

Sunday, February 16, 2020

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

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Pastor James Muske

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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, February 16, 2020

What Defiles?

INTRODUCTION

The people of God are not set apart by particular traditions or ethnicity, but by a purity that emanates from the heart, manifested by love for others. We may not need more religion, but more reflection on what proceeds from our heart.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN:

“Gather Us In”

#532 ELW

Please rise 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:

Teacher Jesus,

too often we blame external people and situations for our heartaches and brokenness. Help us to look inward to uncover and heal the things that defile: bitterness, hatred, jealousy, and greed. Help us instead to be

agents of peace, hope, generosity, and love. Amen.

Please be seated

PSALM RESPONSE Psalm 51:1-3, 6-7

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

⁶You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Please Stand for the Gospel

GOSPEL READING: Mark 7:1-23

Glory to you, O Lord

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; ⁷in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

⁹Then he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition! ¹⁰For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.' ¹¹But you say that if anyone tells father or mother, 'Whatever support you might have had from me is Corban' (that is, an offering to God) — ¹²then you no longer permit doing anything for a father or mother, ¹³thus making void the word of God through your tradition that you have handed on. And you do many things like this."

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."

¹⁷When he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him

about the parable. ¹⁸He said to them, "Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, ¹⁹since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) ²⁰And he said, "It is what comes out of a person that defiles. ²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to You, O Christ

Please be seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" #697 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.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Trusting that God hears us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Shepherding God, you protect and guide us with your word. Lead your church into ever closer relationship with you, that we might better know your commands, hold fast to your decrees, and live in your law. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the cosmos, heaven and earth bear witness to the splendor of all you have created. Bless the ground, trees, waterways, and skies with abundant life. Restore synergy between humankind and the natural world, that we may live in harmony with the world you have made. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of peace, you show solidarity with all who suffer. Bring an end to violence, war, discrimination, and all other forms of deadly hate, that we may experience your love through the power of justice. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of hope, you provide bountifully for all people. Use our lives to alleviate global injustice and eliminate poverty, that all benefit from the abundant gifts you pour out for your people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of growth, you nurture this community. Cultivate in us a spirit of service to one another, and bless us in the ministry we share (*ministries of the congregation may be named*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of our ancestors, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Leah and Rachel, we give you thanks for our forebears in the faith who now rest in your eternal grace and love (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Confident that you are able to accomplish more than we even dare to ask, we bring these prayers before you, believing in your saving grace revealed in 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:

“God are you Tired”

Dakota Road

(on screen)

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

Greeters: Wayne & Janice Olson

Ushers: Wally & Bev Swenson

Hospitality Hosts: Friends of Bev Wedig celebrating her 90th Birthday!

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, February 9, 2020: 9:00am 59

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda**Feb. 17 through Feb. 23, 2020**

Monday	2/17	10:00am	Council Meeting
		11:30 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	2/18	12 – 2 pm	Pastor’s Text Study
Wednesday	2/19	8:00-Noon	WIC
		9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:000 am	Stitchers
Thursday	2/20	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		11:30 pm	Funtimers
Friday	2/21	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	2/23	9:00 am	Worship
		10:15 am	Sunday School

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.

90TH BIRTHDAY! Please join us today during fellowship after the service to celebrate Bev Wedig’s 90th birthday!

BIBLE & BREW Camp Onomia is hosting “Faith Conversations with Bishop Tom” on Friday March 20 – March 21. One-night lodging, 3 meals with program and bible study led by Bishop Tom Aitken and Pastor Dean Olfke. See flyer on bulletin board in the Narthex if interested.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP Weekly Grief Support Group meetings at Faith Lutheran Church in Isle. Meets Mondays, Feb. 24th thru May 18th from 6:00 – 7:30pm. Contact Michelle at 218-821-4703. Cost: \$15 per person for 13 week session. See poster on Bulletin Board in Narthex for more information.

ISLE COMMUNITY LENTEN CANTATA Singers are cordially invited to participate in the performance of “**SACRED PLACES: A Pilgrimage of Promise**”.

REHEARSALS: Sunday afternoons in Lent held at Faith Lutheran

Feb. 23, 3:00-4:30 pm 2:45-3:15 Registration, Get books/ CDs
3:15-4:15 Warm Ups, Sing through cantata
4:15-4:30 Announcements & wrap-up
4:30 Fellowship time

March 1, 3:00-4:30 pm 3:00-4:00 Sectionals
4:00-4:30 Full Choir /Followed by fellowship time

March 8, 3:00-4:30 pm 3:00-3:40 Sectionals
3:45-4:30 Full Choir /Followed by fellowship time

REHEARSALS: Sunday afternoons in Lent held at Faith Lutheran (continued)

March 15, 3:00-4:30 pm 3:00-3:50 Full Choir Rehearsal
3:50-4:30 Sectionals / fellowship time

March 22, 3:00-4:30 pm Full Choir Rehearsal / fellowship time

March 29, 3:00-4:30 pm Full Choir Rehearsal, Tech Run – with narrators and mics, sound system

April 5, 3:00-4:30 pm “Dress Rehearsal” Run with risers, narrators, tech with mics, lighting & other performance details. Singers might consider wearing their performance shoes.

**PERFORMANCE: 7:30 pm Good Friday, April 10, 2020,
at Faith Lutheran. Singers meet to warm up at 6:30 pm**

Dear Heartland sisters in Christ

The Spring Gathering will be on April 4th at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church at 30985 Front Street in Pequot Lakes. Registration begins at 8:30 with coffee served by Maple Hill Lutheran. The cost is \$8.00 which includes lunch. Put the date in your calendar and plan to attend. It will be a good day.

Dee Dee Frahm from Salem Lutheran in Deerwood will be our speaker for the day. She is the manager and director of both Salem West and The Mustard Seed in Deerwood. Her theme verses are John 13:34-35.

There will be a Silent Auction and Buy it Now tables. Please bring items you think will be enjoyed by others. Consider practical and consumable items. The forms are being sent to your church so that you can fill the form out before you arrive. Please price any items for the Buy it Now table.

There is more information can be found on the WELCA bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.



Our Savior’s Lutheran Church
30985 Front St. - Pequot Lakes, MN

Saturday, April 4, 2020

Coffee & Registration

\$8 Fee

8:30 a.m.— 9:30 a.m.

Speaker: Dee Dee Frahm, Salem West

Theme:

