

Sunday February 25, 2024

Second Sunday in Lent



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

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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.

CALL TO WORSHIP: “Come Bring Your Burdens to God” on screen

XHOSA x 2

Woza nomthwalo wakho;
woza nomthwalo wakho;
woza nomthwalo wakho,
Uyes'akasozi hayi.

ENGLISH x 4

Come, bring your burdens to God;
come, bring your burdens to God;
come, bring your burdens to God,
for Jesus will never say no.

XHOSA

Woza nomthwalo wakho;
woza nomthwalo wakho;
woza nomthwalo wakho,
Uyes'akasozi hayi.

Text: South African; English text Barbara Clark, Mairi Munro, and Martine Stemerick
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST:



UPCOMING EVENT: Craft Supply Swap Meet. Sat. Mar. 9th from 9-noon. See the poster on the bulletin board for more information.

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.

ISLE COMMUNITY LENTEN CANTATA Performance on Good Friday, March 29, 2024, at 7:30pm. See poster in Narthex for more information. Join the choir! Rehearsals on Sundays in Lent 2:30-4:00pm (Feb 18, 25, Mar 3, 10, 17, 24)

LECTORS NEEDED we need lectors for the next following weeks of Lent. Sign-up sheets are on the table in the Narthex heading into the Fellowship Hall and include the weekly readings.

BIBLE & BREW at Camp Onomia, March 15 & 16. See the poster on the bulletin board in the Narthex for more information.

EASTER LILIES will be for sale in the Fellowship Hall after church. By one to decorate the church for Easter and to remember a loved one.

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda Feb. 25, 2024 thru Mar. 3, 2024

Monday	2/26	11:30 am	Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	2/27	9:00 am	Chair Yoga
		9:00 am	Quilters
Wednesday	2/28	9:00 am	Women's Bible Study
		5:30 pm	Potluck
		6:30 pm	Worship
Thursday	2/29	8:00 am	ROMEOs
		9:15 am	Chair Yoga
Sunday	3/3	9:00 am	Worship in Person or Live Stream

OPENING HYMN: "O Word of God Incarnate" #514 ELW
(Please rise on the last verse)



1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2 The church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine;
3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.
to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;



we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,
oh, teach your wand - ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,



a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, heavenly Father,

in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, 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: "The Goodness of God"

FIRST READING: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous."

³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”

¹⁵God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

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

PSALM: Psalm 22:23-31

²³ You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob’s line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴ **For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD’s face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶ **The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸ **For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

²⁹ Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰ **Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹ They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, “The LORD has acted!”

SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38

Glory to You, O Lord

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

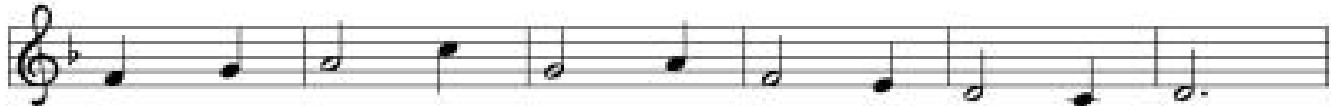
³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and

follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

SERMON

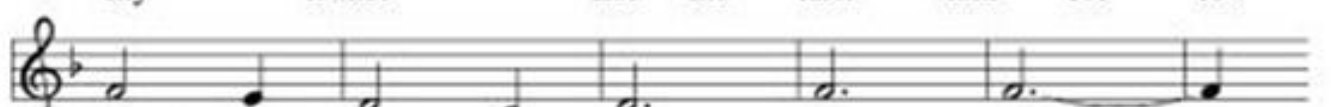
HYMN OF THE DAY: “Will You Come and Follow Me” (vs 1,2,5) #798 ELW



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



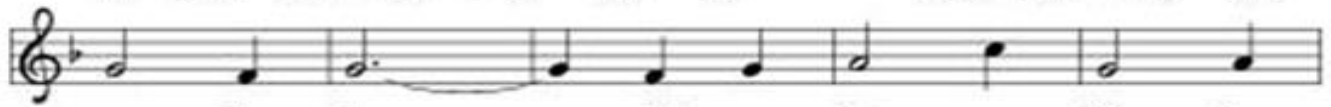
your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



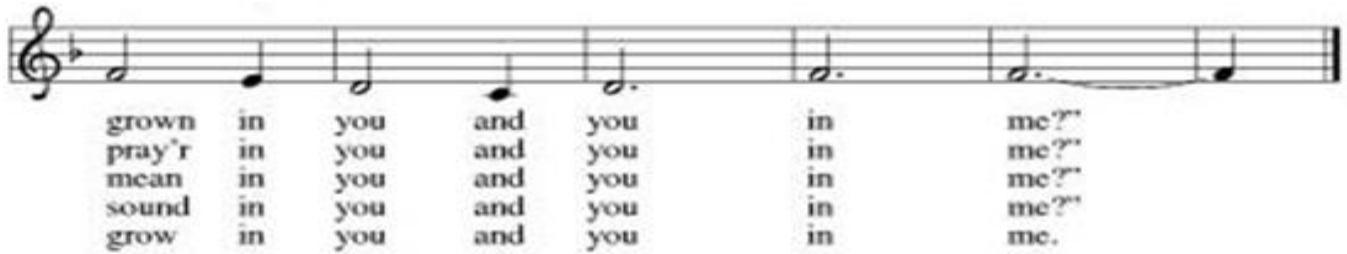
know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



Welcoming New Members to the Congregation

PRESENTATION of NEW MEMBERS

Representative/s of the congregation, and ministers gather at the font or at a convenient place before the assembly.

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

A representative of the congregation or the presiding minister may introduce each new member or household

We welcome to our congregation:

Larry & Carol Pantsari, sponsored by: Dave & Joanne Stueven

David & Libby Brown, sponsored by: Julie Swaggert & Dennis Hennessy

Brad & Penny Messer, sponsored by: Dick & Sandy Pullen

Teri Carlson, sponsored by: Wally & Bev Swenson

Linda Gomer, sponsored by: Ruth Hamman

Cliff & Sharron Roberts, sponsored by: Sylvia Tapelt

Sandy Miller, sponsored by: Shirley Gosselin

Please stand if you are able

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Address and Questions

The presiding minister addresses those being welcomed.

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Those being welcomed respond.

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God,

do you promise to support and pray for *these new members* in *their* life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

WELCOME

Those being welcomed face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

Let us welcome *these sisters and brothers* in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

PRAISE TEAM: "We Welcome You"

1. We are all Together, To call upon Your name,
There is nothing we like better,
Than to sing and give You praise.

CHORUS:

Lord, we welcome You, We welcome You,
We welcome You, Come fill this place

2. Bring healing and salvation, Let Your kingdom come,
Right here just like in heaven,
May Your will be done.

CHORUS:

Lord, we welcome You, We welcome You,
We welcome You, Come fill this place

3. Father, come fill this place, We welcome You, Jesus,
we seek Your face because
All we want to do is, Give our love to you.

CHORUS:

Lord, we welcome You, We welcome You,
We welcome You, Come fill this place,
Come fill this place, Come fill this place

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the church. Give wisdom and discernment to our bishops, pastors, deacons, teachers, and leaders. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth's waters and restore the soil. Preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife, that generations to come may cherish your creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender, ability, sexual orientation, color, ethnicity, or religion. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We turn to you for healing. Send compassionate helpers to any who suffer because of war and violence. Shelter unhoused people, befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, and console the bereaved (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ's sacrificial love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for our new members, whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We turn to you for peace. We honor the saints who lived in service to others. Inspire us by their example until you gather us into your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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

Jesus,

you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Bread for the journey.

A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God,

at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.

BLESSING

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and † give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "O Jesus, I Have Promised" (vs 1,2,4) #810 ELW



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

DISSMAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Greeters: Carolyn Morris & Sherry Whipple

Ushers: Darrell Kelly & Dick Stebbins

Lector:

Hospitality: Darlene Christensen, Patti Smith, Julie Swaggert

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week:

Sunday, February 18, 2024: In Person: 9:00am 63 Online: 8