

**Sunday, March 31, 2019**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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**Pastor James Muske**

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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**

# Sunday, March 31, 2019

## Bridesmaids or Talents

### INTRODUCTION

*One of the themes running through today's parable is that the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour, and that no one knows the day or the hour, so followers of Jesus need to be ready at all times. As long as there are people who need to hear the gospel, and as long as there are hungry people to feed, strangers to welcome, sick people to take care of, and all kinds of people in need to visit, we have plenty of work to do until Jesus returns.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN:**            **“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”**            **# 244 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 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 for reflection and self-examination.*

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**

God of holy anticipation,

**you have promised that you would return at a time unknown to us. Make us ready, so that when you return we might be welcomed into your kingdom with open arms. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## **GOSPEL READING: Matthew 25:1-13**

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

<sup>1</sup>Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, 'No! There will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.'

<sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' <sup>12</sup>But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

### **Matthew 25:14-30**

<sup>14</sup>For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' <sup>23</sup>His

master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**PSALM RESPONSE**      *Psalm 43:3-4*

<sup>3</sup>O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.

<sup>4</sup>**Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy; and I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness" #488 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.*

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.*

God of abundant grace, guide your church to look upon people as you look upon them, with compassion and as deserving of mercy. Shape us to be worthy ambassadors of Christ. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Bestow dignity on migrant and seasonal farm and factory workers. When the time comes for them to leave jobs, provide new ways for them to make a livelihood. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Inspire musicians and poets (*like John Donne, whom we commemorate today*) to point to your unfathomable beauty and creativity. Enhance our vision of your holiness through their works. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Protect and preserve all people who look to you to be their hiding place (*especially*). Be their respite from trouble, and give them hope. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Erase the pain of trauma and the shame and stigma of social contempt. Change the hearts of those who bully or mistreat others, and heal broken relationships. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Invite your whole company of saints into eternal, joyful feasting. When we question your abundant mercy, soften our hearts to receive the gifts of faith and love. 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.**

## 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

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.**

**CLOSING HYMN: “Keep Your Lamp Trimmed and Burning”      Insert**

Sung by: Larry Campbell  
& Teresa Williams

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**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 & Patti Smith      Ushers: Donna Ansell, Diane Sandberg

Hospitality: Jack & Paula Spetz, Mary Braun

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, March 24, 2019: 9:00 am 87

Wednesday, March 27, 2019: 6:30 pm 23

## **THIS WEEK AT Bethesda**

**April 1, 2019 – April 7, 2019**

Monday	4/1	1:00 pm	Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	4/2	12:-2:00 pm	Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	4/3	9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:00 am	Stitchers
		5:30 pm	Potluck
		6:30 pm	Lenten Service
Thursday	4/4	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		12:30 pm	Funtimers-Card Players
Friday	4/5	10:00 am	Bone builders
Saturday	4/6	1:00 pm	Funeral for Frances Berge
Sunday	4/7	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.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** will be held at 10:15 on Sundays. The classes are 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.

**JOIN IN THE FUN!** Support our Centennial activities in 2019. Each month you have the opportunity to win a fabulous prize by purchasing a \$1 chance, while also decorating the fellowship hall. All funds raised will be used for our Centennial Celebration on August 11, 2019. Our theme for April will be “Easter & Bunnys”. The prize for April is a 35 inch by 11 inch Hardanger table runner. The winner will be drawn the last Sunday of the month during Fellowship hour after worship service. We hope you participate each month for a chance to win a different prize each month. Thank you for your support. *Need not be present to win.*

**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 the month of April will be collecting small toys like dolls, cars, trucks, jump ropes, or balls to be packed in shoeboxes by VBS kids in June. The collection basket is in the Narthex.

**MALMO AREA LIONS** are looking for gently used stuffed animals for the annual community picnic on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**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.

**ISLE AREA FOOD SHELF** There is a need for cereals and individual packets of oatmeal.

**PHONE DIRECTORY** If there are changes or updates to the small, non-picture directory, please email or leave a note on the secretary’s desk. Note one change: If you need to contact Dorothy Munding please use her cell phone: 805-636-6218.

**THANK YOU!** To all the ladies who helped make the Centennial Jelly this week. We couldn’t have done it without Marge Garbo’s exceptional organizational skills. The Centennial Jelly will be on sale today for \$5/jar. All funds raised will be used for our Centennial Celebration on August 11, 2019.

**EASTER LILIES** sales will begin today. Signup sheet will be in the Fellowship Hall today. Price is \$15. Buy one as a memorial to loved ones and to decorate the church for Easter.



# Keep Your Lamp Trimmed and Burning

Sung by: Larry Campbell & Teresa Williams

Brother don't you get worried  
Brother don't you get worried  
Brother don't you get worried  
For this ol' world is almost done

## CHORUS:

Keep your lamps trimmed and burnin'  
Keep your lamps trimmed and burnin'  
Keep your lamps trimmed and burnin'  
For this ol' world is almost done

Sister, don't stop your prayin'  
Sister, don't stop your prayin'  
Sister, don't stop your prayin'  
For this ol' world is almost done CHORUS

Father don't you get worried  
Father don't you get worried  
Father don't you get worried  
For this ol' world is almost done CHORUS

Preacher, don't stop your preachin'  
Preacher, don't stop your preachin'  
Preacher, don't stop your preachin'  
For this ol' world is almost done CHORUS X 2

A traditional gospel blues song that alludes to the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins, found in the Gospel of Matthew at 25:1-13