

**Sunday July 16, 2023**  
**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**  
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Church Web Site: [blcmalmo.org](http://blcmalmo.org)

**Guest Leader: Patti Smith**

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:** Shirley Moe

**LAWNMOWING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** Please enjoy the outdoors and sign up to help mow the church lawn this summer. Sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall.

**FOOD SHELF DONATIONS** are needed. Nonperishable items can be left in boxes in the Narthex.

**VEGGIE STAND OPEN** the Veggie Stand will be open on Saturday mornings to raise money for Local Benevolence. Contributions of baked good items are welcome for sale that day.

**CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CLUB** Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, Wahkon Inn, 12:30pm. Speaker, Laurie Kimball; "Moving On". \$13 Call Lois Johnson for reservations, 320 684-2000. For more information see the poster on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

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### **THIS WEEK AT Bethesda**

**July 17, 2023 – July 23, 2023**

Monday	7/17	9:00 am	Crafter's meeting
		11:30 am	Card Players
		1:00 pm	Council Meeting
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	7/18	9:00 am	Chair Yoga
		4:00 pm	Bell Practice
		5:30 am	Choir Practice
Wednesday	7/19	9:00-Noon	WIC
		9:00 am	No Women's Bible Study
Thursday	7/20	8:00 am	No ROMEOS
		9:00 am	Chair Yoga
		12:30 am	Christian Women's Club
Saturday	7/22	8:00 am	Veggie Stand Fundraising
		8am-5pm	Lion's Car Show
Sunday	7/23	9:00 am	Worship in Person & Live Stream

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# OPENING HYMN "This Is My Father's World" #824 ELW

*(Please Stand on the last Verse)*



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all  
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car - ols raise; the  
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for - get that,



na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.  
morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.  
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of  
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the  
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.  
rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.  
Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

## 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**

*Almighty God,*

**we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## **CHOIR ANTHEM: Fall Like Rain**

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### **SCRIPTURE**

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## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13**

<sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I

purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup>For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

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

### **PSALM: Psalm 65:1-13**

<sup>1</sup> You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be fulfilled.

<sup>2</sup> **To you, the one who answers prayer, to you all flesh shall come.**

<sup>3</sup> Our sins are stronger than we are, but you blot out our transgressions.

<sup>4</sup> **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there! They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.**

<sup>5</sup> Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

<sup>6</sup> **You make firm the mountains by your power; you are girded about with might.**

<sup>7</sup> You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

<sup>8</sup> **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**

<sup>9</sup> You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

<sup>10</sup> **You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

<sup>11</sup> You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

<sup>12</sup> **May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.**

<sup>13</sup> May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

### **Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had

no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!”

<sup>18</sup>“Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup>But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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

## SERMON

**HYMN: “For the Fruit of All Creation” #679 ELW**



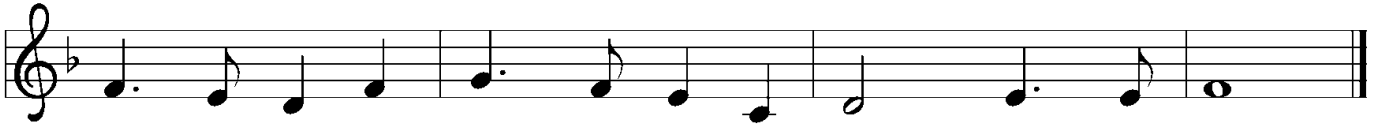
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe-keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

## APOSTLES' 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

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Guide your church, O God, to sow seeds of forgiveness and righteousness on good soil. Direct your people to proclaim your love in this congregation and throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Sustain your creation, O God, by sending favorable weather, causing trees and fields to grow, protecting waterways from pollution, and instilling in all people the need to be good stewards. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Maintain peace among all people, O God, and raise up lawyers to work for justice in the courts, advocates to speak for the downtrodden, and politicians to work on behalf of the common good. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**



Heal those who are sick, O God (*especially*). Guide health care workers to care for those who suffer, scientists to conduct lifesaving research, and counselors to care for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Answer the prayers of those gathered in worship, O God. Protect those who travel near and far, accompany visitors to this congregation, and nurture our faith. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Inspire us by the faithful departed, O God, examples of your embodied love, whose confidence in the resurrection guides us in living lives worthy of the gospel. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**PEACE** *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 field and forest, sea and sky,

**you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

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.**

## **LORDS PRAYER**

### **BLESSING**

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed ✝ bless,  
keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

**Amen.**

### **CLOSING HYMN:            “If Anyone Has Ears”            Marty Haugen**

He was telling stories beside the sea,  
all the people came to the shores of Galilee,  
he got into a boat and began to preach,  
many the tales and many the truths  
that he would teach, and he said,

Listen! Listen!

A farmer went out to plant seed in a field and,  
as the farmer cast seed out all across the field,  
he found that:

Some seed fell along the path where the earth is hard and bare,  
some seed fell along the path, and it found no welcome there.  
For the birds flew down and ate that seed before it sent up shoots,  
and the seed that falls on the barren path will never bring forth fruit.

## ***Refrain***

If anyone has ears, come and listen to this story,  
the one who truly hears finds a lesson of great worth;  
The Reign of God appears when these words take root within your  
heart; and you may bring the tiny seed to birth.

Some seed fell on rocky ground, where the earth is thin and dry,  
some seed fell on rocky ground, and that seed was quick to die,  
when the sun beat down on the little plant, it withered at the root,  
and the seed that falls on the rocky ground  
will never bring forth fruit. (*Refrain*)

Some seed fell among the thorns, where the evil seed was found,  
some seed fell among the thorns and they sprang up all around,  
when the tiny plant began to grow they choked it at the root,  
and the seed that falls in the evil thorns  
will never bring forth fruit. (*Refrain*)

Some seed fell on fertile ground, where the earth is rich and deep,  
some seed fell on fertile ground, and it sprang up from its sleep.  
From that tiny seed at harvest time, a hundred-fold was found,  
and that seed that falls on the fertile ground  
will spread new seed around. (*Refrain*)

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

## **THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Music: Adult Choir

Lector: Dennis Hennessy

Ushers: Barry & Donna Ansell

Greeters: Mary Braun & Janice Olson

Hospitality: Del & Dianne Jones

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

Response to God's Word Last Week

Sunday, July 9, 2023: In Person: 9:00am 70 Online: 2