

Sunday, November 3, 2019
Twenty first Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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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 3, 2019

Elijah at Mont Carmel

INTRODUCTION

Elijah calls fire from heaven on Mount Carmel to reveal God's presence. The contest is to prove who is superior: the God of the Israelites, or the Canaanite storm god Baal. The criteria for determining the winner is "the god who answers by fire is indeed God." While the all-consuming fire in today's reading will settle the "contest," fire is not what fundamentally makes the LORD "the God" for Israel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN:

"Shine Jesus Shine"

#671 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

God of Elijah,

with great fire you made your presence known to the worshipers of Baal. Help us to resist the temptation to place our trust and faith in anything other than you. Receive our worship and strengthen our faith. Amen.

Please be seated

CHOIR ANTHEM: "His Love Still Shines"

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 18:[17-19] 20-39

[¹⁷When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is it you, you troubler of Israel?"

¹⁸He answered, "I have not troubled Israel; but you have, and your father's house, because you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and followed the Baals. ¹⁹Now therefore have all Israel assemble for me at Mount Carmel, with the four hundred fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."]

²⁰So Ahab sent to all the Israelites, and assembled the prophets at Mount Carmel.

²¹Elijah then came near to all the people, and said, "How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." The people did not answer him a word. ²²Then Elijah said to the people, "I, even I only, am left a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets number four hundred fifty. ²³Let two bulls be given to us; let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it; I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. ²⁴Then you call on the name of your god and I will call on the name of the Lord; the god who answers by fire is indeed God." All the people answered, "Well spoken!" ²⁵Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many; then call on the name of your god, but put no fire to it."

²⁶So they took the bull that was given them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, crying, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no voice, and no answer. They limped about the altar that they had made. ²⁷At noon Elijah mocked them, saying, "Cry aloud! Surely he is a god; either he is meditating, or he has wandered away, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened." ²⁸Then they cried aloud and, as was their custom, they cut themselves with swords and lances until the blood gushed out over them. ²⁹As midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice, no answer, and no response. ³⁰Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come closer to me"; and all the people came closer to him. First he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been thrown down; ³¹Elijah took twelve

stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord came, saying, "Israel shall be your name";³² with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord. Then he made a trench around the altar, large enough to contain two measures of seed.³³ Next he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood. He said, "Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood."³⁴ Then he said, "Do it a second time"; and they did it a second time. Again he said, "Do it a third time"; and they did it a third time,³⁵ so that the water ran all around the altar, and filled the trench also with water.³⁶ At the time of the offering of the oblation, the prophet Elijah came near and said, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your bidding.³⁷ Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back."³⁸ Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and even licked up the water that was in the trench.³⁹ When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord indeed is God; the Lord indeed is God."

Please Stand for the Gospel

GOSPEL

Mark 9:2-4

Glory to you, O Lord

² Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them,³ and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.

⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

Please be seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: "How Good, Lord, to Be Here" #315 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.

Merciful God, you sent your Son to seek out and save the lost. Give us the vision to seek your power and glory in unexpected places and people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, all you have made is good. We thank you for sycamore trees and birches, for rivers and meadows, for stars and amoebas, and for all that allows us to see you and know you more clearly. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all nations, you raise up leaders to govern the nations. Give us clear vision and a spirit of wisdom in the upcoming election, and empower the newly elected to work for justice and harmony. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, you are a hiding place for all in trouble. Reveal yourself to the oppressed and the orphan, to those who endure persecution, to widows, widowers, and all those who mourn (*especially*). We especially remember those who have passed within this last year: Eileen Dickinson, Wilma Heins, James Falk, Jerry Becker, Ronald Hass, Shirley Lilienthal, Meldon Liljenquist, Frank Dressely. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, we rejoice with the newly baptized and those preparing for baptism. Bless the ministries of pastors, teachers, and evangelists who share the grace of God in your church and in the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for all the saints who have gone before us (*especially Martin de Porres, renewer of society, and those who died this past year*). Let their faithful witness renew us to set our hope on Christ Jesus. 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

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come, take your place at the feast.
(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: "Lord, Dismiss us with your Blessing" #545 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: Del & Dianne Jones

Ushers: 8:30am: Skip & Lynn Hansen

10:00am: Dick & Sue Stebbins

Hospitality:

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, October 27, 2019: 8:30 am 71 10:00 am 66

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

Nov. 4, 2019 – Nov. 10, 2019

Monday	11/4	11:30 am	Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	11/5	9:00 am	Quilters
		12-2:00 pm	Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	11/6	9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:00 am	Stitchers
		5:30 pm	Choir Practice
		6:00 pm	Cantata Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	11/7	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		11:30 pm	Funtimers: Card Players
Friday	11/8	10:00 am	Bones
Saturday	11/9	7:30-11:00am	Malmo Lions Pancake Breakfast
Sunday	11/10	8:30 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Worship
		10:15 am	Sunday School

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST: Ken Sjoquist, Elsa Carlson, Family of Frank Dressely, Jerry Morris

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 The first Sunday of every month we pass the “Blessing Box”. If you feel blessed, please contribute to the Blessing Box today to help others. All donations will go to local area benevolences. Thank you! What a Blessing!

JOIN IN THE FUN! Support our fund-raising activities in 2019-2020. Our raffle item for November is a Poinsettia 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.

LIONS PANCAKE BREAKFAST The Malmo Area Lions will have a Pancake Breakfast, Pasty & Bake Sale on Saturday, November 9th from 7:30-11:00am in Bethesda’s Fellowship Hall. \$5 per plate – Veterans eat free.

MEN’S FISHING TRIP will be January 13-15th. Signup sheet will be out in November. See Skip or Pastor James for more info.

TOGETHER HERE November 12, 2019 at Zion Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids from 6:30-8:30pm: *Unspoken: America’s Native American Boarding Schools* “takes a moving and insightful look into the history, operation, and legacy of the federal Indian Boarding School system” as well as movements within Indigenous communities to reclaim culture and identity after the boarding school era. Following the video, there will be opportunity for guided reflection and conversation.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP meets Wednesday, Nov. 13th at 2pm. This group is for anyone who is a caregiver now or has been one in the past.

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.

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.