

Sunday January 7, 2024

Baptism of Our Lord



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor James Muske

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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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST: Roy Berg

BLESSING BOX The first Sunday of every month we pass the “Blessing Box”. If you feel blessed, please contribute to the Blessing Box today to help others. All donations will go to local area benevolences. Thank you! What a Blessing!

OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2024 are here! Please pick up your envelopes from the Narthex on the table heading into the Fellowship Hall.

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

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.

NATURE TRAIL CLEAN UP Lunch inside at 12:00!! Then work outdoors , perhaps a bonfire ?? We will be putting wood chips on the trail. Possible tools to bring: Rake, loppers, or chain saw For details talk to Gary!

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!

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda January 8, 2024 – January 14, 2024

Monday	1/8	9:00 am	Women’s Devotion
		11:30 am	Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	1/9	9:00 am	Chair Yoga
Wednesday	1/10	9:00 am	Women’s Bible Study
		Noon	Lunch & Nature Trail Cleanup
Thursday	1/11	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		9:15 am	Chair Yoga
		1:45 pm	Pastor visits to Blackrock & AHS
Sunday	1/14	9:00 am	Worship in Person & Live Stream

Please Stand on the last Verse

1 Arise, your light has come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God
which shines on you today.

2 Arise, your light has come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.

3 Arise, your light has come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.

4 Arise, your light has come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing,
God's pow'r will make us strong.

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

Holy God,

creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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

PSALM: Psalm 29

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

² **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God’s name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴ **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶ **the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷ The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸ **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, “Glory!”

¹⁰ **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹ O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING: Acts 19:1-7

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ³Then he said, “Into what then were you

baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” ⁴Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

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

GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11

Glory to you, O Lord

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Down Galilee’s Slow Roadway” #916 ACS



1 Down Gal - i - lee’s slow road - ways a strang - er trav - eled on
 2 A - ris - ing from the riv - er he saw the heav - ens torn;
 3 We too have found a road - way; it led us to this place.



from Naz - a - reth to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John.
 it seemed the sky so o - pen re - vealed the Spir - it’s form.
 We all have had to trav - el in search of hope and grace.



He went down to the wa - ters like sol - dier, scribe, and slave,
The ho - ly dove de - scend - ed a - mid a glo - rious voice:
But now be - side this wa - ter a - gain a voice is heard.



but there with - in the riv - er the sign was birth and grave.
“You are my own be - lov - ed, my child, my heart, my choice.”
“You are my own, my cho - sen, be - lov - ed of your Lord.”

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.

Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders *church leaders may be named* to share the truth of your word in community. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Renew your creation, God of thunder and mighty waters. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Give strength to your leaders, God who is present in every country and community. Raise up leaders committed to equity and healing. Grant them discernment and compassion as they lead in love. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Protect and cherish the most vulnerable among us, God of strength. Accompany those separated from family or hurting from broken relationships. Shelter our unhoused neighbors and any experiencing poverty. Protect those incarcerated in prisons and detention centers. Care for the sick and suffering *especially*. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Encourage this congregation, God who calls and sends disciples. Guide us in accompanying, learning from, and serving our neighbors on the margins,

following the example of Jesus. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Trusting the assurance of the Holy Spirit, we remember all who have died and rest in God's care. Give hope to those who grieve even as we rest in your eternal promise of resurrection. 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 *Please be seated for the passing of the offering plate.*

OFFERING - *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: “Wade in the Water”

#459 ELW

Refrain

Wade in the water, wade in the water, children,
wade in the water, God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.

1 See that host all dressed in white,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
the leader looks like the Israelite.
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

2 See that band all dressed in red,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
looks like the band that Moses led.
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

3 Look over yonder, what do I see?
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
the Holy Ghost a-coming on me.
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

4 If you don't believe I've been redeemed,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
just follow me down to Jordan's stream.
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

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: Barry & Donna Ansell

Ushers: Gary & Brenda Sjerven

Lector: LuAnn Gordon

Hospitality: Need Volunteers

*Thank you for your
service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week

Sunday, December 31, 2023: In Person: 9:00am 55 Online: 6