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# BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

9:00 a.m.

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the good news is...

protection & care for  
the vulnerable

*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**

*Good morning, and welcome to worship. On this fourth Sunday in Lent, we gather around a story of radical welcome and tender care. When the disciples tried to turn the children away, Jesus stopped them, drawing the little ones close and blessing them, reminding those around him that the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Today we remember that the good news is protection and care for the vulnerable. To follow Jesus is to turn toward those who are overlooked, underestimated, or pushed aside, the child, the stranger, the immigrant, the one without a voice. In every act of protection, every gesture of care, God's love takes shape among us. As we worship, may our hearts be opened again to the tender love of a God who sees the least of these and may we, in turn, be moved to see them too.*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

God loves the field mouse.

**God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.**

God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.

**God loves the child who rocks and claps.**

God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.

**God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.**

God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.

**God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens,  
standing strong over all of us.**

God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.

**There is no bit of creation that God does not love.**

So let us worship this good-news God! **Amen.**

## **LIFE TOGETHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Family of Faith, every week we pray the Prayer of Confession, because every week we need to be reminded of God's abundant grace.

Every week we need to be reminded of God's love.

Every week we need to be reminded that we too can grow and change.

So join me in this moment of honesty as we seek transformation.

Friends, let us pray:

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

*Includes scripture verses from Leviticus 19:33, Matthew 5:9, Deuteronomy 24:21, Matthew 19:14, and Isaiah 43:1.*

God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them."

**Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.**

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

**We confess, we have clung to guns and war  
more than we have pursued peace.**

God said, "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow."

**We confess, we have hoarded our resources and  
failed to care for our neighbors.**

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them."

**We confess, we have gatekept the good news in unfair ways.**

Fortunately for all of us, God also said, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine."

**By God's grace, despite our sin and shortcomings,  
we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.**

May this good news change our lives! **Amen.**

# I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

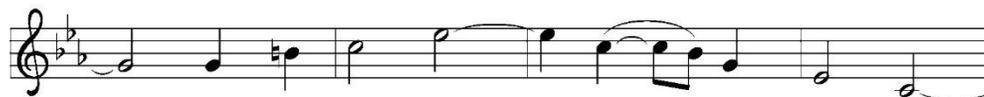
ELW 325



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

## 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, **sometimes the simplest of your commands are the hardest for us to hear. You say, "Love your enemy." "Turn the other cheek." "Care for the widow and the orphan." And we want to know: How? When? Where? Today as we turn to your word, open up space in us to simply hear your truth for what it is. Open up space in our hearts to dream new dreams, to imagine new realities, to draw closer to you and closer to love. With hope for a better tomorrow, we listen, we pray. Amen.**

## ✠ HEARING GOD'S WORD ✠

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Deuteronomy 24:17-22**

A reading from Deuteronomy

<sup>17</sup>"You shall not deprive a resident alien or an orphan of justice; you shall not take a widow's garment in pledge. <sup>18</sup>Remember that you were a slave in Egypt and

the Lord your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this.

<sup>19</sup>“When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be left for the alien, the orphan, and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all your undertakings. <sup>20</sup>When you beat your olive trees, do not strip what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow.

<sup>21</sup>“When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow. <sup>22</sup>Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I am commanding you to do this.

Word of God. Word of life. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

**Matthew 19:13-15**

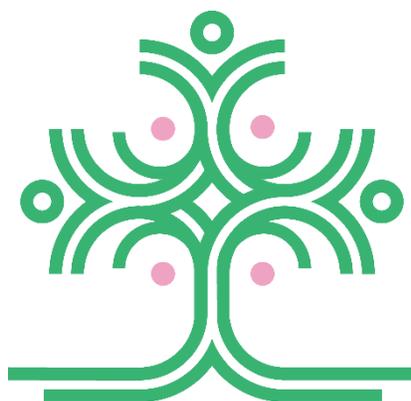
This is the story of grace flowing down. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>Then children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them, <sup>14</sup>but Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” <sup>15</sup>And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

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

## **SERMON**

**Reverend Christina Kadelbach**



# See the Precious Children

BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7. D "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" ELW 712

Words: Anna Strickland (2025)

Music: B. F. White (1844)



See the pre-cious chil-dren seat-ed on the lap of Christ our Lord  
See the pre-cious wi-dowed wo-men glean-ing har-vests from the field  
See the pre-cious for-eign stran-gers as they car-ry all they own  
See the pre-cious dis-poss-essed ones ask-ing for some food to eat  
See the pre-cious world im-pov-erished by our ma-lice and our greed



Called the great-est in the king-dom, held so gent-ly and a-dored They  
Then re-turn-ing to their kit-chen to pre-pare their dai-ly meal They  
To a land that's full of dan-gers for the pow-er-less and prone They  
Sleep-ing un-der star-ry heav-ens, dai-ly liv-ing on the streets They  
Hu-mans, a-ni-mals, and pla-net cry-ing out for some re-lief We're



are pre-cious in the sight of God who made each ti-ny toe In their  
are pre-cious in the sight of God who holds their bro-ken hearts In their  
are pre-cious in the sight of God who made their home-land, too In their  
are pre-cious in the sight of God who loves them as a child In their  
all pre-cious in the sight of God who made each ho-ly thing In our



weak-ness they're held by love as each day they learn and grow  
sor-row they're held by love that re-deems each fra-gile part  
jour-ney they're held by love as they start each day a-new  
hun-ger they're held by love as they guard their hu-man pride  
liv-ing we're held by love as we care for ev-ery being

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## ✝ 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**

Jesus of Nazareth, you loved without abandon.

You loved your disciples, **with their questions and their bumbling mistakes.**

You loved the children, **with their runny noses and their easy joy.**

You loved the widows and the immigrants,

**with their heartbreak and their dreams for a better tomorrow.**

You loved the tax collectors and the outcasts,

**with their hands open to their neighbors.**

You loved like it was easy.

**And my goodness, do we wish that we were more like that.**

So today, we lift up the vulnerable in our community—the ones you loved so quickly.

*The presiding minister offers prayers for our community and for the needs of the world.*

Today we pray for the immigrants in our land—for those running from fear  
longing to give their children a better life.

Today we pray for single parents, who stretch themselves thin to be all things  
for the little ones they love.

Today we pray for those living below the poverty line, for those who are unsure  
where their next meal will come from.

Today we pray for those who live in fear due to the color of their skin, the way  
that they dress, or the person that they love.

Today we pray for those who are bent over by the weight of depression,  
anxiety, or addiction.

**We could go on and on, God, but we know that you see each of us.**

So draw near to your children.

Wrap your arms around the vulnerable, the weary, the grief-filled.

**Comfort, O comfort your people. Wrap your arms around us.**

**And as you do, we ask that we might be transformed.**

**As you do, we ask that we might bend toward love  
and move toward compassion.**

**As you do, we ask that you might soften our hearts.**

**Until your promised day, when all are cared for and seen,  
this will be our prayer. 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 leads the words of institution. The gathering responds:*

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end

We proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*The presiding minister continues. The gathering responds:*

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **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 VIDEO "Find Your Kindness"**

*Rend Collective Organic Family Hymnal @ Survivor Records Released on: 2010-01-18  
Composer, Lyricist: Rend Collective*

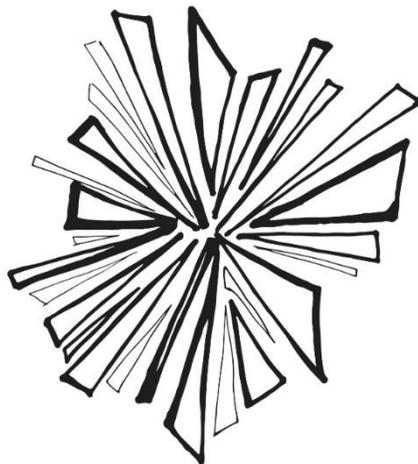
**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Let us pray. God of our salvation,  
**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.**



# Have No Fear, Little Flock

ELW 764



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle  
2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle  
3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -  
4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to



flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to  
flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in  
bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -  
God, for he stays close be - side you, in



give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!  
his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!  
lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!  
all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4  
Music: LITTLE FLOCK, Heinz Werner Zimmermann, b. 1930  
Text and music © 1973 Concordia Publishing House.

## 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.*

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*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: Transfiguration 2000 by Laura James. Copyright © Laura James. 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, Sherry Whipple, Marilynn Cierzan

*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.

**COME SING WITH US** If you enjoy singing, consider joining the choir as we begin again on April 8. Whether you've sung for years or simply love music, there is a place for you. Choir is a joyful way to participate in worship, build community, and share in the gift of song together. We would be delighted to welcome your voice. All Voices Welcome.

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

- **Wednesday Midweek Lenten Worship at Noon** Wednesdays 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 and Daily Devotional Cards are available. These 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.

**MILLE LACS AREA LENTEN CANTATA** "Come to the Cross and Remember"  
Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 pm. at Faith Lutheran Church, 220 E Lake St, Isle, MN 56342  
A free will offering will support the Isle Area Food Shelf.

**CRAFT SWAP & SUPPLY DRIVE** Spring is the perfect time to organize and declutter those craft bins! Consider donating your gently used art and craft supplies to our upcoming Craft Swap and Supply Drive. Items will be collected the week before the event. On April 11, 9:00 am - Noon, join us for a community gathering where creativity meets generosity, share what you no longer need, and discover new-to-you supplies to inspire your next project.

## **Women of the ELCA HEARTLAND CONFERENCE SPRING GATHERING**

"Steeped in Kindness" Saturday, April 18, 2026 | 8:30 am – 1:00 pm

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo. All are warmly invited to a morning of fellowship, worship, and joy. Guest speaker: Jason Kempthorne from Salem West. Cost: \$12 (includes lunch). Bring a friend and join us for a meaningful and uplifting time together.

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

Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, In person: 54 Online: 21

### **THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA**

#### **Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Council

11:30 am Pinochle

7:00 pm AA/Alanon

#### **Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am Chair Yoga

#### **Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**

9 – 12 pm WIC

9:00 am Women's Bible Study

12:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service, Potluck following

#### **Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**

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

9:15 am Chair Yoga

#### **Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Fifth 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

**Ushers:** David & Libby Brown

**Greeters:** Bev & Wally Swenson

**Lector:** Jeannine Bruesewitz

**Hospitality:**

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

### **Serving on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**Ushers:** Barry & Donna Ansell

**Greeters:** Char Berg & Caroline Morris

**Lector:** Karen Elias

**Hospitality:**