

**Sunday May 5, 2024**

**Sixth Sunday in Easter**



**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

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:** Gary Sjerven

**HELPING HANDS:** We are restarting our Helping Hands Group. This group would lend a hand of light chores to our neighbors in need. This might include yard work and cleaning. We are looking for people who would like to join our group. A sign up sheet is in the Narthex if you would like to help. If you are aware of someone who could use help, contact Lee Forrester at 651-271-2186. Thanks. Lee

**COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED** Please sign up so we may continue to enjoy coffee & fellowship after service. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board mounted in fellowship hall next to the serving window.

**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.

**RAFFLE BASKET** Mission & Evangelism has a “Spring Flower Basket” for raffle this month! Tickets are \$1/each and enter as many times as you want. Proceeds will go towards advertising costs throughout the year.

**PLASTIC BAG RECYCLE** The Malmo Lions will take your used plastic grocery bags. There is a box on the bench in the office to recycle your plastic bags.

**ANNUAL JELLY MAKING DAY** is set for Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am.

**CHRISTIAN WOMEN’S CLUB** For women of any ages. May 16<sup>th</sup>, 12:30pm at Tulibee Tavern in Wahkon. Lunch & Speaker: \$15.75. For more information, see the bulletin board in the Narthex. Call Lois Johnson for reservations 320 674-0136

**CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY** is scheduled for Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00am. Yard work & window washing.

**LOAVES & FISHES** Bethesda’s next opportunity to volunteer at First Lutheran in Aitkin for the Monday night Loaves and Fishes community meal is MAY 20<sup>th</sup>. We need **6 volunteers** with 2-3 coming early (2pm) to help prep the meal and 3 more to come at 3-5:30 to help pack, serve and clean up. We will be finished by 5:30pm. **Volunteers are needed to make cookies** and to help pack them up after church on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. We will have a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for cookie baking! Please let me know if you would like to

help with the meal on Monday May 20<sup>th</sup>. Thanks in advance for your service!  
 Julie Swaggert, 763-229-9121 or [jswaggert@gmail.com](mailto:jswaggert@gmail.com)

**MINNESOTA ARBORETUM DAY TRIP** Anybody Interested?? Tentative Date: a Wednesday in May. We're thinking of Carpooling. Can you drive or would you like to ride with someone? Sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

<b><u>THIS WEEK AT Bethesda</u></b>			<b><u>May 6, 2024 – May 12, 2024</u></b>
Monday	5/6	8:00 am	Jelly Making
		11:30 am	Card Players
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	5/7	9:00 am	Chair Yoga
		4:00 pm	Bell Practice
		5:30 pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday	5/8	9:00 am	Women's Bible Study
Thursday	5/9	8:00 am	ROMEOs
		9:15 am	Chair Yoga
		10:00 am	Kitchen Cleanup
Sunday	5/12	9:00 am	Worship in Person & Live Stream <i>Mother's Day</i>

**TEMPLE TALK: Mission & Evangelism**

**OPENING HYMN: “God We Gather As Your People” #1038 ACS**

*(Please Stand on the last Verse)*



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -  
 2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be -  
 3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and  
 4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.  
 free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,  
 shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.  
 wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.

Though the day may not yet be here, we  
 that they nev - er have a rea - son to  
 May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your  
 As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they

trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.  
 doubt that they are blest, May they, in your love, find rest.  
 love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.  
 join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.

*Refrain*

Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen  
 wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.

For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -  
 long. May that wel - come be our song.

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld

Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*O God,*

**you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM: "Rain On Me"**

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## **SCRIPTURE**

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### **FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48**

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of

Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

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

**PSALM: Psalm 98**

<sup>1</sup> Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

<sup>2</sup> **O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup> You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

<sup>4</sup> **Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

<sup>5</sup> Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

<sup>6</sup> **With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

<sup>8</sup> **Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**

<sup>9</sup> The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

**SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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

## GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

### Glory to You, O Lord

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

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

## SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY: “In Christ There Is No East or West” #650 ELW**

*(3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> verses speed up)*



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,  
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - 'ry - where their high com - mu - nion find;  
3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what - e'er your race may be.  
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through - out the whole wide earth.  
his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man - kind.  
All chil - dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.  
all Christ - ly souls are one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

## APOSTLES' CREED

### PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. (*We pray especially for . . . .*) God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation (*ministries may be named*), that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered*

Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us (*especially*). At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**



Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated for the passing of the offering plate*

**OFFERING** - *Please stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Risen One,

**you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **INVITATION to COMMUNION**

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's table.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Shepherding God,

**you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love.**

**Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

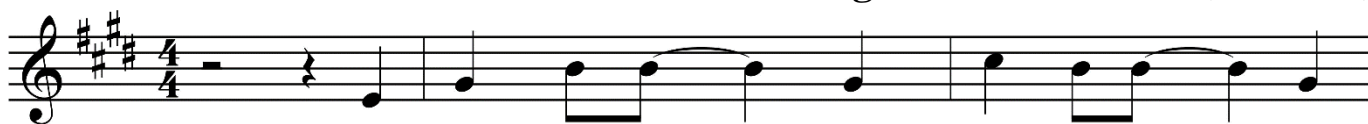
Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN: "Your Love is Everlasting" Dakota Road (on screen)**



Since time be - gan, through cent - ur - ies God's  
 A moth - ers womb, a brand new life God's  
 Signs of hope, a voice of peace God's



love is ev - er - last - ing. To dis - tant un - known  
 love is ev - er - last - ing. An emp - ty tomb, the  
 love is ev - er - last - ing. The pro - phet's cry for



gal - ax - ies God's love is ev - er - last - ing.  
 ri - sen Christ God's love is ev - er - last - ing.  
 war to cease God's love is ev - er - last - ing. For the



Splen - dor springs forth 'cross the land God's  
 Weep - ing may last for the night God's  
 down and out and high and proud God's



love is ev - er - last - ing. A - bun - dance, shar - ing  
 love is ev - er - last - ing. But joy breaks forth with  
 love is ev - er - last - ing. Come all you peo - ple



hand in hand God's love is ev - er - last - ing. Your  
 morn - ing light God's love is ev - er - last - ing.  
 shout out loud God's love is ev - er - last - ing.



love (your love) is last - ing, your love is ev - er - last - ing. Your



love (your love) is last - ing, your love is ev - er - last - ing.

## **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God Alleluia!**

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

*Please come again.*

## **THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Ushers: Mary & Mark Vukelich

Greeters: Darrell Kelly & Dick Stebbins

Lector: Merrily Jones

Hospitality: Elsa & Chuck Carlson, Barb & Lee Forrester

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week

Sunday, April 28, 2024: In Person: 9:00am 72 Online: 20