

Sunday, August 23, 2020

Walk by Faith not Sight



*“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. 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 – “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” #517 ELW



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

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 4:16 -- 5:10

Chapter 4

¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

Chapter 5

¹For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling — ³if indeed, when we have taken it

off we will not be found naked. ⁴For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord — ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Gospel: Mark 8:22-26

²²They came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to him and begged him to touch him. ²³He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village; and when he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Can you see anything?" ²⁴And the man looked up and said, "I can see people, but they look like trees, walking." ²⁵Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he looked intently and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. ²⁶Then he sent him away to his home, saying, "Do not even go into the village."

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

SERMON

HYMN –

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

#773 ELW

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I'm weak, I am worn.

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near.
When my life is almost gone,

Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me on

When the darkness appears, and the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone,

At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me on

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.

A brief silence.

Lord our rock, you are our foundation in Jesus Christ, your Son, whom we confess as the living God. Prepare your church for its mission in bearing witness to Christ, both here at home and throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You call forth praises from the far reaches of the universe to the smallest of creatures. Join our songs to theirs, that a spirit of praise and thanksgiving will arouse us to cherish this wondrous home you give us. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord. Direct the leaders of countries, legislators and magistrates, mayors and councils, to walk in your ways. Help leaders regard those in need with mercy and fulfill your loving purposes in the governance of peoples. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Though we walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are bereaved, in trouble or adversity, or sick and in need of care (*especially*).

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You call us into this community (*name*), in which we, though many, are one in Christ. May we recognize in ourselves and in one another the unique gifts you have given us for the building up of the church for the sake of the world. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You are the everlasting Rock from which we were hewn, and you restore your people to joy and gladness. In blessed memory and hope, we thank you for the lives of our beloved dead (*especially*). Bring us with them to our heavenly home. 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-

“We Are Marching in the Light of God”

#866 ELW



Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
 We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



nyen' kwen - khos'. *Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',*
 light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...
 We are praying ...
 We are singing ...

Text: South African traditional; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984
 Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional
 Tr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Response to God's Word Last Week

August 16th, 2020 – Virtual Attendance *: 84

**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. 24 through Aug. 30, 2020

Sunday 8/30 9:30 am Parking Lot Worship Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST Lynne Meidlinger

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.

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. 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 30th, at 9:30am with communion at Bethesda's parking lot. Mark your calendars!

BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor James Muske

320-583-5796

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN 320-279-0097

Kathy Berland RN ANP 218-838-6181

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.*