

Sunday, November 17, 2019
Twenty third Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor James Muske

320-583-5796

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Prayer Chain Contacts: Char Berg 320-684-2102 or Darlene Christensen 320-279-0097

Church Secretary: Mary Braun

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, November 17, 2019

Isaiah's Vineyard Song

INTRODUCTION

The metaphor, God as Gardener is quite common. God carefully, passionately, and lovingly, tends to Israel (God's plant) to ensure that the garden flourishes and grows delicious fruit. Gardens progress through seasons, and in our readings today, it demonstrates God at work in the garden in two ways: uprooting and growing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" #834 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, healer of our every ill, source of unending mercy.

Amen.

Embraced in enduring grace and good hope, let us turn again to God, confessing the truth about ourselves.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

we come before you, beloved but broken. We have not always treated others as we would want them to treat us. We have not always called out injustice and abuse. We have not always been kind to ourselves. We have not always taken care of the world we share with other living creatures. Remind us of who we are, beloved children bathed in your love. Renew us by your Spirit to live as your holy people, bringing healing to the brokenness around us.

Amen.

At every moment you are held in existence by the love of God, renewed by the Spirit within and among you, and made alive again in Christ. Receive this assurance in Jesus' name: you are ✝ forgiven and freed to live for the healing of the world.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving Lord,

You have searched your people for evidence of goodness, the way fruit is sought in a vineyard. Send your righteous judge and find goodness in your faithful children. Amen.

Please be seated

CHOIR ANTHEM: “Celtic Thanksgiving”

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5

Chapter 5

¹Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ²He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. ³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? ⁵And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

Chapter 11

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

Please Stand for the Gospel

GOSPEL Mark 12:1-3

Glory to you, O Lord

¹Then he began to speak to them in parables. "A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the wine press, and built a watchtower; then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ²When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard. ³But they seized him, and beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

Please be seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Chief of Sinners Though I Be” #609 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

United with the saints of every time and place, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

A brief silence.

Faithful God, when we question the future, you reveal the hope of victory through your Son, Jesus Christ. Give us the wisdom to rely on your words and the courage to witness to your love and faithfulness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our joy, the seas and the hills shout your praise. Inspire us to sing a joyful song to you as we work to preserve and protect your marvelous creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our ruler, you judge the world with righteousness and the people with equity. Grant perseverance to world leaders and elected officials, so that they never grow weary in doing what is right. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, you offer peace to fearful hearts. Heal the hurts of all those who suffer injustice and persecution, those who spend months and years in prisons and in hospitals, and for anyone in need today (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our song, thank you for worship leaders, artists, and musicians who create works of praise and prayer. Guide them in their leadership, and empower them to

lift up new voices and works of art among the assembly. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Everlasting God, as we await the dawn of the new heaven and the new earth, we give thanks for your beloved who have died in Christ (*especially Elizabeth of Hungary, renewer of society*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in hope, we lift our prayers to you, most gracious Lord, trusting that you have received them in your care.

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 our creator,

you give us all we are, all we have, all we bring, and all we need. Draw us together around your table with all your saints on earth and in your eternal home. Let us eat and drink your promise of new life, that we might be your promise to the world, spoken in Jesus' name. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Invitation to Communion

God keeps adding places to the table. Come to the banquet that has no end!
(Communion by intinction – red wine; white apple juice; gluten free available)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, God our host, for inviting us here to taste the future when you will feed all the hungry at your table. Keep this hope alive in us and in our communities, so that we might bring hope to a suffering world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

Signed and sealed by the Holy Spirit, you are Christ’s message of love for this troubled world, written by the same Sender. May our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, ✠ comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “Have you Thanked the Lord” #829 ELW

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Set your hope on Christ.
Thanks be to God.

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Choir & Digital Hymnal Greeters: Dick & Sandy Pullen
Ushers: 8:30am: Wayne & Janice Olson 10:00am: Ron & JoAnn Haglund
Hospitality: Val Benton, Sherry Whipple, Sheila Penoyer & Patti Smith

Thank you for your service!

Response to God’s Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, Nov. 10, 2019: 8:30 am 51 10:00 am 24

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

Nov. 18, 2019 – Nov. 24, 2019

Monday	11/18	10:00 am	Council Meeting
		11:30 am	Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	11/19	12-2:00 pm	Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	11/20	8-12:00	WIC
		9:00 am	WELCA meeting
		10:00 am	Stitchers
		10:15 am	Thrivent Action Team Event
		5:30 pm	Choir Practice
		6:00 pm	Cantata Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda (continued) **Nov. 18, 2019 – Nov. 24, 2019**

Thursday	11/21	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		11:30 pm	Funtimers: Card Players
Friday	11/22	10:00 am	Bones
Sunday	11/24	8:30 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Worship
		10:15 am	Sunday School

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE: Dick & Judy Wozney (Dick is in Aitkin Health Care Center and Judy is in St. Cloud Hospital), Bev Swenson, Ken Sjoquist, Jenny Schuett

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 fund-raising activities in 2019-2020. Our raffle item for November is an evergreen potted plant and a “Snow Fun Ski” decoration. Purchase a \$1 raffle ticket to win. The winner will be drawn the last Sunday of the month during Fellowship hour between services.

MEN’S FISHING TRIP will be January 13-15th. Signup sheet is in the Narthex. Deadline is Dec. 10th for signing up. See Skip or Pastor James for more info.

THRIVENT ACTION TEAM EVENT for Pearl Crisis Center in Milaca will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 20th after the WELCA meeting. We will be tying fleece blankets and putting together hygiene supplies for the center. Items most needed for hygiene supplies are: shampoo/conditioner, baby wipes, pull ups, diapers, pajamas for older kids/teens, boys/girls/women's underwear. Wear your "Live Generously" t-shirt or get one when you come to the event.

CALLING ALL KNITTERS & CROCHETERS Our supply of Prayer Shawls is diminishing, and we will be needing more. Yarn will be purchased, and kits put together-contact Darlene Christensen if you want a kit.

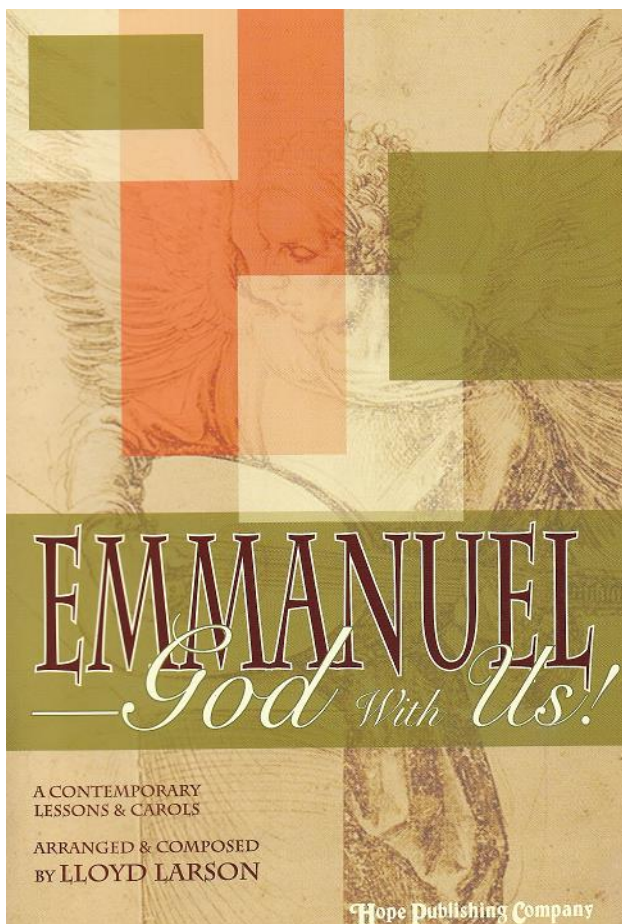
WORLD HUNGER MONTH November is the month we consider World Hunger awareness. 11% of the people in the world are going hungry. The ELCA encourages us to think about an extra donation using their change banks or however you prefer to give. The banks and World Hunger information is available the month of November in the Narthex.

ZION TO ZAMBIA Julie Swaggert, Dennis Hennessy & Mary Braun are going to the Village of Hope in Zambia in January of 2020 along with 13 others from Zion Lutheran Church in Buffalo. They are collecting items to bring on their mission trip. Some of the items needed are:

- Black Dry Erase Markers
- 1½” to 2” Three Ring Binders
- Chess Games (nothing fancy)
- Chewable Vitamins (for young kids)
- Learning Games & Activities (like card games-nothing too big)
- Black, Red, and Blue Ink Pens
- Soccer Balls (deflated)
- Deodorant

There is a box in the Narthex to collect these items. Monetary donations will be accepted and appreciated also. Write “Zion to Zambia” on your giving envelope or on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your support.

WELCA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON Saturday, December 7th at noon. A speaker on “**HOPE**” along with Christmas music is provided. Look for signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall next week.



ANNUAL CANTATA will be on Sunday, December 15, 2019, at 9:00am. We will be going to one service, at 9:00am for the winter months starting with Cantata Sunday. This year’s cantata will be: “Emmanuel – God with Us!” which includes Contemporary Lessons & Carols