

**Sunday February 5, 2023**

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

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Church Web Site: [blcmalmo.org](http://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:

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

**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.

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

**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.

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

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### **THIS WEEK AT Bethesda**

### **February 6, 2023 – February 12, 2023**

Monday	2/6	11:30 am	Cards
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Wednesday	2/8	9:00 am	Women’s Bible Study
Thursday	2/9	8:00 am	ROMEOS
Sunday	2/12	9:00 am	Worship Service <i>in person &amp; live stream</i>

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**TEMPLE TALK:**

**Hope Lodge**

**Jeannine Bruesewitz**

OPENING HYMN:

“Gather Us In”

#532 ELW

(Please Stand on the last Verse)



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,  
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the  
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the  
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

## 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, source of our renewal,

**we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Thus says our God: "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

*Lord God,*

**with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

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## SCRIPTURE

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### FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-9a

<sup>1</sup>Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup>Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

<sup>3</sup>"Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not

notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup>Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

<sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup>Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

<sup>8</sup>Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9a</sup>Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

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

**PSALM: Psalm 112:1-9**   *(Read Responsively)*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God’s commandments!

<sup>2</sup>**Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

<sup>3</sup>Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

<sup>4</sup>**Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup>It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

<sup>6</sup>**For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

<sup>7</sup>They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

<sup>9</sup>They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup>My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

<sup>6</sup>Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. <sup>7</sup>But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"— <sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

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

*Please stand for the gospel*

**GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20**

**Glory to you, O Lord**

[Jesus said:] <sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

<sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup>For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY:

### “Thy Strong Word”

#511 ELW



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy  
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as  
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; bright with  
 4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed light we  
 night and deep as death, broke the light of thy sal -  
 thine own ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward  
 forth in con - qu'ring might; from the cross for - ev - er



thank thee, while thine or - dered sea - sons run.  
va - tion, breathed thine own life - breath - ing breath.  
glo - ry, and our lives our hopes con - fess.  
beam - eth all thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

## APOSTLES' CREED

### PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

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

*A brief silence.*

Call your people to seek your wisdom in difficult conversations and action. Give the church everywhere courage to repent for the ways we have tolerated and practiced injustice (*injustice such as systemic racism, church sanction of colonialism, church protection of sexual abusers may be named*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Inspire our wonder at creation, from the light of dawn to the beauty of the dark night. Sustain the unseen depths of the ocean to the plants and animals we know well. Bring healing to lands and communities experiencing natural disasters (*especially*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Instruct the powerful in your ways. Provide upright leadership in business and industry, that workers are not oppressed. Throughout the world, inspire voters



and raise up politicians to heed your call for nations to practice righteousness.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Loosen the bonds of injustice in our midst. Grant peace to endless quarrels, put an end to hunger, and break every yoke of oppression. Shelter all who flee abuse in their homes or violence in their communities. Satisfy those afflicted in any way (*especially*). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Shape our congregation to be salt for the earth. Give us delight in your commandments, that we are generous with those in need. Make us steadfast in our trust in you, ready with tangible mercy and compassion for our neighbors.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

The cross and resurrection bring redemption from sin and death. We praise you for (*the Martyrs of Japan and*) all whose unshaken faith in Christ shines forth in their witness. Keep them in our remembrance and bring us with them into the kingdom of heaven. 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

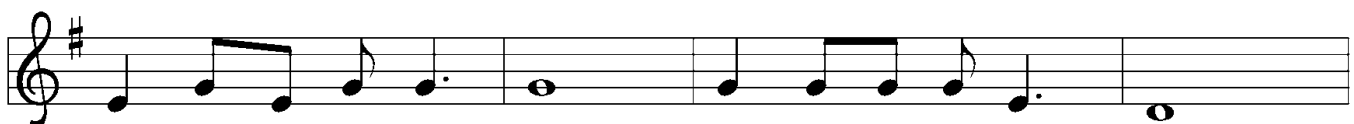
The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod †  
bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

Amen.

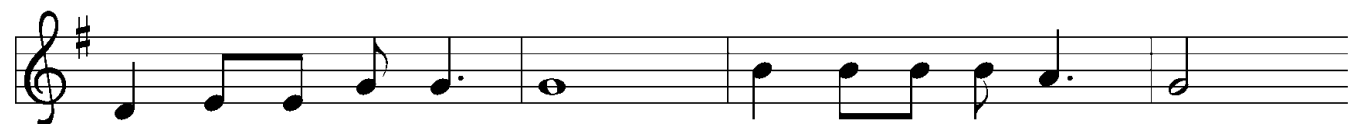
#### SENDING HYMN: "This Little Light of Mine" #677 ELW



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

**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: Barry & Donna Ansell  
 Greeters: Darlene Christensen  
 Hospitality: Dick & Sue Stebbins, Sylvia Taplet

***Thank you for your service!***

Response to God’s Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, January 29, 2023: - In Person: 9:00am: 48 Online: 10