



# Sunday, December 26, 2021

First Sunday of Christmas

## BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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## Pastor James Muske

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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.*

**Hearing Assistance is available during the service.**  
**Please notify usher if you would like assistance**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WELCOME

*The angel said to [the shepherds], “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11).*

*As we gather we hear again the good news the angels proclaimed: God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem’s manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world. In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love. We come to adore Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.*

## **CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God's forgiveness, grace, and love.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

**Forgive our lack of faith and trust.**

Your Son was born into poverty, and a stranger in the home of another.

**Forgive our neglect of the poor and our lack of welcome.**

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

**Forgive our selfishness and complacency.**

With great joy the angels proclaimed, "Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

In ✝ Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God's forgiveness is good news of great joy!

**Amen.**

**GATHERING CAROL:** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" ELW 270

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who is Savior and Lord,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*\* Hymn Request*

## **PRAYER of the DAY**

Eternal Father,

**you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **Psalm 8**

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

<sup>2</sup>**Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

<sup>3</sup>When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

**<sup>4</sup>what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?**

<sup>5</sup>Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

**<sup>6</sup>You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,**

<sup>7</sup>all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

**<sup>8</sup>the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

<sup>9</sup>O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

*“For unto you is born a **Savior**, who is Christ, the Lord”*

**Lesson: Isaiah 12:2-6**

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

<sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup>Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

*\* Hymn Request*

**Lesson: Matthew 1:18-21**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

*A brief reflection.*

*\* Hymn Request*

*“For unto you is born a Savior, who is **Christ, the Lord**”*

**Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-3, 11**

The 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;

<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

<sup>3</sup>to 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.

<sup>11</sup>For 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.

*\* Hymn Request*

**Lesson: John 1:19-23, 29-34**

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>29</sup>The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" <sup>30</sup>This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." <sup>32</sup>And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup>I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup>And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

*A brief reflection.*

*\* Hymn Request*

*“For unto you is born a Savior, who is **Christ, the Lord**”*

**Lesson: Isaiah 6:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the LORD sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." <sup>4</sup>The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" <sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup>The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the LORD saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

*\* Hymn Request*

**Lesson: Luke 1:26-35**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

*A brief reflection.*

*\* Hymn Request*

**PRAYERS of INTERCESSION**

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Your Spirit calls your church to rejoice in Christ's birth. As we gather at the manger, help us see your face in all babies needing comfort and care. Equip the church in the nurture and encouragement of all children. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

The rocks and streams proclaim your praise. Attune us to the joyful sounds and groaning of your creation. Stir us to tend the earth wisely, that the whole earth may dwell in abundance and peace. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Your messengers declare your joy to the world. Embolden leaders and nations to make your justice and peace known throughout the earth. Uphold justice advocates and social service providers who risk their safety to help others (*especially*).  
Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You choose those regarded as lowly to tell the good news of your love. Pour out your mercy and care on all who are sick, grieving, struggling, and the elderly who live alone (*especially*). Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You abide with your people in times of trouble. Accompany families and children who have nowhere to turn. Strengthen this congregation and local ministries in their care for those fleeing danger, abuse, or neglect. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Your grace and mercy extend to all. Give comfort to those who mourn, and assure them of the peace you have granted those who have gone before us (*especially*).  
Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated for the passing of the offering plate.*

## **OFFERING**

*Please stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious God,  
your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

## **INVITATION to COMMUNION**

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We thank you,  
wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## **BLESSING**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the everlasting peace of Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord. Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve our Savior, Christ, and Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## ***SENDING MUSIC***

***Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship!  
Please come again.***



**THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Music: John Koziol

Greeters: Julie Swaggert & Patti Smith

Ushers: Darlene Christensen &

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God’s Word Last Week

Attendance: Sun, December 19<sup>th</sup>: 9:00 am 74 Online: 20

Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>: 4:00 am 10

**THIS WEEK AT Bethesda**

**December 27 thru January 2, 2022**

Monday	12/27	11:30 pm	Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	12/28		
Wednesday	12/29	9:00 am	Women’s Bible Study
Thursday	12/30	8:00 am	ROMEOS
Friday	12/31	HAPPY NEW YEAR’S EVE	
Sunday	1/2	9:00 am	Worship

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ATTENDANCE REGISTRY** Please sign and pass the attendance registry which you will find in the pew. This information is gathered for annual reports to the Synod.

**PRAYER & CARE LIST** Doris Reinhardt

**THANK YOU** to John Koziol for today’s beautiful music.

**FIND OUT WHAT’S HAPPENING** at Bethesda - like us on Facebook, view live streaming worship services on Sunday mornings on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/c/bethesdalutheranchurchmalmomn>, or visit our website at: [www.blcmalmo.org](http://www.blcmalmo.org)

**USHERS & GREETERS NEEDED** We need ushers and greeters. If you can volunteer for one of these positions, please contact Jim Christensen at 320 279-0692 or [jimdarl@hotmail.com](mailto:jimdarl@hotmail.com)

**SPIRITUAL GIFTS SURVEY** Results are coming in slow. Please fill out and submit your survey. Additional survey forms are available in the office.

**CHRISTMAS TAKE DOWN** Volunteers are needed to help with taking down the holiday decoration that adorn our beautiful church. Please join us on Wednesday, January 5 at 9:30 am. Your help is appreciated.