

**Sunday October 8, 2023**  
**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**  
21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342  
Phone: 320-684-2123 (1-877-684-2123) Fax: 320-684-2836  
E-mail address: [blcmalmo@gmail.com](mailto:blcmalmo@gmail.com)  
Church Web Site: [blcmalmo.org](http://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.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP “I Will Call Upon the Lord”**

**CCLI# 241462**

(Men) I will call upon the Lord

(Women) (I will call upon the Lord)

(Men) Who is worthy to be praised

(Women) (Who is worthy to be praised)

(Men) So Shall I be saved from mine enemies

(Women) (So Shall I be saved from mine enemies)

**Chorus:**

The Lord liveth and blessed be the Rock and may the God of my salvation be exalted.

The Lord liveth and blessed be the Rock and may the God of my salvation be exalted. *(sing twice)*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER & CARE LIST:**

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP** There will be a Grief Support Group starting on Tuesday, October 10th, 2023, at 2:30pm 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. *(Note Time Change!)*

**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.

**FLU SHOT CLINIC** coming to Bethesda! Put on by Aitkin County Health & Human Services, on Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:45pm. More information is available in the Fellowship Hall.

**BETHESDA’S HOLIDAY BAZAAR** Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 9am-1pm. Tell your friends and neighbors.

**RAFFLE ITEMS FOR THE BAZAAR** if you have items for the Bazaar Raffle, or items for the sale, please bring them to church as soon as possible. Just drop them off in the office. Thank You! Also, a reminder we would appreciate, from

each family, 6 dozen Christmas cookies. Please deliver to the church by Friday morning, Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>.

**ATTN: COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS** Budget Request Forms are in your “In Boxes” (or emailed if requested). These forms need to be filled out and returned to the Stewardship’s In-Box by October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022, so Stewardship committee can review them and present to the Council meeting in November.

**ANNUAL COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS** are due by November 5<sup>th</sup> for our annual meeting on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> following our regular worship service. Please email to: Judie Birk jimjudiebirk@gmail.com with your committee reports.

**NO WELCA MEETING IN OCTOBER** Calendar in the Life Line says there is a WELC meeting this week, but there is not. The next WELCA meeting will be November 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.

**THIS WEEK AT Bethesda                      September 18, 2023 – September 24, 2023**

Monday	10/9	11:30 am	Card Player
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	10/10	9:00 am	Chair Yoga
		1:00-3:45pm	Flu Shot Clinic
		2:30 pm	Grief Share
		4:00 pm	Bell Practice
		5:30 am	Choir Practice
Wednesday	10/11	9:00 am	Women’s Bible Study
		3:30 pm	Stewardship Meeting
Thursday	10/12	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		9:15 am	Chair Yoga
Sunday	10/15	9:00 am	Worship in Person & Live Stream

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**OPENING HYMN                      “Blessed Be Your Name”                      CCLI# 1755602**  
*(Please Stand on the last Verse)*

Blessed be Your name, In the land that is plentiful  
Where Your streams of abundance flow, Blessed be Your name.

Blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place  
Though I walk through the wilderness, Blessed be Your name.

***Chorus:***

Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise.  
When the darkness closes in, Lord... Still, I will say  
Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name.

Blessed be Your name, When the sun's shining down on me,  
When the world's all as it should be, blessed be Your name.

Blessed be Your name, on the road marked with suffering,  
Though there's pain in the offering, blessed be Your name. *Chorus*

You give and take away, You give and take away  
My heart will choose to say, Lord blessed be Your name.  
You give and take away, You give and take away  
My heart will choose to say, Lord blessed be Your name. *Chorus*

**OPENING LITANY**

The Spirit of God the Creator and of Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Come, let us worship our Creator with hearts now open to all peoples, hearts  
where pride and prejudice once dwelt;

**Let us worship the God of endless diversity, who made the world in colors, in  
seasons, in marvelous variety; who created all the earth's peoples in God's  
own image.**

Let us worship our Creator with eyes and ears open to our God and to all our  
neighbors, especially our indigenous relatives, whose lives too often go unseen  
and whose voices too often go unheard or ignored;

**We were created to honor one another, and in so doing we honor the Creator.  
Let us honor God by reflecting the Creator's love in our worship and in our  
lives. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE FOUR DIRECTIONS**

Creator, the strength of the people, we honor you. Listen to the prayers of your people. You have created all, the worlds to the east, the south, the west, and the north; and to all that is above and beneath us. We respect your creation and the truth of your spirit. We honor you in gestures and in words. We live by the ways you have entrusted to us, within the circle of life.

Come, Great Spirit, as we gather in your name and the name of Jesus. Gather us from every direction; point us outward to the wonders of your creation. Refresh us from the living waters that come to us from every corner of our land.

**In the east, the place of dawning, there is beauty in the morn, there the seeker finds new visions as each sacred day is born. All who honor life around them, all who honor life within, shall shine with light and glory when the morning comes again.**

In the south, the place of growing there is wisdom in the earth. Both the painful song of dying and joyful song of birth. As the earth gives up her lifeblood so her children's hearts may beat. We give back to her our reverence for the holy ground beneath our feet.

**In the west, the place of seeing, there is born a vision new, of the servant of the servants, who proclaimed a gospel true. Let the creatures of creation echo back creation's prayer, Let the Spirit now breathe through us and renew the sacred there.**

In the north, the place of wisdom, there is holy darkness deep. We look to God our Creator who cleanses our earth with snow, wind, and rain, and to Jesus, who fills us with the wideness of mercy and grace and lovingly embraces all God's people.

**Creator, you formed the earth into one, round, shining circle. At your word the land was drawn into mountains and deserts, forests and plains. You gathered the waters together into rivers, lakes and seas. Many times we have broken the circle of your creation by greed and violence, and we have shattered the lives of others.**

Creator, as we gather the waters you have given us for life, renew the circle of the earth, and turn the hearts of all people to one another, that they and all the earth may live and be drawn toward you, Through the power of your Son, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, in the circle of the Trinity, forever One.  
**Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Gichi-gizhe-manidoo, Creator, God,*

**the great mystery who is known by many names, to you we give thanks in all you bring, for your presence that surrounds us, and for your teaching ways. In mystery and spirit you have created this world and you invite us to walk in harmony with all created beings. Within this sacred circle, Jesus Christ is our center in all that we do. Help us to speak with honor and respect to all of creation and to be open to the teachings we are given. Open our eyes to understanding. Prepare our hearts to know true compassion, and give us strength so that we may live in truth, humility, love, and show grace. Amen.**

**PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM:       “Father’s House”**

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### **SCRIPTURE**

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#### **FIRST READING Isaiah 5:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.

<sup>2</sup>He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

<sup>3</sup>And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me

and my vineyard.

<sup>4</sup>What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

<sup>5</sup>And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.

<sup>6</sup>I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

<sup>7</sup>For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

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

### **PSALM: Psalm 80:7-15**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>8</sup>**You have brought a vine out of Egypt; you cast out the nations and planted it.**

<sup>9</sup>You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.

<sup>10</sup>**The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

<sup>11</sup>You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.

<sup>12</sup>**Why have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

<sup>13</sup>The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

<sup>14</sup>**Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;**

<sup>15</sup>behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.

### **SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14**

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup>If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the

tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46**

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

[Jesus said to the people:] <sup>33</sup>“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. <sup>34</sup>When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. <sup>35</sup>But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup>Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. <sup>37</sup>Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup>So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup>Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” <sup>41</sup>They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants



who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

<sup>42</sup>Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord’s doing,

and it is amazing in our eyes’?”

<sup>43</sup>Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. <sup>44</sup>The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

<sup>45</sup>When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup>They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: “Thy Word” Amy Grant & Michael W. Smith**

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid, Think I've lost my way.

Still, You're there right beside me. And nothing will I fear

As long as You are near; Please be near me to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

I will not forget Your love for me, and yet

My heart forever is wandering. Jesus be my guide,

And hold me to Your side, and I will love You to the end.

## **APOSTLES’ CREED**

### **PRAYERS of INTERCESSION**

Trusting in the transformative power of God’s loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of all grace, you are the source of life and joy. Strengthen the resolve of your church throughout the world (*global mission partners may be named*), that together we press on toward the goal of your heavenly call in Jesus Christ. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God of all creation, you plant and nourish the earth as your own precious vineyard. Bless fields and orchards and the hands of those who labor in them, that your people are fed with an abundant harvest of good fruit. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God of all the earth, you desire peace and justice between nations and peoples. Guide leaders of nations, states, provinces, and cities, that they faithfully govern your people with wisdom, integrity, and compassion. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God of all compassion, in Christ, you lovingly poured yourself out like wine for your people. Have mercy on all who mourn, who struggle with their mental health, who cry out for justice, who hunger, and all in any need (*especially*). God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God of all steadfastness, you set Christ as the cornerstone and foundation of the church. Build up this congregation as living stones, that it stands in the community as a witness to your enduring faithfulness and love. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of all hope, the saints who came before us lived and died with their hearts fixed on you. We give you thanks for their faithful witness, and we wait with hope for the great day when we join their voices in praise. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

As a community let us embrace the ongoing work of being reconciled.

**God makes peace within us. Let us claim it.**

**God makes peace between us. Let us share it.**

Let us greet each other as a sign of God's peace, love, forgiveness and grace.  
The peace of our Creator be with you in all things.

**We give thanks to our Creator.**

You are invited to share a sign of peace with your neighbor.

*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 power, God of plenty,

**all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER – Lead by the Praise Team**

### **INVITATION to COMMUNION**

Jesus invites you to this table.

Come, eat and live.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Jesus Christ, our leader,

**you are the Son of the Creator; you have fed us at your feast. We are your children and grandchildren. You live in us, and we will live as you have taught us. Watch over us. Speak to us from the trees, from the grass, from the breeze, from the passing rain, from the rolling thunder and the deep waters. Before us there is beauty, behind us there is beauty. Allow us to walk with you a long life in happiness, completed in beauty. Amen.**

### **FAREWELL and GODSPEED**

Sue & Sam, as you leave our *congregation*, we wish to bid you farewell.

*A reading from (Isaiah 43:1-3)*

Thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

When you came to this *congregation*, we rejoiced to welcome you into the mission we share as the people of God. In this community you have come to know and to share in God's loving purpose for you and for all creation. God has blessed you in this community, and God has blessed us through you.

We encourage you to continue to receive and share God's gifts in Fargo, united with us in the body of Christ and the mission we share.

Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your *servants* Sue & Sam, who *have* enriched this *congregation* and shared *their* gifts with *their colleagues/friends/family*.

Now bless and preserve *them* at this time of transition.

Day by day, guide *them* and give *them* what is needed, friends to cheer *their* way,

and a clear vision of that to which you are now calling *them*.

By your Holy Spirit be present in *their* pilgrimage, that *they* may travel with the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

Great Spirit, Creator God, look upon your children gathered in holy community together and send them where you would have them go. Walk with them so that they may face the winds of change and walk the good road. Enlighten them.

Sustain them. May God our Creator, + Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit be with you this day and always.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: “Give Me Oil in My Lamp” #CCLI 5017715**

Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning. Give me oil in my lamp, I pray  
Give me oil in my lamp keep me. Burning, burning, burning  
Keep me burning ‘til the break of day.

***Chorus:***

Sing Hosanna, Sing Hosanna, Sing Hosanna to the King of Kings  
Sing Hosanna, Sing Hosanna, Sing Hosanna to the King

Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising. Give me joy in my heart I pray  
Give joy in my heart, keep me. Praising, praising, praising  
Keep me praising ‘til the break of day... ***Chorus***

Give me love in my heart, keep me serving. Give me love in my heart, I pray  
Give me love in my heart, keep me. Serving, serving, serving  
Keep me serving ‘til the break of day ... ***Chorus***

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

**THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Music: Praise Team

Greeters: Del & Dianne Jones

Ushers: Mark & Mary Vukelich

Lector: LuAnn Gordon

Hospitality: Mary Braun, Jenny Schuett, Joanne Stueven, Julie Swaggert

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

***Farewell, Sue & Sam***

Response to God’s Word Last Week

Sunday, October 1, 2023: In Person: 9:00am   56   Online:   9