

Sunday July 30, 2023
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

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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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST:

AUGUST 13th will be Sundaes Sunday! Outdoor Praise Team service with the Worship & Music committee serving Ice Cream Sundaes afterwards.

LECTORS NEEDED we are looking for volunteers to read aloud the scriptures on Sunday morning. Signup sheet in the Narthex which includes the weekly readings or contact Mary Braun if you can help.

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.

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.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP There will be a Grief Support Group starting on Tuesday, August 22nd, 2023, at 4:00pm and runs approximately 1-1/2 hours. The sessions will run every Tuesday for 13 weeks. Anyone interested can simply show up. You are not required to attend all sessions but are urged to. Free will donation accepted but not required. Pre-registration is encouraged, but not required. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

July 30, 2023 – August 6, 2023

Monday	7/31	9:00 am	Crafters
		11:30 am	Card Players
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	8/1	9:00 am	Chair Yoga
		4:00 pm	Bell Practice
		5:30 am	Choir Practice
Wednesday	8/2	9:00 am	Women's Bible Study
Thursday	8/3	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		9:00 am	Chair Yoga
Saturday	8/5	8:00 am	Veggie Stand Fundraising
Sunday	8/6	9:00 am	Worship in Person & Live Stream

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 greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God,

we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Beloved and sovereign God,

through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM: "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said,

“Ask what I should give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

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

PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136

¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰ **When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

¹³² **Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.**

¹³³ Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶ **My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Glory to you, O Lord

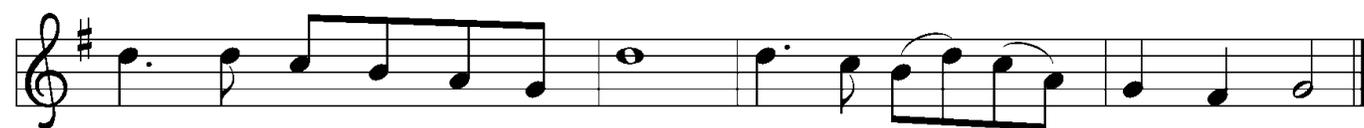
³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

APOSTLES' CREED

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.

Almighty God, we pray for the church and all servants of the gospel. Equip rostered and lay ministers to proclaim that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Form confirmands and catechumens into disciples.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, we pray for the well-being of creation. Safeguard the environment, clean polluted rivers and lakes (*local waterways may be named*), preserve the mighty tree and the tiny mustard seed, and send advocates for sustainable practices. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, we pray for the nations. Instill in all who govern the ability to discern between good and evil, free those who are oppressed, and protect those facing danger. Promote peace across the world and in our towns and neighborhoods. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Merciful God, we pray for all in any need. Protect those fleeing from war, shelter any who are in poverty, clothe the naked, soothe all who grieve, and heal the sick (*especially name/s*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy God, we pray for this congregation, both those gathered today and those absent from our assembly. Grant safety to travelers and refreshment and safety for children attending summer camps or community programs. Give direction to any experiencing life transitions. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal God, we give thanks for your saints who now rest from their labors. Inspire us by their witness to treasure the gospel, and continually nourish us with your grace. 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION to COMMUNION

All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, generous God,
for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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: "Glory to the Love" Dakota Road

Refrain

Glo-ry to the Love, Glo - ry to the Life. Glo - ry to the child of Light. From
heav - en to earth a-cross the u - ni-verse glo - ry to the peace of Christ.

Verse

Mov - ing, reach - ing in - to our lives,
Teach - ing, heal - ing, seek - ing the lost,
Guid - ing Spir - it o - pen us wide

to Refrain

seeds of prom - ise stir - ring in - side.
turn - ing ta - bles, bear - ing the cross.
to see Christ in each oth - ers' eyes.

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: Bell Choir

Lector: Susan Samuelson

Ushers: Gary & Brenda Sjerven

Greeters: Del & Dianne Jones

Hospitality:

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Sunday, July 23, 2023: In Person: 9:00am 70 Online: 11