

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Spirit of the Lord upon Me



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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lighting the Advent Wreath Advent 3

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen. *Light three candles.*

HYMN:

Arise, Shine

A - rise, shine, for your light has come, and the
A - rise, shine for your light has come, and the
glo - ry of the Lord has dawned up - on you. A
glo - ry of the Lord has dawned up - on you. A

Words: Isaiah 60:1
Music: Ruth Cunningham, © 2007 by Ruth Cunningham. Used by permission.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God,
we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news: by God’s endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God’s love, † comforted by Christ’s peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Spirit of the Lord God,

You bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and release the prisoners. You comfort all who mourn, and shower your people with the oil of gladness instead of mourning; a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. We will greatly rejoice in the Lord, our whole being shall exult in God, for the sake of the one who brought righteousness to life, Jesus Christ our salvation. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-11

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁵Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines; ⁶but you shall be called priests of the LORD, you shall be named ministers of our God; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory.

⁷Because their shame was double, and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot, therefore they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs.

⁸For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Gospel: Luke 4:16-21

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

SERMON

HYMN:

“Hark, the Glad Sound”

#239 ELW



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to • en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

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 THE CHURCH

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

God of power and might, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship (*the congregation's worship leaders may be named*). Embed your word in their hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation. Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm (*survivors of recent natural disasters may be named*). Support the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak

and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love (*especially Lucy, martyr of the church*). Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God,

you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

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

Gracious and abundant God,

you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, † now and forever.
Amen.

HYMN “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” #843 ELW



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Response to God's Word Last Week

December 6th, 2020 – Virtual Attendance *: 140

**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

PRAYER & CARE LIST: Patti Smith, Ted Jaszeak, Teresa Berry & Dawn Kellen.

NO-BAZAAR BAZAAR FUNDRAISER We are still accepting donations to WELCA's fundraising efforts for their many worth causes. You can send your donations to the church and make the checks out to "Bethesda WELCA" .

CHRISTMAS CARING & SHARING Monday is the last day that you can submit a name of a neighbor or friend in need of a food / gas gift card this Christmas season. Our mission is supported by donations and individuals who designate their gifts to local needs. Please contact the church office with names and addresses of those who would benefit greatly with a gift card from either Teal's Market or Paulbeck's Market.

FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING at Bethesda!

- Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BLCMalmo>
- Visit our website: www.blcmalmo.org
- Watch our weekly worship services on our YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/bethesdalutheranchurchmalmomn>

MONTHLY TITHING With no in-person worship services these past 9 months due to Covid-19, our donations are down. We have direct deposit applications in the office, we can also email you a copy, or you can find them online at:

<http://blcmalmo.org/WP2016/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Simply-Giving-Form.pdf>

You can start and stop automatic deductions at any time.

TIRED OF ISOLATING? LET'S BEAT THE COVID CABIN FEVER!

- Cheryl Malotky has organized a Zoom coffee and conversation hour for every other Tuesday at 10:00am. If you're interested in joining the group email her to be added to the list (dcmalotky@gmail.com) and get directions on how to join the Zoom meeting.
- Is there any interest in coordinating a Zoom meeting for a coffee hour on Sunday mornings after the online worship service? Contact Pastor James.
- Is there any interest in coordinating Bible studies via Zoom please contact Pastor James to start process. Zoom is a very user-friendly computer application, and Pastor or Cheryl can provide technical assistance to get you ready to "Zoom".

NEED FIREWOOD? Dick & Sandy Pullen (and their neighbors) still have many trees down in their yards. If you have a truck or trailer and need firewood, contact Sandy for directions and you can cut up and take as much firewood as you need or want. Sandy's phone number: 320 676-9945.

HOLY WEEK AT BETHESDA**Dec. 20 through Dec. 27, 2020**

Sunday	12/20	8:45am	YouTube Hymn Sing Service – Bulletins available in the office or we can mail them out to you. Let us know by Monday, 12/21 for mailing or pick up in the office.
Monday	12/21	10:00 pm 7:00 pm	Council Meeting AA/Alanon
Tuesday	12/22	10:00 am	Coffee Zoom Meeting (Contact Cheryl Malotky if interested in joining.)
Wednesday	12/23		
Thursday	12/24	4:00 pm	Candlelight Worship Service in the Parking Lot. Bring your own battery-operated candle or flashlight (some will be available if you need them). Service will include communion.
Friday	12/25	8:45 am	YouTube Service – we will be playing a previous year’s Cantata
Saturday	12/26		
Sunday	12/27	Anytime	YouTube Worship Service put on by the NE Minnesota Synod. Tune in at any time.