

# Sunday, March 22, 2020

## Fourth Sunday in Lent



### **BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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### **Pastor James Muske**

**320-583-5796**

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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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## Great Commandment

### INTRODUCTION

*Human beings seek recognition. If we give generously, we want it to be acknowledged, but according to Jesus' mode of accounting, the magnitude of the gift is determined by the motivation behind the gift. It's not the dollar amount that counts, but the devotion amount. Jesus commends the widow who gives out of poverty, not the millionaire whose name is on a building.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN:** "Jesus Loves Me" #595 ELW

(optional youtube video to watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbeEuKgBW-4> )

### 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 is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

**Amen.**

If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

Receive good news: God turns to you in love. "I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live," says our God. All your sin is forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God's grace for you.

**Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Lord of love,

**you have taught us that love is your greatest commandment. Teach us to love as unconditionally as you love us. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**PSALM RESPONSE          Psalm 89:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

**<sup>2</sup>I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

<sup>3</sup>You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David:

**<sup>4</sup>I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.'"**

**Selah**

**GOSPEL READING: Mark 12:28-44**

**Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>28</sup> One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; <sup>30</sup> you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' <sup>31</sup> The second is this, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." <sup>32</sup> Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that "he is one, and besides him there is no other'; <sup>33</sup> and "to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and "to love one's neighbor as oneself,'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." <sup>34</sup> When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question. <sup>35</sup> While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he said, "How can the scribes say that the Messiah is the son of David? <sup>36</sup> David himself, by the Holy Spirit, declared, "The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet." ' <sup>37</sup> David himself calls him Lord; so how can he be his son?" And the large crowd was listening to him with delight. <sup>38</sup> As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, <sup>39</sup> and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! <sup>40</sup> They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation." <sup>41</sup> He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup> A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. <sup>43</sup> Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. <sup>44</sup> For all of

them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to You, O Christ**

*Please be seated*

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: "What Wonderous Love is This" #666 ELW**

*(optional youtube video to watch: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acOZB3u5\\_Gk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acOZB3u5_Gk) )*

*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*

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of insight, open the hearts of the church and the world to all who testify to your deeds of power (*like Jonathan Edwards, whom we commemorate today*). Raise up voices in your church that are often silenced or overlooked due to age, gender expression, race, or economic status. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of insight, empower us to care for the land and all living things that dwell in it and beneath it. Provide rich soil for crops to grow. Bring rain to lands suffering drought. Protect hills and shorelines from damage caused by erosion. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of insight, bring peace to all people and nations. Anoint leaders who seek goodness, righteousness, and truth on behalf of all. Frustrate the efforts of those who would seek to cause violence or terror. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of insight, you care for our needs even before we ask. Come quickly to all who seek prayer this day (*especially*). Accomplish healing through the work of doctors, nurses, physical therapists, nutritionists, and all who tend to human bodies. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of insight, help this assembly lift up the unique gifts of each person who enters, no matter their physical capacity, cognitive ability, or sensory need. Help us to be creative and brave in making our facilities and our ministries accessible to all. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of insight, you call out to those who are asleep and awaken them to new life with you. We give thanks for your saints (*especially*). Join us together with them as your children in this world and the next. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

**OFFERING**

*Please consider mailing in your offering  
or signing up for Simply Giving  
forms available online [HERE](#)*

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Holy and generous host,  
**you set a table where we feast as friends. Prepare us to witness to your goodness with every gift you have given us to share, that all people may know your peace through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **BLESSING**

Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, ✠ bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace.

**Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CLOSING HYMN:           “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”       #773 ELW**

*(optional youtube video to watch: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHBzl\\_Jb-o4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHBzl_Jb-o4) )*

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

### **THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Music:

Greeters:

Ushers:

Hospitality Hosts:

***Thank you for your service!***

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, March 15, 2020: 9:00am 47

Wednesday, March 18, 2020: 6:30pm Cancelled

**THIS WEEK AT Bethesda****March 23 through March 29, 2020**

Monday	3/23	11:30 pm 7:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle- <b>CANCELLED</b> AA/Alanon ???
Tuesday	3/24	9:00 am 12 – 2 pm	Quilters - <b>CANCELLED</b> Pastor's Text Study
Wednesday	3/25	9:00 am 10:00 am 5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Bible Study- <b>CANCELLED</b> Stitchers- <b>CANCELLED</b> Potluck - <b>CANCELLED</b> Lenten Service- <b>CANCELLED</b>
Thursday	3/26	8:00 am 11:30 pm	Romeos- <b>CANCELLED</b> Funtimers- <b>CANCELLED</b>
Friday	3/27	10:00 am	Bone Builders- <b>CANCELLED</b>
Sunday	3/29	9:00 am 10:15 am 3:00 PM	Worship- <b>CANCELLED</b> Sunday School- <b>CANCELLED</b> Pizza & Movie - <b>CANCELLED</b>

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**EASTER CANTATA** Practice and performance of the Easter Cantata has been cancelled.

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP** 6 week series on Thursday evenings starting on April 16 thru May 21, 2020. From 4:30 – 6:00pm at Riverwood Healthcare Center, 200 Bunker Hill Drive, Aitkin.

**REJOICE ALWAYS!** Bright Colored, Non-Woven, Water-Resistant Tote Bags are available in the Narthex for a Free Will Donation. These bags will be available at the Veggie Stand this summer as free will donations. Get yours now! 5 Colors to Choose From!

**DURING THE FLU SEASON:** All worship services and activities have been cancelled until the end of the month (March).

**CHOIR PRACTICE** will begin on Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> immediately following Lenten service (if we reopen worship services). We will resume to the 6:00pm start time after April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**MARCH PIZZA & MOVIE NIGHT – CANCELLED**

**HEARTLAND SPRING GATHERING** Due to the concerns about meeting in groups and the risks involved, our Spring Gathering has been cancelled. The business will be conducted at the Fall Gathering at Light of the Cross in

Garrison. Next spring our gathering will be at Pequot Lakes. If you have In-Kind items for The Mustard Seed or Salem West and can't deliver them, let me know and I will arrange for them to be picked up and delivered. These are different times that are challenging us and how we usually go about our lives. Remember that it is God who sustains us and loves us deeply.