

Sunday, September 13, 2020

Creation and Fall



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

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.*

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

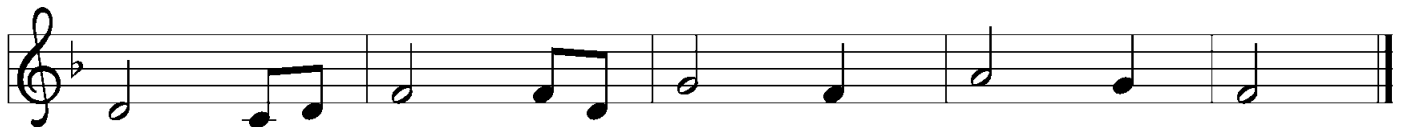
HYMN – “Creating God, Your Fingers Trace” #684 ELW



1 Cre - at - ing God, your fin - gers trace the bold de -
2 Sus - tain - ing God, your hands up - hold earth's mys - t'ries
3 Re - deem - ing God, your arms em - brace all now de -
4 In - dwell - ing God, your gos - pel claims one fam - 'ly



signs of far - thest space; let sun and moon and stars and
known or yet un - told; let wa - ter's frag - ile blend with
spised for creed or race; let peace, de - scend - ing like a
with a bil - lion names; let ev - 'ry life be touched by



light and what lies hid - den praise your might.
air, en - a - bling life, pro - claim your care.
dove, make known on earth your heal - ing love.
grace un - til we praise you face to face.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934

Music: PROSPECT, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs

before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

PRAYER of the DAY

Lord God, grand architect of the universe,

Your design of creation is unflawed. Yet we continue to litter your creation with defects and imperfections. Show us how not to destroy, but to create, not to demean, but to uplift, not to hate, but to love, so that your creation may be made perfect once again. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8

Chapter 2

⁴These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord GOD made the earth and the heavens, ⁵when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up — for the Lord GOD had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; ⁶but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground — ⁷then the Lord GOD formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. ¹⁵The Lord GOD took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord GOD commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Chapter 3

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes

will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

⁸They heard the sound of the Lord GOD walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord GOD among the trees of the garden.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Gospel: Luke 11:4

⁴And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

SERMON

HYMN

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

#605 ELW



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray;
2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

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

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have

showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

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

We give you thanks, gracious God,

that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

Mothering God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

HYMN:

Let All Things Now Living

#881 ELW



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours - es and



God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the



still guides us on to the end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -



fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise



till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To



for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt.
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

Response to God's Word Last Week

September 6th, 2020 – Virtual Attendance *: 70

**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.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOD'S WORK – OUR HANDS It was somewhat of a tradition that our group (Mission and Evangelism) promoted the God's Work Our Hands Sunday activity. There are suggestions from the synod saying most activities will be prayerfully cancelled. What shall we do about the Beach Cleanup?? Some of us who live near the beach think we will pick up the areas we can get to on Sunday Sept 13 at 11:00. There are branches down that may keep us from walking entire beach, but maybe we can check out the areas we can get to. Show up if you would like to be a part of this mission.



A Message from Deacon Brenda Tibbetts of the Northeastern

Minnesota Synod: This year due to COVID-19, "God's Work - Our Hands" will undoubtedly look different than in the past. We are, for the most part, out of the church buildings. Yet, there are still many opportunities and creative ways for us to reach out in service to our neighbors. Serving others need not be limited to one day! Perhaps one powerful option we can all participate in

for God's work with our hands in this time of global pandemic and political pandemonium would be to **put our hands together in prayer**. Pray for our elected officials that decisions would be made for the good of the whole people, for the good of all of creation, for the good of the whole world.

Pray that all those running for elected office (and those in office) would serve with honesty, integrity and speak truth to one another and to us in civil discourse. (May we model that as well!) Pray for all who are serving in the educational field and for students in this very unsettling time. Pray for our servicewomen and servicemen often deployed far from home and concerned for their family's health and wellbeing as well as their own.

Pray for all of our men and women in uniform serving as first responders and so often in harm's way. The creation is groaning with the effects of ravaging fires and unforgiving hurricanes. These first responders are our neighbors. They willingly put their lives on the line for us, their neighbors. They are exhausted and need support and encouragement.

Pray too, for your pastors, deacons, SAMs, worship leaders, council members, call committee members who too, have been expending great amounts of energy and creativity working hard to keep your faith community safe and healthy.

Pray too, asking God how you might speak up for those whose voices are not heard and who are marginalized because of it.

The following blessing is from one of those resources on the ELCA's website under "God's Work - Our Hands." May this blessing bless you to be a blessing to all people.

The God of compassion, hope and joy,
Our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
Bless your feet to carry you into places of need.

Bless your lips to proclaim love and mercy.

Bless your heart to love and listen to those you encounter.

Bless your hands to care for the needs of your neighbors.

Bless you to be a blessing to others.

Now and always.

Amen.