

Sunday February 26, 2023

First Sunday in Lent



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

TWO MINUTES OF SILENCE to prepare ourselves for worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST: Julie Swaggert's mom, Cliff Roberts, Cheryl Malotky.

GIVE ELECTRONICALLY There are "Simply Giving" forms available in the Narthex and on our website. Never have to remember your check or envelope on Sundays.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES will continue in person and live streamed throughout the Lent Season. Potluck at 5:30pm & Worship at 6:30pm.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF Following the devastating earthquakes that impacted Turkey and Syria, Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to supporting our partner organizations that are responding to the needs of survivors. Go online to support the response today at: <https://bit.ly/3I1sFkm> or make checks payable to: *Lutheran Disaster Response* (or Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo) and drop in offering plate. Be sure to write "Middle East Crisis" on your check's memo line. We will mail the checks to *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

ISLE COMMUNITY LENTEN CANTATA Performance on Good Friday, April 7, 2023, at 7:30pm. See poster in Narthex for more information.

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.

HAVE FAITH-A SUICIDE PREVENTION WORKSHOP February 28, 2023 from 3:30-5:30pm at Aitkin Public Library Community Room. See poster on bulletin board in Narthex.

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda **February 27, 2023 – March 5, 2023**

Monday	2/27	11:30 am	Cards
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	2/28	9:00 am	Quilters
Wednesday	3/1	9:00 am	Women's Bible Study
		5:30 am	Potluck
		6:30 pm	Lenten Worship Service
Thursday	3/2	8:00 am	ROMEOS
Sunday	3/5	9:00 am	Worship Service <i>in person & live stream</i>

OPENING HYMN: “When We are Tested” #922 ACS on screen

(Please Stand on the last Verse)



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, ✝ forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God,

our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, 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

SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of

the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’ ” ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

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

Psalm: Psalm 32 *(Read Responsively)*

¹ Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

² **Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

³ While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

⁸ **I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

⁹ Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

¹⁰ **Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹ Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

¹²Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

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

Please stand for the gospel

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

Glory to you, O Lord

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the

mouth of God.’”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

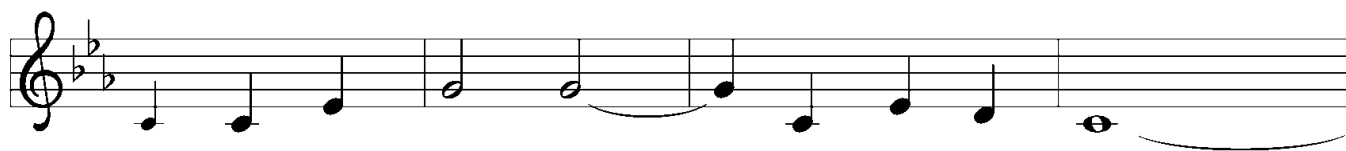
‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

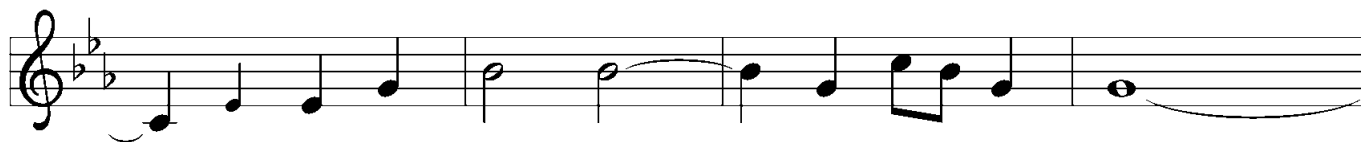
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

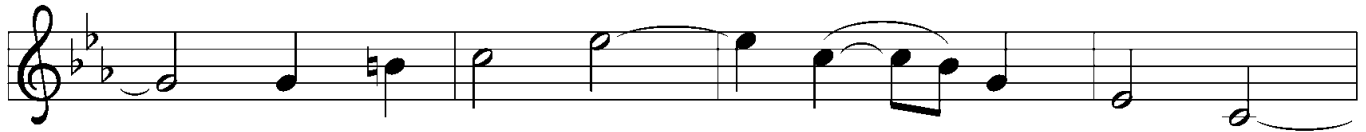
HYMN OF THE DAY: “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” #325 ELW



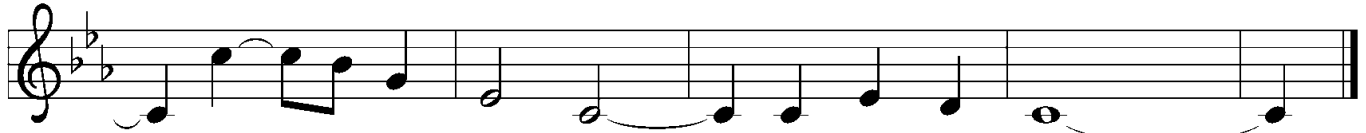
1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You alone are God. Sustain your church in times of wilderness. Give vision and wisdom to bishops, their staff, and all entrusted with the ministry of administration (*especially*). Counsel all who faithfully lead your people into the future. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You create verdant gardens and expansive deserts. Tend to the needs of every living creature. Bless those who work in fields and orchards (*local sources of food and food distributors may be named*), that the world is nourished by the fruits of their labor. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You know our temptations. Sustain those who govern and legislate. Instill in them a sense of your justice and righteousness, that equity and peace would pervade all the regions and nations of the world. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You are a hiding place for all in distress. Draw near to exiles, and accompany all refugees and immigrants, especially children who travel alone. In times of trouble, trauma, or illness, surround your people with your steadfast love (*especially*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You offer abundance to all. Bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Care for those who tend to the needs of others, especially worship greeters, coffee hour hosts, and nursery attendants (*other ministries of care and hospitality may be named*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You alone are God. We praise you for the faithful departed in every age. Unite our prayers with theirs, until our wilderness journey is complete, and we rest in you. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through 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

God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION to COMMUNION

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God,

at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.

BLESSING

God, the giver of love, ✝ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: “Satan, Your Kingdom Must Come Down” (on screen)

sung by Sister Fleeta Mitchell and Rev. Willie Mae Eberhart

- 1 Satan, your kingdom must come down.
Satan, your kingdom must come down.
You've been building your kingdom, all over this land;
Satan, your kingdom must come down.
- 2 You know the mothers are gonna to pray your kingdom down.
You know the mothers are gonna to pray your kingdom down.
You've been building your kingdom, all over this land;
Satan, your kingdom must come down.
- 3 We gonna pray until your kingdom come down
We gonna pray till we tear your kingdom down.
You've been building your kingdom, all over this land;
But Satan, your kingdom must come down.
- 4 You know, the preachers gonna preach your kingdom down.
The preachers they're gonna preach your kingdom down.
You've been building your kingdom all in the house of God;

But Satan, your kingdom must down.
5 We gonna pray until we tear your kingdom come down
We gonna pray till we tear your kingdom down.
You've been building your kingdom all over this world;
Satan, your kingdom must come down.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

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: Dick & Sue Stebbins

Lector: Susan Samuelson

Greeters: Darrell Kelly

Hospitality: Dorothy & Keith Munding; Bev Wedig

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, February 19, 2023: - In Person: 9:00am: 58 Online: 4