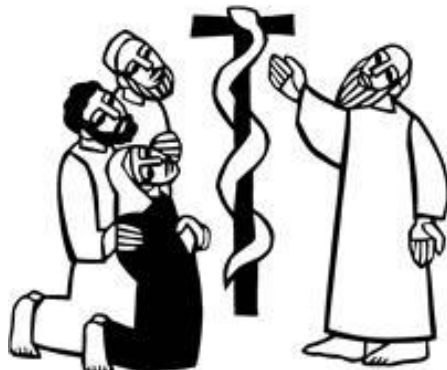


Sunday March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Lent



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

Church Web Site: 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.

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:

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 weekly Sunday readings. Sign-up sheets are on the table in the Narthex heading into the Fellowship Hall and include the weekly readings.

LOAVES & FISHES We will be participating in “Loaves and Fishes” on Monday, March 18th at First Lutheran in Aitkin. We are in charge of desserts; so we will be bagging cookies after worship today. The signup sheet is on the table in the Narthex. Thank you all for baking and participating in this community service. If you’re interested in joining us in this mission at First Lutheran from 1:30-5:00, please give Julie Swaggert a call or email. Julie Swaggert. 763-229-9121 jswaggert@gmail.com

CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY MEETING: The group that participated in a cross-cultural trip out to Pine Ridge, South Dakota last summer is hosting a

meeting on **Thursday, March 21 at 1:00pm**. We warmly invite **any** interested folks to attend and discuss with us other possible cross-cultural educational opportunities and ministry ideas for our church. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor James.

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

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda March 11, 2024 thru March 17, 2024

Monday	3/11	9:00 am	Women’s Devotion
		11:30 am	Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	3/12	9:00 am	Chair Yoga
		9:00 am	Quilters
Wednesday	3/13	9:00 am	Women’s Bible Study
		5:30 pm	Potluck
		6:30 pm	Worship
Thursday	3/14	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		9:15 am	Chair Yoga
Sunday	3/17	9:00 am	Worship in Person or Live Stream

OPENING HYMN: **“Just As I Am”** **#592 ELW**
(Please rise on the last verse)



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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

O God, rich in mercy,

by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and

they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

PSALM: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God’s mercy endures forever.

² **Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

³ gathering them in from the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷ **Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.**

¹⁸ They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death’s door.

¹⁹ **Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD and you delivered them from their distress.**

²⁰ You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.

²¹ **Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.**

²² Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God,

who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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

GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

Glory to You, O Lord

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

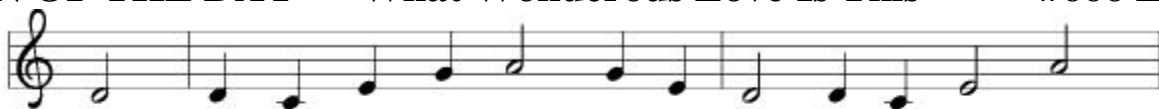
¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “What Wonderful Love Is This” #666 ELW



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

APOSTLES' CREED
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.

Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war (*areas in crisis may be named*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers (*local water sources may be named*). Make us good stewards of the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love (*especially Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, renewers of society, whom we commemorate today*). Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith are made alive in Christ. We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. 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: "Travelers on the Journey" Dakota Road

We are trav - 'lers on the jour - ney, yearn - ing to
be - lieve. Hearts are burn - ing, eyes are o - pen.
We are trav - 'lers on the jour - ney of love.
What is life real - ly all a - bout in the strug - gle of
Do we walk in our foolish - ness with our hearts ev - er
We are blessed in the gath - er - ing at the ta - ble of
faith? slow grace. Hear the word to the touch Free to see reach - ing out to you, of the Ho - ly One in an - oth - er's pain the

Je - sus is a - live to - day. _____
 who is with us on this road? _____
 face of Je - sus here to - day. _____

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: Wally & Bev Swenson

Ushers: Barry & Donna Ansell

Lector: Kathy Carlson

Hospitality: David & Libby Brown, Denny & Lynn Meidlinger,
 Larry & Carol Pantsari

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week:

Sunday, March 3, 2024: In Person: 9:00am 73 Online: 28

Wednesday, March 6, 2024: In Person: 6:30pm 27 Online: 5