

---

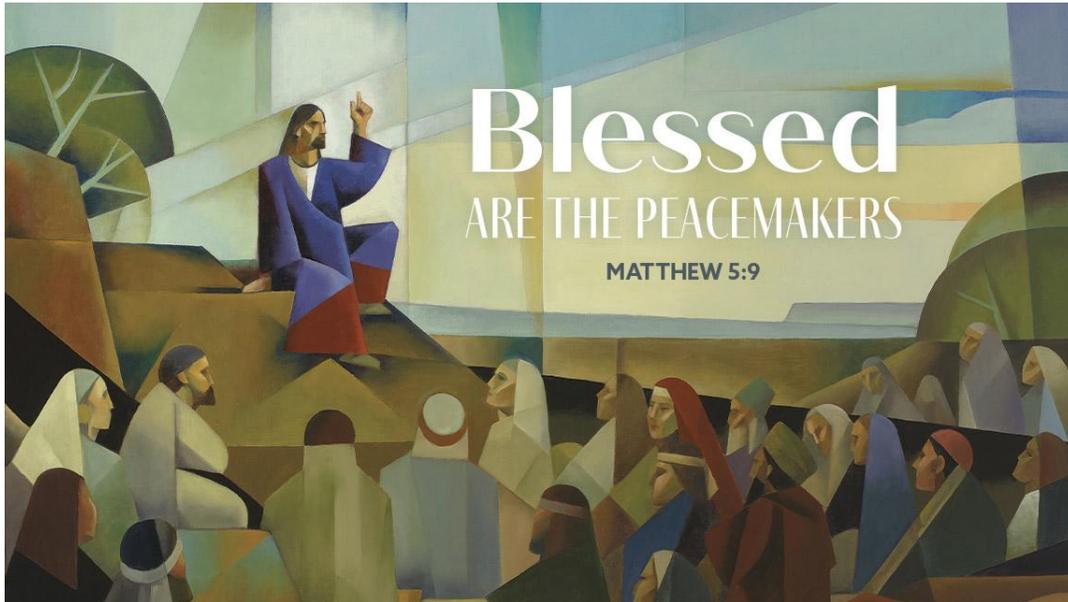
# BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

9:00 a.m.

---



## Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

*We are a community that is passionate about sharing the love of Jesus Christ, and we provide as many opportunities as we can to help everyone grow spiritually and in loving service to the community and the world.*

*We're glad you're here. We are a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and celebrate the work we're able to do together.  
(to learn more about the ELCA visit [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)).*

*Those joining worship online, whether live or later in the week, are invited to prepare their worship space by creating a home altar. You might include meaningful linens, candles, a cross, enough bread or crackers and wine or juice for everyone at your table, and anything that helps you engage more fully in worship. This altar becomes a gathering place for prayers, songs, communion, and a shared sense of God's presence in your home.*

✝ **GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE** ✝

~ ***The gathering responds together with texts in bold print*** ~

### WELCOME

### LIFE TOGETHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Find the full list of Life Together announcements near the end of the bulletin.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Mighty God, lover of justice,

**you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

### Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One,  
give thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ, his Son.  
Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One,  
give thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ, his Son.  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am  
rich;" be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. And  
now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am  
rich;" be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

*Last time*

Text: Henry Smith  
Music: GIVE THANKS, Henry Smith

Text and music © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP). All rights reserved. International © secured.

### GREETING

The immeasurable grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the rich mercy and love of God, and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, **you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**  
**Amen.**

## ✠ HEARING GOD'S WORD ✠

### SCRIPTURE READING

**Micah 6:1-8**

*With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.*

A reading from Micah

<sup>1</sup> Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup> Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the Lord has a case against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup> "O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup> For I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup> O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

<sup>6</sup> "With what shall I come before the Lord  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup> Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 15

<sup>1</sup> Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup> **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,  
who speak the truth from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup> they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup> **In their sight the wicked are rejected,  
but they honor those who fear the Lord.**

**They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

<sup>5</sup> They do not give their money in hope of gain,  
nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

## SCRIPTURE READING

## 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

*According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.*

A reading from 1 Corinthians

<sup>18</sup> The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup> Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL

## Matthew 5:1-12

*Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

This is the story of God's unconditional love flowing down. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

This is the story of grace upon grace that covers us. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

Reverend Christina Kadelbach

### Let Streams of Living Justice

1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
 2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
 3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;  
 give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
 for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
 your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.  
 The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,  
 Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;  
 Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,  
 the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.  
 on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
 our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.  
 Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;  
 O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
 In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;  
 a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.  
 dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.  
 your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934  
 Music: THAXTED: Gustav Holst, 1874–1934  
 Text © 1989 William Whitla.

‡ SHARING & RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF GOD ‡

**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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

*Each petition ends with: Merciful God,  
The gathering responds: **receive our prayer.***

*The prayers conclude:*

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

**PEACE**

May Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, fill you with unconditional love, mend you with mercy, and grant you perfect peace. **And also with you.**

*We are changed by Christ's peace and now we have the holy opportunity to extend that peace to others.*

**OFFERING**

*Giving is an act of worship our response to God's goodness and grace.*

*Your gifts support the ministry of Bethesda Lutheran Church and extend God's love into the world. During this time the table is set.*

*For the healing of this world, let us give our tithes and offerings.*

Ways to Give:

- Give electronically through Vanco Services.
- Use the giving app by scanning the QR code.
- Recurring or one-time online options <https://app.autobooks.co/pay/bethesda-lutheran-church-of-malmo>



*Thank you for your faithful and generous support.*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

God of majesty, **no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*The presiding minister leads the words of institution.*

*The gathering responds: **Amen.***

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, as our Savior taught us, so we pray: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Holy Communion is a gift of grace, where we receive the presence of Jesus in bread and wine and are reminded that we are deeply loved. All who hunger for mercy and hope are welcome at this feast. Jesus is the host, and the invitation is wide. Even across time and space, God is present in these gifts, and we, the community, are present to one another.*

## COMMUNION VIDEO "Blessed are the Merciful"

*YouTube video The Porter's Gate - Blessed Are The Merciful.  
[www.portersgateworship.com](http://www.portersgateworship.com).*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Radiant God, **we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ **SENDING** ✠

## BLESSING

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**



## The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in  
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the  
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter  
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel

Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings  
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to  
 joy like seed and, all our days, to  
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -

to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.  
 share a dream and help the blind to see.  
 cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.  
 pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, 088, b. 1939  
 Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820  
 Text © 1993 Delores Dufner. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.  
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

*We're so glad you joined us for worship today.  
 Wherever life finds you, know that this community welcomes you with open hearts.*

*Acknowledgements: Texts and hymns from [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com) copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # SAS028183. New Revised Standard Version updated edition Bible Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Additional Liturgical texts adapted for Bethesda Lutheran by Reverend Christina Kadelbach. Cover Image: Sermon on the Mount by Jorge Cocco Santángelo. Copyright © Jorge Cocco Santángelo. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the artist.*

## **LIFE TOGETHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Life together announcements reflect the shared life of our congregation by highlighting upcoming events, service opportunities, and ways we continue to grow in faith together.*

*We invite you to read through what's ahead and participate as you are able. Your presence matters.*

**PRAYER & CARE LIST** Jim Christensen, Jo DeFeyter, Carolyn Morris, Sherry Whipple

*As a community of faith, we are committed to holding one another in prayer and care. We invite you to pray for those listed here and offer support as you are able.*

*To request prayers for yourself or someone else (with their permission).*

*Please get in touch with the church office.*

**WELCOME** Friends in Christ, we're glad you're here. Your presence is a gift to this community. If you would like us to be in touch or want to learn more about Bethesda, you're welcome to share your name in the friendship/welcome notebook.

**CHILDREN WELCOME** Children are a gift in worship and are welcome at Holy Communion. We trust that worship belongs to people of all ages. A quieter, unstaffed nursery is available through the double doors to the left when exiting the sanctuary. Children's bulletins and activity bags are available in the narthex.

**WELCOME NOTEBOOK** Please take a moment to sign the friendship notebook in the black folder at the end of your pew. Passing it along is a simple act of hospitality that helps us learn one another's names and extend the warmth of Christ's welcome to all.

**NAME TAGS** Help your neighbors, and your pastor, remember your name! Name tags make it easier to connect and grow together in community. Sticker name tags are available near the guest book at the main entrance.

**PASTORAL CARE** Caring for one another is part of who we are. If you are hospitalized or going through a difficult time, please let Pastor Christina or one of our parish nurses know. We would be honored to support you.

**COFFEE HOSPITALITY** Coffee and conversation are part of how we care for one another. If you'd like to help serve coffee or share a treat, your presence makes a difference. Sign-up information is available, and contributions for the freezer are always welcome.

**LECTORS** Thank you to those who share their voices in the reading of Scripture. Newly updated readings for upcoming weeks are available on the table in the narthex.

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS** The ministry of serving Holy Communion is shared by many. If you are interested in serving at the table, Pastor Christina would love to visit with you. Please contact the church office to begin the conversation.

**FREE-BEE MARKET** A Facebook group where generosity gathers and good gifts are shared. Join our local community in giving freely, receiving gratefully, and passing along blessings. Find us on the Bethesda Facebook page under Groups, or comment on the post to be added.

**SEASONS OF LIFE** February 11<sup>th</sup> | 11:00 a.m.–Noon Health Care Directives  
Save the dates:

- March 11 – Hospice
- April 15 – Funeral Planning

**JUNK BINGO Sunday, February 15 | 2:00–4:00 p.m.** Junk Bingo is back! Come for the Bingo, stay for the laughs, and leave with a treasure you didn't know you needed. Friends and neighbors welcome. We play by freewill offering, with proceeds supporting the Bethesda's mission and evangelism benevolence ministries.

Do you have items that need a new home? Drop off games, toys, and fun finds at the church from February 9<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> to be featured on the prize tables.

Bonus: we're also looking for a Bingo caller—volunteers encouraged!

Contact Joanne S. for details.

**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST** Tuesday, February 17 | 9:00 a.m. Join us for pancakes, bacon, sausage, fruit, and good company as we prepare our hearts for Lent. Hosted by Mary B. and Pastor. No cost, just come and enjoy!

### **LENTEN WORSHIP & FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES**

- **Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> 12:00 pm.**  
Worship with the imposition of ashes begins at 12:00 pm, followed by a potluck lunch.
- **Wednesday Midweek Lenten Worship at Noon** (following Ash Wednesday)  
Wednesdays, February 25<sup>th</sup> through March 25<sup>th</sup>  
Our worship will be guided by the Holden Evening Prayer  
Potluck lunch to follow.  
The noon worship will be live-streamed each week.
- **Lenten Devotional Booklets**  
Devotional booklets will be available beginning on Ash Wednesday. These weekly devotions follow the scriptures of the *Tell Me Something Good* series through Easter Sunday and include commentary, poetry, visual art, hymns, written reflections, and prayer and conversation prompts.

### **RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK**

Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> In person: 48 Online: 24

### **THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA**

#### **Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**

11:30 am Pinochle

7:00 pm AA/Alanon

#### **Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

9:00 am Chair Yoga

#### **Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am Women's Bible Study

#### **Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 am ROMEOS (Men's fellowship & study)

9:15 am Chair Yoga

#### **Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany**

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

**Bethesda Lutheran Church blcmalmo.org**

Office: 320-684-2123 (1-877-684-2123)

Fax: 320-684-2836

E-mail address: blcmalmo@gmail.com

*A member congregation of the NE MN Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

**Ministers:** All People of Bethesda Lutheran Church

**Pastoral Ministries:** Reverend Christina Kadelbach  
[blc.reverend@gmail.com](mailto:blc.reverend@gmail.com) 218-213-6731

**Church Secretary:** Mary Braun

**Music & Sound Technician:** Jim Christensen

**Parish Nurses:** Darlene Christensen, RN, Kathy Berland RN ANP

**Prayer Chain Contacts:** Char Berg 320-684-2102 or  
Darlene Christensen 320-279-0097

**February Altar Care:** Winnie Zahradka & Sylvia Tapelt

**Ushers:** Mark & Mary Vukelich

**Greeters:** Judie Birk & Darrell Kelly

**Lector:** Karen Elias

**Hospitality:** Cindy & Rocky VanVickle, Darlene Christensen

**Serving on February 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Ushers:** Barry & Donna Ansell

**Greeters:** Mary Braun & Linda Gommer

**Lector:** Merrily Jones

**Hospitality:** Bob & Kat Carlson, Bev Wedig, Lynn & Denny Meidlinger