross country skis that she plans to paint/decorate for this year's bazaar. You can leave them at the church office.

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER AROUND THE WORLD – Feb. 6, 2019. We will be having a Service at 6:30pm on that Wednesday night. *We encourage you to bring a non-perishable item for the local food shelves and the offering that night will be taken for Local and World Hunger funds.* Fellowship afterward the service.

MALMO LIONS' SWEETHEART DANCE Dinner & Dance on Saturday, February 16th, 2019. \$15/per person, call the church office for reservations before Feb. 8th. See poster in Narthex for more information.

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.

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.

BIBLE & BREW at the LAKE: Friday, March 8th 4:00pm through Saturday 1:00pm. Faith Conversations with Bishop Tom. Explore Theology and Lutheran identity using the actual process of Brewing Beer as a conversation starter! Bishop Tom, a home brewer leads us in spirited fellowship and personal faith discussions. Camp Onomia Retreat Center. See poster in Narthex for more information.