

Sunday August 20, 2023

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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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:

MILLE LACS BAND POW WOW - Sunday, Aug. 20 at 1 p.m. Grand Entry.

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.

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

August 21, 2023 – August 27, 2023

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|-----------|------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Monday | 8/21 | 10:00 am | Council Meeting |
| | | 11:30 am | Card Players |
| | | 7:00 pm | AA/Alanon |
| Tuesday | 8/22 | 9:00 am | Chair Yoga |
| | | 9:00 am | Quilters |
| | | 4:00 pm | Grief Support Group |
| | | 4:00 pm | Bell Practice |
| | | 5:30 am | Choir Practice |
| Wednesday | 8/23 | 9:00 am | Women's Bible Study |
| Thursday | 8/24 | 8:00 am | ROMEOS |
| | | 9:00 am | Chair Yoga |
| Saturday | 8/25 | 8:00 am | Veggie Stand Fundraising |
| Sunday | 8/20 | 9:00 am | Worship in Person & Live Stream |

OPENING HYMN **“In Christ There is No East or West”** **#650 ELW**
(Please Stand on the last Verse)

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

God of all peoples,

your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BELL ANTHEM: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

¹ Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

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

PSALM: Psalm 67

¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.

² **Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.**

³ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁴ **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁶ **The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.**

⁷ May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

[Paul writes:] ¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience,

³¹ so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

GOSPEL: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

Glory to you, O Lord

[¹⁰[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand:¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” #588 ELW

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.

O God, your Spirit gathers the church. Shepherd those who are newly baptized and newly ordained in the proclamation of the gospel, breathe life into ecumenical and inter-religious endeavors, and support missionaries throughout the globe. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You created the earth and all its inhabitants and declared it good. Clean polluted skies, seas, and soil, provide nourishment to plants and animals, and make us aware of our impact on the environment. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call leaders to bridge differences and practice generosity. Inspire all in authority to protect people in harm's way, deliver those in bondage, support fair elections, provide care for military personnel and veterans, and show mercy to those for whom they have responsibility. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You provide for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Embrace people who have been rejected because of difference, heal trauma caused by racism or prejudice, shield any who are persecuted, console the dying, and heal the sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, you journey with us in all of life's transitions. Guide those preparing for baptism, marriage, and retirement. Guide our church council and committees in their visioning and ministry (*especially name/s of specific ministries*). Safeguard those who travel. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks for those who now rest from their labors (*especially Bernard of Clairvaux, whom the church commemorates today*). Motivate us by their lives of dedication to the gospel, until that day when we join with them in our eternal home. 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:

“Rise, Shine, You People”

#665 ELW

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

Greeters: Sue & Sam Samuelson

Ushers: Gary & Brenda Sjerven

Lector: Darlene Christensen

Hospitality:

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Sunday, August 13, 2023: In Person: 9:00am 52 Online: 14