

Sunday, January 19, 2020

Second Sunday of Epiphany



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

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Parables in Mark

INTRODUCTION

Transparency is something we value. We want to know what is going on and why. While we don't usually use the language of transparency when we talk about our hopes for growth as Christian disciples, we expect that we will be able to see more clearly what the power of God is like, day by day. We trust that when faith seeks understanding, it finds it, at least to some degree.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: **“For the Fruit of all Creation”** **#679 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, the eternal voice from heaven, the anointed and beloved one, the Spirit moving over the waters.

Amen.

As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession, trusting the love of Christ crucified and risen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God who searches us and knows us,
you have shown us what is good, but we have looked to other lights to find our way. We have not been just in our dealings with others. We have chosen revenge over mercy. We have promoted ourselves instead of walking humbly with you. With what shall we come before you? Forgive us our sin, and show us your salvation in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Beloved of God, you have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. Receive the promise of baptism: You are God's child; † your sins are forgiven. Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the reign of heaven.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of the Word,

In the parable of the sower you showed us how your word can take root and grow within us. Nurture the seeds of your word in our hearts and help us to grow in faith and love. Amen.

Please be seated

PSALM: Psalm 126

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

²Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

³The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

⁴Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

⁵May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

⁶Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Please Stand for the Gospel

GOSPEL

Mark 4:1-34

Glory to you, O Lord

¹Again he began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. ²He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: ³Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. ⁶And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. ⁸Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold." ⁹And he said, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

¹⁰When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. ¹¹And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; ¹²in order that 'they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.'"

¹³And he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? ¹⁴The sower sows the word. ¹⁵These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. ¹⁶And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. ¹⁸And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, ¹⁹but the cares of

the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²⁰And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold."

²¹He said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lampstand? ²²For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light. ²³Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" ²⁴And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you. ²⁵For to those who have, more will be given; and from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away."

²⁶He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to You, O Christ

Please be seated

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

Called together through water and the Word, we boldly pray for the church, the world, and all who long to hear God's voice.

A brief silence.

Faithful God, thank you for the testimony of disciples throughout the generations and for opportunities to proclaim your mercy. Reveal your truth and glory to all who ponder your word of life. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Creating God, we marvel at the abundance of the world you have made. Give us confidence in our calling to be stewards of the earth so that our lives are in fellowship with all creation. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Almighty God, we are thankful for all who have marched for justice and advocated for peace. Entrust our elected leaders (*especially*) with strength, wisdom, and a discerning spirit, so that both our words and our actions serve you. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

hear our prayer.

God of hope, thank you for your constant presence as you walk with your children through challenges of joblessness, homelessness, grief, and sickness. Gather your community around all who need your healing power, that they find strength in you (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of persistence, we glory in the gifts of our church leaders. Bless and strengthen our council members, staff, pastors, worship leaders, and all those who offer their gifts to this community, that our work together would serve your mission. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Living God, we give thanks for the whole communion of saints, each called in their own time to serve you (*especially Henry, Bishop of Uppsala*). Inspire our lives with their testimony. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We place our prayers before you, God, united in your Spirit; through your beloved Son, 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

God of wonder,

you formed us in our mother's womb, and from mother earth you bring forth this bread and wine. We place them on your table, together with our lives and all that you have made. Open the heavens to us and pour out your Spirit. We wait for your mercy; we long for your peace; we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ, our banquet of life. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Invitation to Communion

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table of mercy and joy. (Communion by intinction – red wine; white apple juice; gluten free available)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God,

you have kept your promise to us in this meal, nourishing us with the gift of salvation. Now send your servants forth in peace, that we may testify to your goodness and share the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May Christ, the wisdom and power of God, and the source of our life together, keep you united in mind and purpose. And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you always.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:

“Boundless Love”

Dakota Road

Hans Peterson

Bound-less love touch-es and chang-es the heart of us.

Bound-less love touch-es and chang-es the heart of us.

Oh Spir-it of Je-sus you
We struc-ture in-jus-tice that
Oh Spir-it of life come and

sit at our ta-ble and call us to_a rad-i-cal meal
keeps some from eat-ing, you_pre-prepare us for_a dif-fer-ent feast
move through the peo-ple, con-front-ing the pow-ers of death

of bound-less love that climbs o-ver bar-riers so
of bound-less love that climbs o-ver bar-riers so
'cause bound-less love climbs o-ver bar-riers so

noth-ing can keep us a-part.
noth-ing can keep us a-part.
noth-ing can keep us a-part.

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Let your light shine.
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
Ushers: George & Kathy Larson

Greeters: Barry & Donna Ansell
Hospitality: Chuck & Elsa Carlson

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, January 12, 2020: 9:00 am xx

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

Jan. 20 – Jan. 26, 2020

Monday	1/20	10:00 am	Council Meeting
		11:30 am	Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	1/21	12-2:00 pm	Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	1/22	9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:00 am	Stitchers
Thursday	1/23	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		11:30 pm	Funtimers: Card Players
Friday	1/24	10:00 am	Bones
Sunday	1/26	9:00 am	Worship
		10:15 am	Sunday School

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST:

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.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE COMMITTEE After many years of faithful service to this committee, Pat Becker has retired. We wish to thank her for her dedicated service and would like to invite new members to join the group. Copies of the committee's description are available in the office. The task of this committee is the care, conservancy, planning, attention, upkeep, and management of the church's financial resources and distribution. Contact Donna Ansell, Barb Forrester, or Mary Vukelich if interested.