

Sunday January 28, 2024

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor James Muske

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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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST:

OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2024 are here! Please pick up your envelopes in the Narthex.

YEAR END TAX GIVING STATEMENTS are available in the Narthex on the table heading into the Fellowship Hall.

MONTHLY TITHING For your convenience we have direct deposit forms in the Narthex. You can sign up indefinitely or sign up for a few months if you're going south for the winter.

HOSPITALITY HOSTS NEEDED! Sign up on the bulletin board next to the serving counter in the Fellowship Hall. There are treats in the freezer to serve if you don't bake.

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

NEW TO BETHESDA GATHERING Have you joined our community over the past year? Maybe been around for some time but have never become an official member? Whether you are interested in official membership or not, if you have been wanting to learn a little bit more about our congregation and looking to deepen your relationship with us, please join Pastor at Castaways on January 30 @ 5pm to chat and enjoy the Tuesday night "Burger Special". If you are interested or have any questions, please let Pastor James know. We hope you can join us!

UPCOMING EVENTS: February 4, Sunday afternoon 2:00, watch the movie "A Man Called Otto" and enjoy some popcorn and snacks right here at Bethesda!! Bring friends! Back by popular demand: Junk Bingo! February 18 at 2:00pm

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda **January 29, 2024 thru February 4, 2024**

Monday	1/29	11:30 am	Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	1/30	9:00 am	Chair Yoga
		5:00 pm	Get to Know Bethesda (at Castaways)
Wednesday	1/31	9:00 am	Women's Bible Study
Thursday	2/1	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		9:15 am	Chair Yoga
Sunday	2/4	9:00 am	Worship in Person or Live Stream
		2:00 pm	Movie Afternoon-"A Man Called Otto"

OPENING HYMN: “Rise, Shine, You People!”

#665 ELW

(Please rise on the last verse)



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,

we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God,

you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

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

PSALM: Psalm 111

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²**Great are your works, O LORD, pondered by all who delight in them.**

³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.

⁴You cause your wonders to be remembered; you are gracious and full of compassion.

⁵You give food to those who fear you, remembering forever your covenant.

⁶You have shown your people the power of your works in giving them the lands of the nations.

⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice; all of your precepts are sure.

⁸They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name.

¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your

knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

Glory to You, O Lord

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Cast Out, O Christ”

#1016 ACS



1 Cast out, O Christ, cast far a - way the
 2 Our rag - ing griefs, our jeal - ous fears are
 3 Once long a - go, from Gal - i - lee, you
 4 Your word breathes life and health and hope that
 5 So come, O Christ, and cast a - way the



de - mons that de - stroy: the haunt - ing dreads that
 Le - gion in their name. Our shack - led hearts im -
 sailed to storm - tossed shores. And still, in pow'r, you
 break through e - vil's thrall. You send us, strength - ened,
 de - mons that de - stroy. Trans - form our lives to



choke our souls, the hates that sti - fle joy.
 plore your grace to loose our bind - ing shame.
 brave new paths to breach our bolt - ed doors.
 home in peace to live your gos - pel call.
 sense your love and spread a - broad your joy.

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the earth. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership, that they lead with honor and mindfulness. May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer (*especially*). God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Still-speaking God, we pray for our congregation, for its artists and musicians, for its educators and caregivers, that all gifts are used to care for those in need and to live out your example of accompaniment, gospel witness, and love. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal God, we remember all who have been teachers, mentors, and companions in the church and in our lives (*especially Thomas Aquinas whom we commemorate today*). We trust that all who have died rest in your loving care. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING - *Please be seated as the Ushers pass the offering plate.*

Please stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, Holy One,

for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us.

Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son,

Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.

Come and see.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Giver of every gift,

Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✠ bless you and remain with you always.

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.

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.

Thanks be to God.

Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship!

Please come again.

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Greeters: Julie Swaggert & Dennis Hennessy

Ushers: Darrell Kelly & Dick Stebbins

Lector: Merrily Jones

Hospitality:

Thank you for your service!

Response to God’s Word Last Week:

Sunday, January 21, 2024: In Person: 9:00am 50 Online: 8