

Sunday January 29, 2023

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

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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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST: Skip Hansen, Julie Swaggert's mother.

YEAR END TAX STATEMENTS are available in the Fellowship Hall, please pick them up.

OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2023 are here! Please pick up your envelopes in the Fellowship Hall.

SIGN UP TO RECYCLE There is a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall to take recycling to Westerland's in Malmo every 2nd and 4th week of the month. If you can help, please sign up.

GAME DAY Today at 2:00pm!

HOSPITALITY HOSTS NEEDED! Sign up on the bulletin board next to the serving counter in the Fellowship Hall. There are treats in the freezer to serve if you don't bake.

QUILTERS REQUEST the Quilters need clean old mattress pads or blankets to use as filler for the quilts they make for Lutheran World Relief. You may drop them off by Crafter's Closet door in the Fellowship Hall or in the office.

ISLE COMMUNITY LENTEN CANTATA "Touched by the Christ" You are invited to join Isle Community Lenten Choir and participate in an enriching musical and spiritual experience. First Rehearsal Feb. 19th at Faith Lutheran Church in Isle. Registration begins at 2:15pm, rehearsals 2:30-4:00pm Sundays in Lent. Performance on Good Friday, April 7, 2023, at 7:30pm. See poster in Narthex for more information.

TEMPLE TALK in FEBRUARY Remember to bring items for Hope Lodge on February 5th. We will be assembling Go Bags for patients in treatment after worship service in the Fellowship Hall. Items needed for the bags are granola bars, pudding cups, cookies, pretzels, crackers or other prepackaged snacks. The list of other items needed by the lodge are on the board in the Fellowship Hall. Let's fill the lodge with hope.

HEARTLAND CONFERENCE WOMEN'S SPRING GATHERING Saturday, March 25th, 2023, from 8:30am to 1:00pm at First Lutheran Church in Aitkin. See the poster on the bulletin board in Narthex.

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda **January 29, 2023 – February 5, 2023**

| | | | |
|--------|------|----------|-----------|
| Sunday | 1/29 | 2:00 pm | Game Day |
| Monday | 1/30 | 11:30 am | Cards |
| | | 7:00 pm | AA/Alanon |

| | | | |
|-----------|-----|---------|--|
| Wednesday | 2/1 | 9:00 am | Women's Bible Study |
| Thursday | 2/2 | 8:00 am | ROMEOS |
| Sunday | 2/3 | 9:00 am | Worship Service <i>in person & live stream</i> |

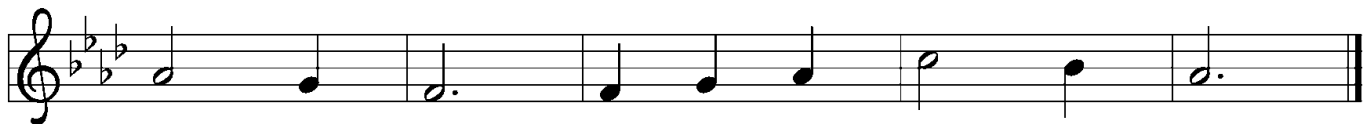
OPENING HYMN: "O God of Mercy, God of Light" #714 ELW
(Please Stand on the last Verse)



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
 2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost
 3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for
 4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
 world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
 those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
 Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.
 stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
 word and thought may work a work for you.
 grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
 may we each other's burdens share;
 may we, where help is needed, there
 give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move
 all those who live to live in love,
 till you receive in heav'n above
 all those who live in you.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who makes all things new, whose
 mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,
you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

“The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare.” God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of ✝ Christ our Savior.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God,
you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Please be seated

SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

¹Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

³“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

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

PSALM: Psalm 15 *(Read Responsively)*

¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit up on a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and

God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

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

Please stand for the gospel

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

Glory to you, O Lord

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Rise Up, O Saints of God" #669 ELW



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulfs earth's frame;
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
- 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

APOSTELS' CREED

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Cultivate humility in your church. In gatherings of every size, teach us to boast only in the cross. Shape your church to be people of kindness, generosity, and justice. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

The foundations of the earth bear witness to your faithfulness; the mountains and hills echo with your holiness. When we mistreat your creation, show us the error of our ways. Inspire us with reverent awe to honor all you have made. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You make foolish the wisdom of the world. Raise up honorable leaders who seek justice, love mercy, and pursue peace. Frustrate plans that are corrupt,

wicked, and self-seeking. Prosper the work of peacemakers (*local and international reconciliation efforts may be named*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Bless all whom the world rejects. Accompany those who are regarded as foolish, weak, low, and despised; reveal your power and presence at work where it is least expected. Give your life, strength, and wisdom to all in need (*especially*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

As with your people Israel, remind this congregation of your saving acts. Remind us how your faithfulness brought us through difficulties and sustained us despite our weaknesses. Establish the cross as the center of our life together. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Praise to you for your blessed saints in every time and place (*especially*). Trusting you accompanied them in poverty, persecution, and in every trial, we trust you abide with your people always. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

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

Liberating God,

you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power,

and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION to COMMUNION

Come and taste the joy of God!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One,

we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. Amen.

BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod †
bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: "All the People Say Amen" Matt Maher (on screen)

You are not alone if you are lonely
When you're feeling frail, you're not the only
We are all the same in need of mercy
To be forgiven and be free
It's all you got to lean on
But thank God, it's all you need

Chorus: And all the people said Amen, whoa, oh-oh
And all the people said Amen
Give thanks to the Lord, for his love never ends
And all the people said Amen

If you're rich or poor, well, it don't matter
Weak or strong, we know love is what we're after
We're all broken, but we're all in this together

God knows we stumble and fall
And he so loved the world he sent his son to save us all (*Chorus*)

Blessed are the poor spirits who are torn apart
Blessed are the prosecuted and the pure in heart
Blessed are the people lonely for another start
For this is a kingdom, the kingdom of God (*Chorus x 2*)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Digital Hymnal
Ushers: Gary & Brenda Sjerven
Greeters: Barry & Donna Ansell

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, January 22, 2023: - In Person: 9:00am: 84 Online: 19