

**Sunday, March 10, 2019**

**First Sunday in Lent**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

Phone: 320-684-2123 (1-877-684-2123) Fax: 320-684-2836

E-mail address: [blcmalmo@frontiernet.net](mailto:blcmalmo@frontiernet.net)

Church Web Site: [blcmalmo.org](http://blcmalmo.org)

**Pastor James Muske**

**320-583-5796**

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN 218-839-8193

Kathy Berland RN ANP 218-838-6181

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**

# Sunday, March 10, 2019

## Forgiveness

### INTRODUCTION

*The harmony of Jesus' teaching about conflict and the role of witnesses is often noted, but there is something subtly different in today's readings. Jesus is not instructing us to bring witnesses to testify against our "brother" who has sinned against us, but to testify to the exchange between brother and sister. This is not just about safety in numbers, but the safety of the numbers. Jesus follows this with talk about the power of agreement, saying that anything that is agreed upon by two on earth will be done for them by the Father in heaven.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN: "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" #588 ELW**

*Please rise 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 gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.

**Amen.**

In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God at the margins,

**We have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way. We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows.**

**Amen.**

Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces you in tender care. Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day, forgiving your sins for the sake of ✠ Christ, leading you from death into life.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

Forgiving God,

**as you encouraged your people to forgive, you modeled forgiveness by releasing us from our bondage to sin. Help us to forgive others, so that we might live in harmony with all your children. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## **GOSPEL READING: Matthew 18:15-35**

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

<sup>15</sup>If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.'

<sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have

had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.<sup>35</sup> So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## **PSALM RESPONSE      Psalm 32:1-2**

<sup>1</sup>Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

<sup>2</sup>**Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:    "The Glory of These Forty Days"      #320 ELW**

*Please Stand*

## **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.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Holy and steadfast God, keep your word near to us, planting it in our hearts and communities. Make it blossom into proclamation for all people to receive. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

As you give your Spirit freely, so also give bread that sustains every living thing. Graciously feed hungry souls and hungry stomachs with your bountiful provision. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Stir up courage among your people to resist oppressive powers and to lead people into freedom (*as you did through Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, whom we commemorate today*). Shine the light of your justice through their work. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Hold tightly those who grow weary in their struggle with addiction or temptation (*especially*). By your strength bear them up to live fully in your presence. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Teach us the stories of our faith by heart. As you accompanied our ancestors in their uncertainty, so guide us confidently into the future. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

When we struggle and are tested, redeem us by the endurance of Christ. Give us steadfast faith to strive for your glory until we witness its fullness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

**OFFERING**

*Ushers will begin passing the offering plate.*

*Please rise as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Generous God,

**you feed us with the harvest of the land, and you provide for our every need. Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor, and transform them into a feast that welcomes all, in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest. Amen.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

## **Invitation to Communion**

Christ has prepared the feast. Come to the table where all are welcomed home.  
(Communion by intinction - red wine; white apple juice)

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Tender and merciful one,

**at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness into joy. Filled with your abundant grace, send us now to be ministers of reconciliation, mending broken hearts, working for justice, and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

God, who fills the creation with abundance, Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, ✝ bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **CLOSING HYMN:**

**“All of My Life”**

Dakota Road

(Page 8)

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

## **THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Music: Digital Hymnal

Greeters: Wayne & Janice Olson

Ushers: George & Patti Smith

Hospitality Hosts: Judy Wuorio & daughters

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, March 3, 2019: 9:00am 62

## **THIS WEEK AT Bethesda**

**March 11 through March 17, 2019**

Monday

3/11

**NO** Women's Devotions

1:00 pm

Double Deck Pinochle

7:00 pm

AA/Alanon

**THIS WEEK AT Bethesda (continued)****March 11 through March 17, 2019**

Tuesday	3/12	9:00 am	Quilters
		12 – 2 pm	Pastor’s Text Study
Wednesday	3/13	9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:00 am	Stitchers
		5:30 pm	Potluck
		6:30 pm	Worship
Thursday	3/14	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		12:00 pm	Funtimers: Potluck and Cards
Friday	3/15	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Saturday	3/16	Noon-3:00pm	Lion’s Winter Carnival-Deer Lake
Sunday	3/17	9:00 am	Worship
		10:15 am	Sunday School
		10:30 am	Praise Team

**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** We received \$90.20 in the Blessing Box last Sunday. Donations will go to Local Benevolence. Thank you! What a Blessing!

**JOIN IN THE FUN!** Support our Centennial activities in 2019. “Leprechaun Madness” will be plentiful in March and decorations can be purchased for \$1.00 to decorate the fellowship hall and have a drawing the last Sunday of the month. The prize for March will be “A Basket of Traveling Happiness” which contains a variety of coffees, teas, travel mugs, electric tea pot and more. All funds raised will be used for our Centennial Celebration on August 11, 2019.

**2019 BETHESDA CENTENNIAL FUNDRAISER CALENDARS** are here! These will make memorial items with the beautiful pictures each month! Only \$10 and available in the Fellowship Hall after service today and for weeks to come.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** Please pick your 2019 offering envelopes in the Fellowship Hall.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX MINISTRY** During the month of March will be collecting small, new stuffed animals to be packed in shoeboxes by VBS kids in June. The collection basket is in the Narthex.

**MALMO LION’S WINTER CARNIVAL** will be on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-5:00pm at Deer Lake. Ice carousel, sledding, skating, bonfire, smores, hot chocolate.

# ALL OF MY LIFE

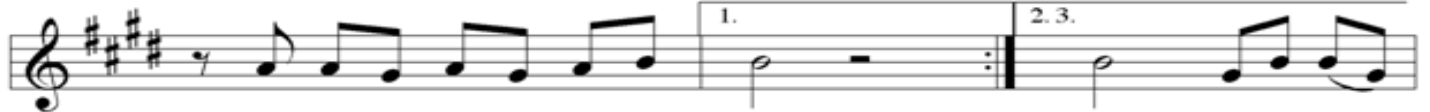
Larry Olson



My heart is hop-in' and my eyes are op - en. There is a hun-ger in -  
Some say I've got to have all of the an - swers. Some say I need all this  
Help out my neighbor, wel- come a strang - er. Of - fer my shirt to an



side me. I want to do right, just walk in the ho - ly light,  
mon - ey. I hear the world is just mine for the tak - ing,  
en - e - my. Dance in the moon - light, cry by the fire - light,



to live my days a - bun - dant - ly. All of my  
oh how I long to be re - leased.  
to live my days a - bun - dant - ly.



life, I want to lose my - self and be faith -



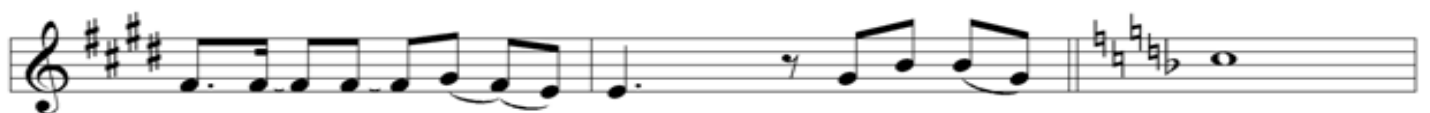
ful. All of my life, I want to



live for - giv - en and grate - ful, all of my life.



Oh God you know me, my ev - 'ry heart - beat is a



word of grace from you. All of my life,



I want to lose my - self and be faith - ful. All of my



life, I want to live for - giv - en and grate -



ful, all of my life.