

**Sunday, March 7, 2021**

*Lost Sheep, Coin, Son*



**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**

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.*

**INTRODUCTION:**

*Today's readings share a common structure:*

*(a) something or someone considered valuable is characterized as out of place or lost,*

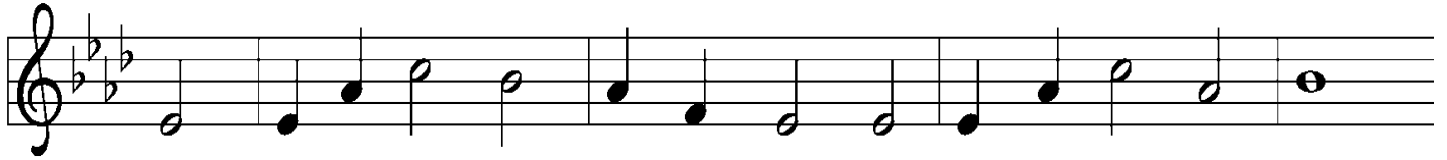
*(b) it or they are found, brought, or returns home,*

*(c) the owner, friends, family, and neighbors celebrate that what was lost is found and a relationship is restored.*

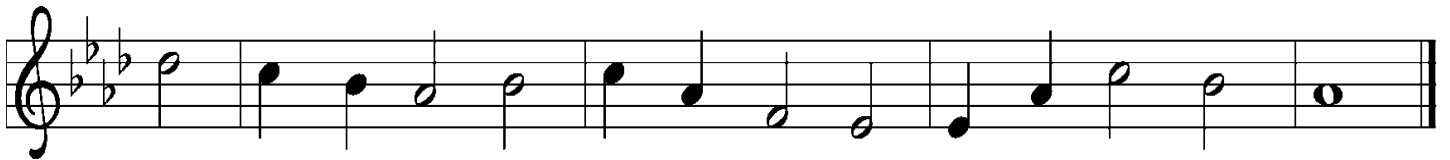
*This collection of three parables highlights the lost among us.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN – “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways” #772 ELW



- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
- 2 Or - der my foot-steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
- 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
- 4 Make me to walk in your com-mands, 'tis a de-light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!  
let sin have no do - min-ion, Lord, but keep my con-science clear.  
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan-d'ring sheep.  
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

## CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

**Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Fountain of living water,

**pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.**

**Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Rejoicing Father,

**You celebrate when one of your lost children is found because no one is worthless to you. We stand humbled and in awe that you would count us among your most prized possessions. Give us eyes to see the priceless value of every living soul, for the sake of the one who became human for the sake of our souls, Jesus Christ our seeker. Amen.**

## **SCRIPTURE**

### **FIRST READING: Psalm 119:167-176**

<sup>167</sup>My soul keeps your decrees; I love them exceedingly.

<sup>168</sup>I keep your precepts and decrees, for all my ways are before you.

<sup>169</sup>Let my cry come before you, O LORD; give me understanding according to your word.

<sup>170</sup>Let my supplication come before you; deliver me according to your promise.

<sup>171</sup>My lips will pour forth praise, because you teach me your statutes.

<sup>172</sup>My tongue will sing of your promise, for all your commandments are right.

<sup>173</sup>Let your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts.

<sup>174</sup>I long for your salvation, O LORD, and your law is my delight.

<sup>175</sup>Let me live that I may praise you, and let your ordinances help me.

<sup>176</sup>I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek out your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God**

### **Gospel: Luke 15:1-32**

<sup>1</sup>Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup>Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' <sup>7</sup>Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup>Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a

lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup>When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' <sup>10</sup>Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

<sup>11</sup>Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup>When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' <sup>20</sup>So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe — the best one — and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup>for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup>Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup>Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' <sup>31</sup>Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God**

## SERMON

**HYMN:**                               **“Jesus’ Wondrous Words of Grace”**  
(Sung to the tune of: "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come")

Jesus' wondrous words of grace welcome all to God's embrace:  
Welcome if you're rich or poor, if you're knocking at the door,  
If you come from far away, if you need a place to stay.  
If you suffer want or pain, You are welcome in God's reign!

Do you live in fear and doubt? Do you seek to leave some out?  
Do you think that some can't get to the table God has set?  
Think there is no room for you? Jesus says you're welcome, too.  
Think you're different, sinful, odd? You are welcome, child of God!

Jesus says to all the church: welcome in the ones who search,  
Welcome in the ones who mourn, welcome in the tired and worn,  
Welcome those who live in fear, welcome in the sinners here.  
As you do to these, you see, so you also welcome me.

*Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette*

## **PRAYERS of INTERCESSION**

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

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

There is no God before you. Purify the faith of your church, that your people place their trust in nothing beside you. Your name is holy. Guide your church, that in every situation your people's words and actions honor your name. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

The heavens declare your glory. Renew your creation. Provide leaders in the struggle for clean air and water; protect creatures and crops that rely on healthy ecosystems; give all people the willingness to repent when our way of life pollutes the earth and skies. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Fill leaders with the foolishness of your peace and mercy. Your law defends the vulnerable. Work through legislators, judicial systems, and systems of law enforcement to protect the wellbeing and freedom of all (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your weakness is stronger than human strength. Protect those who are vulnerable and give courage to all who are suffering (*especially*). Defend victims of crime and bring redemption to those who have harmed others. Give sabbath rest to all who labor. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You call us to proclaim Christ crucified. Give clarity to this congregation and our leaders, so that we might follow Christ beyond our own habits and comfort. Clear out anything in our common life that would obscure the gospel or that serves our own interests. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

The cross of Christ is your power for all who are being saved. Thank you for (*Perpetua, Felicity, and*) all the martyrs whose witness reveals the power of the cross. Give us the same trust in life and in death. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Faithful God,

**you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

**PRAYER after COMMUNION**

God of steadfast love,

**at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## BLESSING

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you † that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

**Amen**

## HYMN: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" #807 ELW



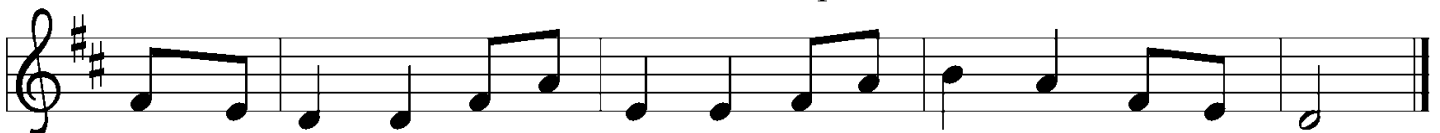
1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";  
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,  
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;  
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.  
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

Response to God's Word Last Week: February 28, 2021

In Person: 41

Virtual Attendance \*: 48

*\*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:** Dick Southworth passed away early last week. There will be no service, just a private burial in southern Minnesota.

**WOMEN'S DEVOTIONAL STUDY** Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your own beverage and wear a mask.

**WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES** will continue in person throughout the Lent Season. Services will be at 6:00pm to accommodate the Confirmation Students course of study. Pre-recording of the service will be available on our YouTube channel at the same time.

**"ZOOM COFFEE HOUR":** coffee and conversation will continue to meet every other Tuesday as interest continues. Next meeting is March 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. Please email the office if you are interested so we can email you a Zoom invite. If you have additional questions, please contact Mary in the office at blcmalmo@gmail.com or 320 684-2123.

**IN PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES** are planned for Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. There will be two in person worship services on Easter, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 & 10:00am. All MN Department of Health guidelines will be followed including, but not limited to: Health Screening Assessment upon entry, 6' physical distancing, wear a mask the entire time you are in the building, prayers will be whispered from behind your mask, no singing, no hand shaking, etc.