

**Sunday, March 17, 2019**

**Second 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 17, 2019

## Laborers in the Vineyard

### INTRODUCTION

*Today's parable highlights the generosity of God. As the ultimate "landowner," God will use what has always belonged to the Creator for the good of all even if humans fail to view the world through God's eyes. The landowner's question in the parable is Jesus' punch line for the story: "Are you envious because I am generous?"*

### CALL TO WORSHIP:

**"Morning Has Broken"**

**#556 ELW**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING HYMN:

**"Awesome God"**

*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:**

Generous God,

**you have promised to open your kingdom to all people, despite their circumstances. Bring us close to you, and help us to proclaim the goodness of your generosity. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM:        “You Are My All in All”**

**SCRIPTURE ACCLAMATION:        “Thy Word”**

## **GOSPEL READING: Matthew 20:1-16**

**Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>1</sup>For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' <sup>7</sup>They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?' <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**PSALM RESPONSE      Psalm 16:5-8**

<sup>5</sup>The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

**<sup>6</sup>The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.**

<sup>7</sup>I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

**<sup>8</sup>I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:                      “My Lighthouse”**

*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.*

Compassionate God, call your people to stand firm as citizens of heaven. As we are humbled by your wondrous love, nurture such mercy in our hearts and ministries. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Display your faithfulness to creation in the changing of the seasons. Orchestrate the great song of praise that comes from rivers, birds, mountains, livestock, and wind. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Drown out the terror in the world with acts of loving kindness and generosity. Release political leaders from pride and fear to act justly and to serve citizens. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Rush to answer those who cry out to you in time of trial (*especially*). Give shelter to your vulnerable children, and cover them in the comfort of your mothering wings. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Grant solace to people who long to be parents, but have faced difficulty in bearing or adopting children. Build life-giving parent and child relationships for the sake of all. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Build up your holy community of saints through the work of bishops and missionaries (*like Patrick, whom we commemorate today*). Spread your word through your people for the sake of the world. 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*

**OFFERTORY HYMN      “He Looked Beyond My Fault”**  
(sung to the tune of Danny Boy)

Amazing grace shall always be my song of praise,  
For it was grace that brought my Liberty.  
I do not know just why He came to love me so,  
He looked beyond my faults and saw all my needs.

I shall forever lift mine eyes to Calvary,  
To view the cross where Jesus died for me.  
How marvelous the grace that caught my falling soul;  
He looked beyond he looked beyond faults and saw my need.

Songwriter: Dottie Rambo

*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 – LED BY THE PRAISE TEAM**

### **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)

**COMMUNION SONG    “Let Us Break Bread Together”    #471 ELW**

## **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:        “As You Go On Your Way”**

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

## **THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Music: The Praise Team

Greeters: Dennis & Lynne Meidlinger

Ushers: Wally & Bev Swenson

Hospitality Hosts: Praise Team and Ron & Carol Hass

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, March 10, 2019: 9:00am   xx  

### **THIS WEEK AT Bethesda**

**March 18 through March 24, 2019**

Monday	3/18	10:00 am	Council Meeting
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	3/19	12 – 2 pm	Pastor's Text Study
Wednesday	3/20	8 – 12	WIC
		9:00 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Women's Spring Gathering Planning Meeting
		10:00 am	Stitchers
		5:30 pm	Potluck
		6:30 pm	Worship
Thursday	3/21	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		12:30 pm	Funtimers
Friday	3/22	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	3/24	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.

**JOIN IN THE FUN!** Support our Centennial activities in 2019. Purchase "Leprechaun Madness" decorations for \$1.00 and we will use them 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.

**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.

**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.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** is at 10:15 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, Darlene Christensen or Pastor James.