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# BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

9:00 AM

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## First Sunday in Lent



the good news is...

**so good, it catches  
us by surprise**

*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, either 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.*

*For this Ash Wednesday worship, you are invited to participate in the imposition of ashes. If you have ashes available, perhaps from a fireplace, burned paper, or last year's palms, you may mark your forehead (or hand) or that of another, with the sign of the cross. If ashes are not available, use a small amount of soil or simply trace the sign of the cross.*

### ✠ GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE ✠

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

#### **WELCOME**

*Good morning, and welcome to worship on this first Sunday in Lent. It is a gift to be gathered together. Lent often begins with images of wilderness and reflection, yet today we are met with a surprising kind of good news. In John's gospel, Jesus begins his ministry not in scarcity but at a wedding feast, turning water into wine and revealing a joy that cannot be contained. From the very beginning, the kingdom of God unfolds with abundance, delight, and holy surprise. As we enter this Lenten season together, we do so trusting that the good news of Christ is rooted in love and worthy of celebration. It may stretch us and deepen us in the weeks ahead, yet it also nourishes and sustains us. Like a small seed growing into something expansive and life-giving, God's grace continues to unfold among us. I'm so glad you are here as we begin this journey together.*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

The good news of the gospel is: **manna in the desert, water turned into wine, love after loss, forgiveness after pain.**

The good news of the gospel is: **release for the captive, hope for the hopeless, mourning turned to dancing, and strangers turned to friends.**

So come on in. There's no time to waste! This surprising good news is here for you. **Let us worship this good-news God.**

## **LIFE TOGETHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

You may have heard, "All is fair in love and war,"  
or "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."

But God says, "Forgive seventy times seven."

God says, "I am slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."

God says, "Turn the other cheek."

God's mercy catches us by surprise.

So with wonder and gratitude, let us go to God in prayer.

Let us be surprised by God's grace all over again.

Friends, let us pray:

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Loving God, somewhere along the way we picked up the message that in order to be faithful, we have to be serious.**

**We have to pray on our knees without ceasing.**

**We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies.**

**We have to check our wiggles and our questions at the door.**

**But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed— unruly and untamed. You turn water into wine— surprising and extravagant. And all of a sudden, we wonder:**

**Can we be like that mustard seed?**

**Can we be faithful and unruly?**

**Can we be playful and curious?**

**Can we be messy and still be yours?**

**We know the answer already.**

**The Spirit whispers: *of course, of course, of course.* Forgive our doubt.**

**Pull us closer into your embrace.**

**With faith like a mustard seed, we pray. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

God's grace is wild and unruly. God's mercy is abundant and surprising.

God's love is expansive and unending. So if you ask, "Holy One, am I forgiven?"

the answer is and always will be: **of course, of course, of course.**

This is the good news of the gospel. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**



- 1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.
- 2 "Come to me, all trav-'lers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.
- 3 "Come to me, be - liev-ers bur - dened; find re - fresh-ment in this place.
- 4 "Come to me, re - pen-tant sin - ners; leave be - hind your guilt and shame.



If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live."  
 Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest."  
 Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face."  
 Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion, turn to me, I call your name."

*Refrain*



Je - sus, ev - er - flow - ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.



In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

- |  |   |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 "Come to me, distressed and needy;<br/>I would be your trusted friend.<br/>Come and seek the gift I offer,<br/>come, your open hands extend." <i>Refrain</i></li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;<br/>lonely ways no longer roam.<br/>Come and take the gift I offer,<br/>let me make in you my home." <i>Refrain</i></li> </ol> |
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Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939  
 Music: BEACH SPRING, The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844  
 Text © 1992, 1996 Sisters of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN

## 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 FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One,

**it is easy to see the mustard plant and forget to marvel at the seed.**

**It is easy to taste good wine and not appreciate it.**

**It is easy to miss the holy that is in our midst.**

**So as we turn to your text today, we pray, surprise us. Speak to us.**

**Move through us. Draw us closer to your good news.**

**We wait with bated breath. Amen.**

## ✠ HEARING GOD'S WORD ✠

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

**John 2:1-11, Matthew 13:31-32**

The holy gospel according to John

These are the stories of grace flowing down. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup>Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup>When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." <sup>4</sup>And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come." <sup>5</sup>His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." <sup>6</sup>Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup>He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet." So they took it. <sup>9</sup>When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup>and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." <sup>11</sup>Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

The holy gospel according to Matthew

<sup>31</sup>He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup>it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

These are the stories of grace that cover us. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### REFLECTION

**Reverend Christina Kadelbach**



# We Come to the Hungry Feast

ELW 479



1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.  
2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased  
3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,



To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is  
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,  
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay



not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.  
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.  
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943  
Music: HUNGRY FEAST, Ray Makeever  
Text and music © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## ✠ SHARING & RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF GOD ✠

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.**

**It sounds like welcome  
and feels like home.**

**It sounds like laughter  
and feels like mercy.**

**It sounds like love  
and feels like a seat at the table,  
so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.  
I have seen it alive in the world.**

**And even when my heart aches,  
even when wars rage,  
even when mercy feels out of reach,  
I remember the one who  
welcomed the children and led with nonviolence.**

**I remember the one who  
cared for the vulnerable  
and inspired those around him.  
I remember that the good news really is good news,  
for I have seen it alive in the world.  
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joy-spreading God,  
**we love to imagine you at a wedding,**

your throat hoarse from laughter, feet tired from dancing,  
brow damp from the warmth of the day.

**We love to imagine you turning water into wine,**  
people passing glasses, quenching their thirst,  
delighting in every joy-filled, holy moment.

**We love to imagine that this is how your ministry began—**  
with celebration and joy, with banquet tables and laughter—  
because we crave more of those moments ourselves.

**We live in a world that seems to run out of joy.**

The news is a rotating blur of heartache.

Our hearts carry fear and grief, anxiety and loss.

For example, we find ourselves praying for . . .

*Pastor lifts up prayers reflecting the wideness of God's mercy for the whole world...*

We pray for those who are caught in war-torn areas.

For those who are spending their Sundays in a hospital room.

For those who push through waves of depression every day, or struggle to manage  
illness or addiction. . .

Holy God, we live in a world that is overflowing with hard news,  
and we crave a piece of your joy.

So on our lowest days, and in our bleakest moments,

**remind us that your ministry started with a small miracle.**

On the longest nights, **remind us that we are never alone.**

When joy wears thin, **remind us that you call us by name.**

When hope flickers, **remind us that you hear our prayers.**

And when the weight of the world feels too heavy,

**remind us that the heart of the gospel really is good news. 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**

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. In every season you speak good news. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Gather us at this table of grace.

**Through these gifts of bread and wine, tell us again the good news of Jesus, his life poured out for the world, his love alive among us, his promise renewing all things. Shape us to carry this good news into our days, so that what we receive here may be lived and shared beyond these walls. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

*The presiding minister gives thanks and leads the words of institution.*

*The gathering responds: Amen.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Grounded in the good news of God's abundant mercy, 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.*

Come to the table. Come and receive the good news made tangible

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Bread for the journey, grace for your life, love that sustains the world.

## **COMMUNION SONG**

*"Room at the Table" by Carrie Newcomer*

## **BLESSING & PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.

Let us pray. God of dust and promise, **we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ **SENDING** ✠

## BLESSING

As you leave this place, when you meet anger, speak with love. When you meet fear, speak with hope. When you meet pain, speak with gentleness. But no matter what, speak this good news. For the good news of the gospel is love and justice for all. It is joy that surprises, and nonviolence that transforms. May the triune God † bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

ELW 808



1 *Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;*  
1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;  
2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.  
3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,  
4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;



*Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an - non - cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,*  
I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:  
May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.  
to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.  
but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.



*car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:*  
you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.  
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.  
For all saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.  
And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,



*Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.*  
Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.  
Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.  
As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.  
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

## DISMISSAL

The good news of the gospel is alive in the world, so go forth speaking.  
For if you won't, then who will? **Thanks be to God for this good, good news.**

*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. Graphic Design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org) Hymn lyrics by Rev. Anna Strickland | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org) Liturgy by Dr. Cláudio Carvalhaes | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)*

## **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, Sherry Whipple, Pam Dugdale

*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 we celebrate 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 the 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.

**SEASONS OF LIFE** • March 11 – Hospice • April 15 – Funeral Planning

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

- **Wednesday Midweek Lenten Worship at Noon**

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 are available. 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, February 15<sup>th</sup> In person: 76 Online: 33

### **THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA**

#### **Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**

11:30 am Pinochle

7:00 pm AA/Alanon

#### **Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am Chair Yoga

9:00 am Quilting

#### **Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am Women's Bible Study

12:00 pm Midweek Lenten worship, Potluck to follow

#### **Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**

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

9:15 am Chair Yoga

#### **Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, Second Sunday in Lent**

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

### **Bethesda Lutheran Church [blcmalmo.org](http://blcmalmo.org)**

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

Fax: 320-684-2836

E-mail address: [blcmalmo@gmail.com](mailto: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:** Barry & Donna Ansell

**Greeters:** Bev & Wally Swenson

**Lector:** Darlene Christensen

**Hospitality:**

#### **Serving on March 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Ushers:** Barry & Donna Ansell

**Greeters:** Bev & Wally Swenson

**Lector:** Merrily Jones

**Hospitality:**

**Presiding Pastor:** Pastor Deb Hanson-Carlson

**March Altar Care:** Elsa Carlson, Kat Carlson