

**Sunday, March 19, 2023**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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**Pastor James Muske**

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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**

# Sunday, March 19, 2023

## Fourth Sunday in Lent

**2 MINUTES OF SILENCE**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRAYER & CARE LIST:

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

**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.

**JUNK BINGO – TODAY!** We will be playing JUNK BINGO this afternoon from 2 - 4. Bring your dauber and positive attitude for a couple hours of fun. Bring an appetizer to share; we'll provide beverages!

**SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS** Following church on March 26, Darlene Christensen, Mary Vukelich, and Kathy Carlson will be providing health care directive forms and providing instructions on how to fill out the form and guidance around questions to consider when making your decisions.

#### **THIS WEEK AT Bethesda**

**March 20, 2023 – March 26, 2023**

Monday	3/20	10:00 am	Council Meeting
		11:30 am	Cards
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Wednesday	3/22	9:00 am	Women's Bible Study
		5:30 pm	Potluck
		6:30 pm	Worship in person & online
Thursday	3/23	8:00 am	ROMEOS
Saturday	3/25	8:30am-1:00pm	Heartland Women's Spring Gathering
Sunday	3/26	9:00 am	Worship in person & online

**OPENING HYMN: “Christ the Life of All the Living” #339 ELW**  
*(Please Stand on the Last Verse)*



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,  
3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:  
e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;  
for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.  
for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.  
thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.  
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.  
for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

**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**

Bend your ear to our prayers,

**Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

*Please be seated*

### **FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup>He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for

the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”<sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”<sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”<sup>10</sup> Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.”<sup>11</sup> Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.”<sup>12</sup> He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.”<sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God**

### **Psalm: Psalm 23 (Read Responsively)**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

<sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

### **SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14**

<sup>8</sup> Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—<sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

<sup>10</sup> Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup> but everything exposed by the light becomes

visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,  
“Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God**

*Please Stand*

**GOSPEL READING: John 9:1-41**

**Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup>He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” <sup>12</sup>They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now

see?”<sup>20</sup> His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” <sup>25</sup>He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” <sup>26</sup>They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” <sup>27</sup>He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” <sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” <sup>30</sup>The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” <sup>34</sup>They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup>He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” <sup>38</sup>He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

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

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**

**“Amazing Grace”**

**#779 ELW**



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

*Please stand if able*

**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**



*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

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

*A brief silence.*

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials (specific leaders may be named). Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve (especially). Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries of this congregation and community (especially). Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people (especially Joseph, Guardian of Jesus). We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us. 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.**



eyes to your grace. path-way to peace. eyes to your grace. O - pen my life to re - ceive your —  
 Sing - er of life in the face of —  
 O - pen my life to re - ceive your —

word. Send wis - dom and cour - age to fol - low your way.  
 death, may we be your ves - sels so love will in - crease.  
 word. Send wis - dom and cour - age to fol - low your way.

**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/Jim Christensen
- Greeters: Barry & Donna Ansell
- Ushers: Darrell Kelly & Dick Stebbins
- Lector: Darlene Christensen
- Hospitality: Char & Roy Berg; Penny Sjoquist

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