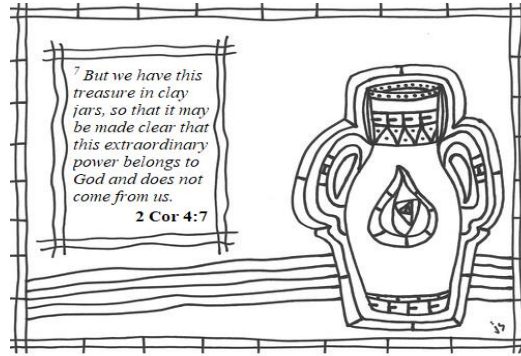


# Sunday, August 16, 2020

## Treasurers in Clay Jars



*“Church is not a place; it is who we are.  
Once we realize this, we can be the church anywhere.”*

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

We gather to worship together, at this time, in different places. Bottom line, we are worshipping God, TOGETHER! This worship service has been pre-recorded. Worship materials have been published online at [blcmalmo.org](http://blcmalmo.org). If you are able, please watch the service via Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo’s [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) page, find the link on Facebook, or visit our website to find the link.

### HYMN –

### “Jesus, Still Lead On”

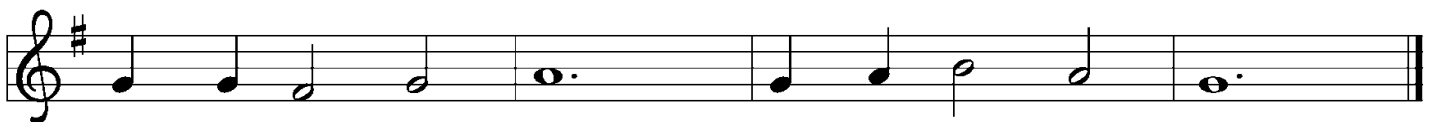
#624 ELW



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al - though the  
2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less  
3 When we seek re - lief from a long - felt grief, when temp - ta - tions  
4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n - ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;  
fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;  
come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;  
still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.  
safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.  
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.  
till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

## **CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Beloved of God,

by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through ✝ Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER of the DAY**

God of all peoples,

**your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen**

## **SCRIPTURE**

### **FIRST READING: 2 Corinthians 4:1-15**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.

<sup>2</sup> We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

<sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.

<sup>4</sup> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

<sup>5</sup> For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.

<sup>6</sup> For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.

<sup>8</sup> We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair;

<sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

<sup>10</sup> always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.

<sup>11</sup> For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh.

<sup>12</sup> So death is at work in us, but life in you.

<sup>13</sup> But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture — "I believed, and so I spoke" — we also believe, and so we speak,

<sup>14</sup> because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence.

<sup>15</sup> Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God**

### **Gospel: Matthew 5:13**

<sup>13</sup>"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God**

### **SERMON**

**HYMN –**

**“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**

**#631 ELW**



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

## THE APOSTLES' 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**

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Lord, you gather the church to be part of your mission as ambassadors of Jesus Christ. As Jesus acknowledged the great faith of a woman from outside his people, help your church discover and find blessing in the faith of people we might reject. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You have blessed us with the bounty of the earth. Grant your grace to all your creatures, that the earth will flourish. Relieve waters choked by garbage, renew soils stripped of nutrients, and refresh the air all creatures need to live. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You call the nations to be glad and sing for joy. Let your way be known among all the nations of the world, now divided by competing interests, contending alliances, and consumed by enormous worry. Bless us and make your face shine upon all. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You show unexpected mercy, kindness, and generosity. We pray for those who do not have enough, for outcasts in our villages, cities, and town, and for those who need your healing (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

In you we live and move and have our being. Grant our congregation (name) grace to find our life refreshed in you. Accompany us in the rhythms of late summer. Give us rest and renewal, and strengthen us for mission in your name. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Your eternal promises are more than we could ever imagine. As you gather all the saints (*especially*), join us also with them on the great day of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of goodness and growth,

**all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Friends of Jesus, come to the table. Receive nourishment for your journey.

*You may now partake of the bread and wine in your own home.*

*Speak the words "The body of Christ, given for you" and "The blood of Christ, shed for you." You may then respond "Amen."*

## **PRAYER after COMMUNION**

God of the welcome table,

**in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, ✝ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**

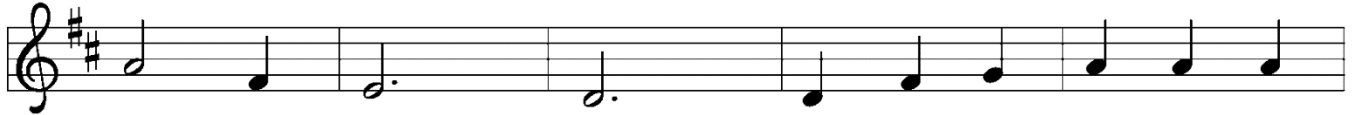
## **HYMN-**

**"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"**

**#815 ELW**



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,  
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

-----  
 Response to God's Word Last Week

August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Virtual Attendance \*: 106

*\*Virtual attendance is based on a matrix from the NEMN Synod. We determine the number of unique views per week and multiply by 2 – assuming there are two people per household watching the youtube video service.*

## **THIS WEEK AT Bethesda**

**Aug. 17 through Aug. 23, 2020**

Monday	8/17	10:00 am	Council Meeting*
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Wednesday	8/19	9:30 am	Women's Fund-raising Strategy Meeting*
		10:00 am	Property Meeting*
Sunday	8/23	8:30 am	Worship Service on youtube.com

*\*masks required, unless meeting is held outdoors*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LAWN MOWERS NEEDED** If you would like to help in the mowing, please contact Mary at the church (320-684-2123) to get on the signup sheet. We can use your help. The tractors and equipment will be ready each week (serviced, sanitized, and gassed) for your enjoyment. If you have any questions call Lee Forrester at 651-271-2186.



## **CANCELLED ACTIVITIES**

- **Veggie Stand** - until further notice.
- **October Bazaar** – stay tuned for other fund-raising ideas to fund WELCA's many worthy missions. Ladies of the church will have a fund-raising strategy meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. Bring your good ideas! If you can't make the meeting, email your ideas to the church office at: [blcmalmo@gmail.com](mailto:blcmalmo@gmail.com)

**FACEMASKS** With the new mask requirements, the citizens of Aitkin County will be in need of masks. Not everyone has the skill to make their own. Aitkin county has asked our congregation to sew some for their neighbors. Also, Isle School has requested children size masks. We have cotton material, elastic cord, and nose bridges available in the church office if you need it. If you don't have a pattern, it will be available [HERE](#) on our website: [blcmalmo.org](http://blcmalmo.org). You can drop off completed masks at the church office and we will deliver them to Aitkin County.



**FACEMASKS** we have homemade cloth facemasks available in the church entry way if you need them. They are machine washable and dryable.

**PARKING LOT SERVICE** planned for Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30am with communion. Mark your calendars!

---

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

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

Phone: 320-684-2123 (1-877-684-2123) Fax: 320-684-2836

E-mail address: [blcmalmo@gmail.com](mailto:blcmalmo@gmail.com)

Church Web Site: [blcmalmo.org](http://blcmalmo.org)

**Pastor James Muske**

**320-583-5796**