

Sunday December 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent



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

Church Web Site: 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.*

Hearing Assistance is available during the service.

Please notify usher if you would like assistance

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS:

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,

in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace.

Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

Amen.

LIGHTING the ADVENT WREATH:

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord’s way for the kingdom of heaven is near. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

Amen.

He Came Down

1 He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.

2. ... light

3. ... peace

4. ... joy

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God,
to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM: “The King Has Come”

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God. Word of Life
Thanks be to God

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Word of God. Word of Life
Thanks be to God

Please stand for the Gospel

GOSPEL READING: Luke 3:1-6

Glory to you, O Lord

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

Word of God. Word of Life

Thanks be to God

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: “On Jordan’s Banks the Baptists Cry” #249 ELW

APOSTLE’S 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

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God’s presence.

A brief silence.

You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill (*especially*). Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.
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

Most High God,
you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.
Amen.

BLESSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" Dakota Road

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Adult Choir

Greeters: Del & Dianne Jones

Ushers: Ron & JoAnn Haglund

Hospitality:

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week Attendance:

Sunday, November 28, 2021: In Person: 9:00 am 72

Online: 8

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST: Ron & Jan Aho, George & Kathy Larson, Shirley Gosselin, Bob Walrod, Myra and the family of Neil Honl.

POINSETTA SALES: Help decorate the church for the holiday season. Poinsettias will be for sale in the Fellowship Hall starting today. They are \$15/plant. Purchase a poinsettia in memory of a loved one and help decorate the church for Christmas.

BLESSING BOX The first Sunday of every month we pass the "Blessing Box". If you feel blessed, please contribute to the Blessing Box today to help others. All donations will go to local area benevolences. Thank you! What a Blessing!

ANNUAL CANTATA will be December 19th, at 9:00am service. It will be a few chosen songs from previous Cantatas, readings, and several of the favorite Christmas Hymns that the congregation can sing along with.

CHRISTMAS CARING & SHARING Once again we are wondering if you know of a neighbor in need of a food / gas gift card this Christmas season. Our mission is supported by the veggie stand donations and individuals who designate their gifts to local needs. See the display in the Narthex.

GIVING ENVELOPES please pick up your 2022 Giving Envelopes in the Fellowship Hall

HYMN FEST John Kozial, Jr. will be joining us on Sunday, December 26th to perform a "Hymn Sing" for our Sunday service at 9:00am. Please joined us!

WOMEN'S DEVOTIONAL BIBLE STUDY will meet at 10:00am on Monday, December 13th. Bring an appetizer or something to share following the special Advent worship and game. Bring a Bible.

CHRISTMAS GIVING This year Bethesda will be donating children's hats, mittens, scarves, etc. to local children in need. You can place these items on the Tree in the Narthex starting December 1st.

NEED A GIFT IDEA? Check out the display in the Narthex with Bazaar items for sale. Worship and gift shop at the same time!

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

Dec. 6, 2021 – Dec. 12, 2021

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| Monday | 12/6 | 11:30 am | Pinochle |
| | | 7:00 pm | AA/Alanon |
| Tuesday | 12/7 | 4:00-6:00 pm | Grief Share |
| | | 5:30 pm | Choir Practice |
| Wednesday | 12/8 | 9:00 am | Women's Bible Study |
| Thursday | 12/9 | 8:00 am | ROMEOS |
| Sunday | 12/12 | 9:00 am | Worship - In Person & Live Stream |