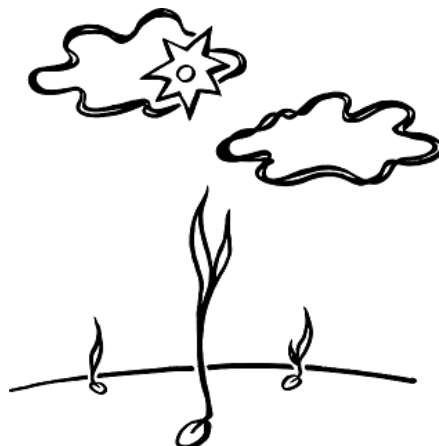


# Sunday March 17, 2024

## Fifth 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](mailto:blcmalmo@gmail.com)

Church Web Site: [blcmalmo.org](http://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:** Dean Malotky, Mary Swanson, Jim Schmidt

**ISLE COMMUNITY LENTEN CANTATA** Performance on Good Friday, March 29, 2024, at 7:30pm. See poster in Narthex for more information.

**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” tomorrow at First Lutheran in Aitkin. We will be bagging cookies after worship today. 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](mailto: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.

**RAFFLE BASKET** Worship & Music has a raffle basket available to buy chances on. Check out the items from Clear Lake Gardens in the Fellowship Hall; \$1/ticket. Enter as many times as you like.

**ECOFAITH SUMMIT 2024** Saturday, April 6, from 9am-4pm at First Lutheran Church in Duluth. For more information, see the poster on the bulletin board in Narthex for more information.

**EASTER LILIES** today is the last Sunday you can sign up to purchase lilies for Easter.

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**THIS WEEK AT Bethesda      March 18, 2024 thru March 24, 2024**

Monday	3/18	10:00 am	Council Meeting
		11:30 am	Pinochle
		1:30-5:00 pm	Loaves & Fishes, First Lutheran
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	3/19	9:00 am	Chair Yoga
Wednesday	3/20	9-Noon	WIC
		9:00 am	Women's Bible Study
		5:30 pm	Potluck
		6:30 pm	Worship
Thursday	3/21	8:00 am	ROMEOs
		9:15 am	Chair Yoga
		1:00 pm	Cross-Cultural Ministry meeting
Sunday	3/24	9:00 am	Palm Sunday-Worship in Person or Live Stream

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**OPENING HYMN:      "O God, Who Gives Us Life"      #1086 ACS**

*(Please rise on the 3<sup>rd</sup> verse)*



1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,  
2 O God, who calls your peo - ple out to ven - ture and to dare,  
3 O God of cov - e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:  
to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:  
your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.  
when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,  
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.  
re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.  
as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944  
Music: NOEL, English melody; arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900  
Text © 1990 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

## 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,

**with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

## **PSALM: Psalm 51:1-12**

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup> **Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup> For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup> **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother’s womb.

<sup>6</sup> **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

<sup>7</sup> Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

<sup>8</sup> **Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup> **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup> **Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

## **SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10**

<sup>5</sup>Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you”;

<sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

<sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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

## **GOSPEL: John 12:20-33**

**Glory to You, O Lord**

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.

<sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip

went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

<sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has

come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup> Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup> He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY “Now the Green Blade Rises” #379 ELW**



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958  
 Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol  
 Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

**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.*

God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children (*organizations may be named*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation (*specific ministries may be named*). Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us (*especially Patrick, missionary to Ireland, whom we commemorate today*). Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love. 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:**

**“Lift High the Cross”**

**#660 ELW**



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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**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: Julie Swaggert & Dennis Hennessy

Ushers: Darrell Kelly & Dick Stebbins

Lector: Darlene Christensen

Hospitality: Brenda & Gary Sjerven

**Thank you for your service!**

Response to God's Word Last Week:

Sunday, March 10, 2024: In Person: 9:00am 57 Online: 23

Wednesday, March 13, 2024: In Person: 6:30pm 30 Online: 6