# Sunday, March 24, 2019

Third Sunday of 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: <u>blcmalmo@gmail.com</u> (new email address!) Church Web Site: <u>blcmalmo.org</u>

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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.

<u>Hearing Assistance is available during the service.</u> <u>Please notify usher if you would like assistance</u>

## Sunday, March 24, 2019 Wedding Banquet

### **INTRODUCTION**

In today's reading, the reference of "king" is a common metaphor for God; the story is evidently about a divine wedding banquet. The wedding banquet is a metaphor for our relationship with God. This parable teaches us that we all have been invited to the Greatest Event ever! Jesus is teaching us that God has sent out His invitation for your salvation. Will you make excuses or accept God's invitation?

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN:** 

"As We Gather at Your Table"

#522 ELW

(Please Stand on the Last Verse)

Varsa)

### **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

God of celebration,

you have invited all people to rejoice in the goodness of your love. Help us to be hospitable to all people at your banquet, so that all might receive your blessing. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### Please be seated GOSPEL READING: Matthew 22:1-14

#### Glory to you, O Lord

<sup>1</sup>Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup>"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup>He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup>Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' <sup>5</sup>But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup>while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup>The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup>Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup>Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' <sup>10</sup>Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

<sup>11</sup>"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, <sup>12</sup>and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup>Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' <sup>14</sup>For many are called, but few are chosen."

Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God** 

### PSALM RESPONSE Psalm 45:6-7

<sup>6</sup>Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. Your royal scepter is a scepter of equity;

<sup>7</sup>you love righteousness and hate wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions

#### SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" #733 ELW

Please stand if able

**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.

### 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. <u>Please stand</u> 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: "We Are Called"

Dakota Road (page 6)

#### WE ARE CALLED

Larry Olson



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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 HymnalGreeters: Barry & Donna AnsellUshers: Wally & Bev SwensonHospitality: Julie Swaggert, Dennis Hennessy, Jeannine Bruesewitz (Jelly Tasting)

### Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week Attendance: Sunday, March 17, 2019: 9:00 am 92

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda			March 25, 2019 – March 31, 2019
Monday	3/25	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	Pinochle AA/Alanon
Tuesday	3/26	9:00 am 12:-2:00 pm	Quilters Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	3/27	9:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Bible Study Stitchers Making Centennial Jelly Potluck Lenten Service
Thursday	3/28	8:00 am 12:30 pm	ROMEOs Funtimers-Card Players
Friday	3/29	10:00 am	Bone builders
Sunday	3/31	9:00 am 10:15 am 10:15 am 10:30 am 3:00 pm	Worship Raffle Drawing for March Sunday School Praise Team practice Movie & Pizza

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**<u>ATTENDANCE REGISTRY</u>** 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. "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.

**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.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** will be held at 10:15 on Sundays. The 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, Darlene Christensen or Pastor James.

**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.

**JELLY TESTING** during fellowship hour today we will have two different kinds of "Carrot Cake" jam on the tables and a tally sheet. Please let us know which flavor of "Carrot Cake" jam you like best so we know which kind to make for our "*Centennial Jelly*".

**FREE** Legacy Chorale Spring Concert schedule: Friday, April 12, 2019 | 7:30 pm Cascade United Methodist Church, Deerwood, MN. Saturday, April 13, 2019 | 7:30 pm Holy Cross Catholic Church, Onamia, MN. Sunday, April 14, 2019 | 3:30 pm Tornstrom Auditorium, Brainerd, MN. Free will donations accepted at the door. For more information see poster on the bulletin board in the Narthex or visit their website at: <a href="https://www.legacychorale.org/events">www.legacychorale.org/events</a>

<u>MALMO AREA LIONS</u> are looking for gently used stuffed animals for the annual community picnic on June 19<sup>th,</sup> 2019. See Sherry Whipple to donate.

**LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE U.S. FLOODING** Donation forms are available in the Narthex for contributions to the flooding in the US. Gifts to "U.S. flooding" will be used in full (100 percent) to assist those affected by flooding in the US.