

Sunday December 11, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Church Web Site: blcmalmo.org

Pastor James Muske

320-583-5796

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN 320-279-0097

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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

CALL TO WORSHIP: “Mary Did You Know”

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new;
This Child that you’ve delivered will soon deliver you?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with His hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
When you’ve kissed your little baby then you’ve kissed the face of God?

Mary, did you know?
The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again,
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb!
Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy was Heaven’s perfect Lamb?
This sleeping Child you’re holding is the great, the Great “I AM”?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST:

JOIN US for a meal after the Christmas Day worship service on Sunday, Dec. 25th

CHRISTIAN WOMEN’S CLUB meeting is on Thursday, Dec. 15th at 12:30pm at Wahkon Inn. See the poster on the bulletin board in the Narthex for more information or call Lois Johnson 320 684-2000 for reservations.

POINSETTIA SALES Orders for poinsettias to be placed in the sanctuary Christmas poinsettia tree will be taken; the cost is \$15. A member of Altar Care will be in the Fellowship Hall between church services to take orders.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS The ELCA Good Gifts provides more than 50 different gift giving ideas that grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives. The web site is: <https://goodgifts.elca.org/> or you can pick up information in the fellowship hall. This is a great way to Christmas Shop for that special person who would be honored to support the ELCA Gift Giving . Thank You, Mission and Evangelism Committee

CHRISTMAS CARING & SHARING Again this season , we are asking for names of a neighbor who may be in need of a grocery gift card. If you know of someone, please leave the information (a mailing address) in the office or in the Christmas Care drop box . We will make every effort to help them out. Please turn in these requests by December 16, 2022. Thank You, Mission and Evangelism Committee

BLUE CHRISTMAS All are invited to attend a special, community-wide Blue Christmas service this year at Holden on Thursday, December 22 at 7 p.m., in grateful collaboration with other area churches.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE for Alene Lowe. Tuesday, December 13th, from 1-4 pm at Jimmy’s Event Center, 3565 Labore Road, Vadnais Heights, MN.

<u>THIS WEEK AT Bethesda</u>		<u>December 12, 2022 – December 18, 2022</u>	
Monday	12/12	11:30 am	Cards
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	12/13	4:00 pm	Bell Practice
		5:30 pm	Cantata Choir Practice
		6:30 pm	Praise Team Practice
Wednesday	12/14	9:00 am	Women’s Bible Study
Thursday	12/15	8:00 am	ROMEOS
Sunday	12/18	9:00 am	Cantata Worship Service <small>in person & live stream</small>

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again.

You fasten righteousness around your waist
and baptize with the Holy Spirit’s fire.

Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames,
and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare.

We ask that peace abound,
until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING MUSIC: “Filled with Hope and Gratitude”

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever.

Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,

we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us.

Amen.

People of God,

a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on **+** Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN: "He Came Down" #253 ELW

(Please Stand on the last Verse)



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God,
and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM: “Hope Was Born This Night”

SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

PSALM: Psalm 146: 5-10 (Read Responsively)

⁵ *Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God,*

⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;**

⁷ *who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;*

⁸ **the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹ *The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.*

¹⁰ **The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!**

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

⁷ Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

Please stand for the gospel

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11
Glory to you, O Lord

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see:

⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Little Drummer Boy”

Come they told me, Pa rum pum pum pum
Our new born king to see, Pa rum pum pum pum
Our finest gifts we bring, Pa rum pum pum pum
To lay before the king, Pa rum pum pum pum,
Rum pum pum pum, Rum pum pum pum
So to honor him, Pa rum pum pum pum, When we come.

Baby Jesus, Pa rum pum pum pum
I am a poor boy too, Pa rum pum pum pum
I have no gift to bring, Pa rum pum pum pum
That's fit to give our king, Pa rum pum pum pum,
Rum pum pum pum, Rum pum pum pum
Shall I play for you, Pa rum pum pum pum, On my drum?

Mary nodded, Pa rum pum pum pum
The ox and lamb kept time, Pa rum pum pum pum
I played my drum for him, Pa rum pum pum pum
I played my best for him, Pa rum pum pum pum,

Rum pum pum pum, Rum pum pum pum
Then he smiled at me, Pa rum pum pum pum,
Me and my drum, me and my drum, me and my drum.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in every land. We pray for the work of the Lutheran World Federation and ELCA Global Mission. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Make gardens flourish in cities and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict (regions in turmoil may be named). Help us pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness, or loss (especially). Strengthen and protect health care workers, rescue teams, crisis counselors, and all who risk themselves to keep others safe. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Abiding God, we rejoice in your company. Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family and friends. Keep us mindful of those for whom this season is not happy. Console the grieving and surround them with loving support. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with all the saints, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look with favor on those who have died and lead us to joyfully sing of your everlasting promises. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **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

Eternal God,

you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground.

Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD’S PRAYER – Led by the Praise Team

INVITATION to COMMUNION

Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God, who has come to save you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God,

in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, † bless you now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:

“O Glorious Night”

The shepherds came to See the baby
Stood by his mother's side

Here laid the Savior Inside a manger
Oh what a glorious night - Oh what a glorious night

[Chorus]

I hear the angels singing halleluiah
Let the earth receive her king
I know that love has come
Sing it out
Jesus Christ is born
Jesus Christ is born

The shepherds wondered They couldn't hide it
Told everyone in sight
All were amazed When they heard how
God came down on the glorious night
God came down on this glorious night [Chorus]

Glorious – Glorious - What a Glorious night
Glorious – Glorious - What a Glorious night

All is calm now All is quiet
A Star shining in the sky
Below in Bethlehem The king is sleeping
Oh What a Glorious Night - Oh What a Glorious Night

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: Praise Team

Ushers: Wally & Bev Swanson

Greeters: Gary & Brenda Sjerven

Hospitality: Chuck, Elsa & Teri Carlson

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, December 4, 2022: In Person: 9:00am: 61 Online: 20