

# Sunday December 10, 2023

## Second Sunday of Advent



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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## **Pastor James Muske**

320 583-5796

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN 320-279-0097

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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: “Mary, Do You Know?”**

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?  
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new;  
This Child that you’ve delivered will soon deliver you?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with His hand?  
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?  
When you’ve kissed your little baby then you’ve kissed the face of God?

Mary, did you know?  
The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again,  
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb!  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?  
Did you know that your baby boy was Heaven’s perfect Lamb?  
This sleeping Child you’re holding is the great, the Great “I AM”?

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRAYER & CARE LIST:**

**CHRISTIAN WOMEN’S CLUB** Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:30 at Wahkon Inn. Lunch and sing-along. \$13 call Lois for reservations (320) 674-0136. See the poster in the Narthex for more information.

**LOOKING FOR A COUNCIL SECRETARY** Judie Birk is resigning from her secretary position on the council, and we are looking for a replacement starting in Jan. 2024. Thank you, Judie, for your years of service.

**CHRISTMAS DAY POTLUCK** after 10:00am worship on Monday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> there will be a potluck dinner. Sign up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.

**LECTORS NEEDED** we are looking for volunteers to read aloud the scriptures on Sunday mornings. Sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall and include the weekly readings.

**BETHESDA QUILTERS** will be displaying and selling their quilts today, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. All quilts are 20% off.

**POINSETTIA SALES** Orders for poinsettias to be placed in the sanctuary Christmas poinsettia tree will be taken; the cost is \$15. A member of Altar Care will be in the Fellowship Hall between church services to take orders. The

Poinsettia Tree will be assembled on Thursday, Dec. 14th at 10:00am. All welcome to help.

**MISSION & EVANGELISM PLANNING SESSION** We're trying to collect ideas from as many people who are willing to participate in a brainstorming session after the Band Concert lunch on Dec 19.( about 1:00-1:30). Our goal is to create an agenda that covers Bethesda's giving of dollars and service but also how to make a visible outreach that attracts new members. If you have an idea or suggestions but can't make the meeting, please send an email to this group. Last year many of us met to plan The Year of Service which involved Temple Talks sharing awareness of the needs and opportunities to serve various organizations. That was a successful plan, and we hope to come up with something similar.

**CHRISTMAS GIVING 2023** Part of our local benevolence money goes to giving families in our area food gift cards to help with holiday expenses. There is a suggestion box in the entry way to fill out for someone in the area who could use a gift card (Gift cards come from either Teals or Paulbecks). Give us their name and address by December 18<sup>th</sup> so cards can be mailed to them before Christmas.

**ELCA CHRISTMAS GIVING** is also available. There is a display in the fellowship hall, or you can go online at <https://goodgifts.elca.org/>. This is an opportunity to give food support to needy countries by purchasing an animal in the name of someone on your Christmas list.

**FUNERAL FOR ELWIN BENTON** will be on Thursday, December 14th, 2023, at 11:00 AM at the Fond du Lac Language & Cultural Learning Center followed by lunch at Noon. The Center is located at 1713 Animikii Road in Cloquet. If anyone is interested in carpooling, contact Pastor.

**ISLE HIGH SCHOOL  
CHRISTMAS BAND CONCERT  
PERFORMING AT BETHESDA  
LUTHERAN CHURCH MALMO  
TUESDAY, DEC. 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2023  
11:00 AM  
LUNCH SERVED AFTER CONCERT  
*FREE WILL OFFERING***



**THIS WEEK AT Bethesda****December 11, 2023 – December 17, 2023**

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Monday	12/11	9:00 am	Women's Devotion
		11:30 am	Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	12/12	9:00 am	Chair Yoga
		5:00 pm	Cantata Practice
Wednesday	12/13	9:00 am	Women's Bible Study
Thursday	12/14	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		9:15 am	Chair Yoga
		10:00 am	Put up Poinsette Tree
Sunday	12/17	9:00 am	Cantata & Worship in Person & Live Stream

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**TEMPLE TALK – “Stewardship”****ADVENT PRAYER**

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again.

You fasten righteousness around your waist  
and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire.

Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames,  
and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare.

We ask that peace abound,  
until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

**Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN****“O Glorious Night”**

*(Please Stand on the last Verse)*

The shepherds came to See the baby,  
Stood by his mother's side  
Here laid the Savior, Inside a manger  
Oh what a glorious night  
Oh what a glorious night

[Chorus]

I hear the angels singing halleluiah  
Let the earth receive her king  
I know that love has come

Sing it out  
Jesus Christ is born  
Jesus Christ is born

The shepherds wondered, They couldn't hide it  
Told everyone in sight, All were amazed  
When they heard how  
God came down on this glorious night  
God came down on this glorious night [Chorus]

Glorious – Glorious - What a Glorious night  
Glorious – Glorious - What a Glorious night

All is calm now - All is quiet. A Star shining in the sky  
Below in Bethlehem The king is sleeping  
Oh What a Glorious Night - Oh What a Glorious Night

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

**Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Everlasting God,

**you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.**

**We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness  
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.**

**We are complicit in systems of exploitation.**

**We choose comfort over courage.**

**We are careless with creation's bounty.**

**Look upon us with mercy.**

**Turn our hearts again to you.**

**Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways  
for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God’s covenant is eternal, and God’s blessing rests upon us all.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Stir up our hearts, Lord God,*

**to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM: “He Shall Reign Forever More”** *by Chris Tomlin*

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## **SCRIPTURE**

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### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah,

“Here is your God!” <sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

**PSALM: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**

<sup>1</sup> You have been gracious to your land, O LORD; you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup> **You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.**

<sup>8</sup> I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

<sup>9</sup> **Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.**

<sup>10</sup> Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup> **Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup> The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup> **Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

**SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set

ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup> and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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

## **GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8**

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

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY: “Prepare the Royal Highway”**

**#264 ELW**

- 1 Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!  
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:

#### *Refrain*

Hosanna to the Lord,  
for he fulfills God's word!

- 2 God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*



- 3 Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring.  
All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing: *Refrain*
- 4 His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

### **PRAYERS of INTERCESSION**

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*A brief silence.*

Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal (*especially*). Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political parties, and diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season (*especially*). Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

**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 our provider,

**by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER Hallelujah**

#### **INVITATION to COMMUNION**

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.

Come, take your place at the table.

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Generous God,

**in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

#### **BLESSING**

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: “Let There be Peace on Earth”**

Let there be peace on earth, And let it begin with me  
Let there be peace on earth, The peace that was meant to be

With God as our father, Brothers all are we  
Let me walk with my brother, In perfect harmony

Let peace begin with me, Let this be the moment now  
With every step I take, Let this be my solemn vow

To take each moment, And live each moment  
In peace eternally, Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Keep awake.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

**THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Greeters: Barry & Donna Ansell

Ushers: Lee & Barb Forrester

Lector: LuAnn Gordon

Hospitality: Need Volunteers

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God’s Word Last Week

Sunday, December 3, 2023: In Person: 9:00am 72 Online: 3