

Sunday April 30, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Easter



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

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Church Web Site: blcmalmo.org

Guest Leader: Darlene Christensen

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: Family of Skip Hansen, Lois Johnson, Jim Magedanz.

ATTENTION CHOIR MEMBERS (or want to be Choir Members) We have started Choir Practice on Tuesdays at 5:30pm. *All* are welcome to join the choir.

CHAIR YOGA CLASSES Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9:00am.

MAY MONTH OF SERVICE - LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF we will be assembling PERSONAL CARE KITS on May 17th at the monthly WELCA meeting. Items needed for the personal care kits:

- 1 bath towel
- 2 bars of soap
- 1 toothbrush
- 1 sturdy comb
- 1 metal nail clippers

*Bring items to the
Fellowship Hall by May 17th*

COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED Please sign up so we may continue to enjoy coffee & fellowship after service. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board mounted in fellowship hall next to the serving window. You don't have to bake; there's plenty of treats in the freezer.

FREE COVID TESTS KITS are available in the bathrooms. Take what you need.

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

May 1, 2023 – May 7, 2023

Monday	5/1	11:30 am	Card Players
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	5/2	9:00 am	Chair Yoga
		5:30 am	Choir Practice
Wednesday	5/3	9:00 am	Women's Bible Study
Thursday	5/4	8:00 am	ROMEOs
		9:00 am	Chair Yoga
Friday	5/5	8:00 am	Jelly Making
Sunday	5/7	9:00 am	Worship in Person & Live Stream

OPENING HYMN: "Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Alleluia" #369 ELW
(Please Stand on the last Verse)



1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day!" All on earth with an - gels say;
2 Love's re-deem-ing work is done, fought the fight, the bat - tle won.
3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has burst the gates of hell.
4 Lives a - gain our glo - rious king! Where, O death, is now your sting?



raise your joys and tri - umphs high; sing, O heav'ns; and earth, re - ply.
Lo! The sun's e - clipse is o'er. Lo! He sets in blood no more.
Death in vain for - bids his rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
Once he died our souls to save; where your vic - to - ry, O grave?

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.

Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos

reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our shepherd,

you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, 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

SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

⁴²[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

PSALM: 23 *(Read Responsively)*

¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

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

³ You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴ **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.**

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

⁶ **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: Joshua 1:7-9

⁷Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. ⁹I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

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

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36 – (Done by Bishop Amy)

Glory to you, O Lord

³¹Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

This is the gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON (Video from Bishop Amy)

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Will You Come & Follow Me" (vs 1,2,5) #798 ELW



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

You are the shepherd who gathers us in your mighty and loving arms. Help your church to listen for your voice, especially when the voices of sin, idolatry, and oppression threaten to overpower us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The green pastures, still waters, and dark valleys of this earth all belong to you, O Lord. Sustain your creation with a love that is both mighty and just. Where there is destruction, bring healing. Where there is desolation, bring abundance. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You proclaim shepherding love, comfort, and protection for all people and all of creation. Direct leaders in our own time to learn from your example and instruction. Give them servant hearts, that they generously seek the good of all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You journey with us wherever our paths may lead. We pray for those feeling overwhelmed by anxiety or depression or suffering in any way. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You are the sheepgate that gives safety to your beloved flocks. Provide protection for refugees, victims of domestic violence, those who are imprisoned, and all people who are vulnerable to violence and mistreatment. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You call your sheep by name and lead them through the valley of death. We give you thanks for those who have died and now dwell in your house forever. Be with those who mourn, and give them hope in the promise of resurrection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

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

Generous God,

in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD (ELW p. 220)

The presiding minister leads one of the following or another appropriate prayer.

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

The God of all, who raised + Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: “Have No Fear, Little Flock”

#764 ELW

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Have no fear, little flock;
have no fear, little flock,
for the Father has chosen
to give you the kingdom;
have no fear, little flock! | 3 Praise the Lord high above;
praise the Lord high above,
for he stoops down to heal you,
uplift and restore you;
praise the Lord high above! |
| 2 Have good cheer, little flock;
have good cheer, little flock,
for the Father will keep you
in his love forever;
have good cheer, little flock! | 4 Thankful hearts raise to God;
thankful hearts raise to God,
for he stays close beside you,
in all things works with you;
thankful hearts raise to God! |

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.
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
Lector: LuAnn Gordon
Ushers: Gary & Brenda Sjerven
Greeters: Darlene Christensen

Thank you for your service!

Response to God’s Word Last Week:

Sunday, April 23, 2023: In Person: 9:00am 71 Online: 14