

WEEKLY MANNA

Welcome to The Father's House



Scripture
Reading today

New Testament
Acts 8:26-40; 1
John 4:7-21;

Psalm: Psalm
22:25-31;

Gospel:
John 15:1-8

Pruning *by Henry Nouwen*

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-dresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, to make it bear even more" (John 15:1-2).

These words open a new perspective on suffering for me. Pruning helps trees to bear more fruit. Even when I bear fruit, even when I do things for God's kingdom, even when people express gratitude for coming to know Jesus through me, I need a lot more pruning. Many unnecessary branches and twigs prevent the vine from bearing all the fruit it can. They have to be clipped off. This is a painful process, all the more so because I do not know that they are unnecessary. They often seem beautiful, charming, and very alive. But they need to be cut away so that more fruit can grow.

It helps me to think about painful rejections, moments of loneliness, feelings of inner darkness and despair, and lack of support and human affection as God's pruning. I am aware that I might have settled too soon for the few fruits that I can recognize in my life. I might say, "Well, I am doing some good here and there, and I should be grateful for and content with the little good I do." But that might be false modesty and even a form of spiritual laziness. God calls me to more. God wants to prune me.

A pruned vine does not look beautiful, but during harvest time it produces much fruit. The great challenge is to continue to recognize God's pruning hand in my life.

ht

Then I can avoid resentment and depression and become even more grateful that I am called upon to bear even more fruit than I thought I could. Suffering then becomes a way of purification and allows me to rejoice in its fruits with deep gratitude and without pride. *Taken from <https://henrinouwen.org/resources/daily-meditation/>*

Today's Question:

How are you challenged by today's reflection?

Prayer for the week:

Dear Lord, I am grateful for Your love and calling me to more. Help to recognize Your pruning hand in my life that I may cooperate with you in surrender to bear more fruit, and acknowledge Your presence with gratitude. Amen.



"To invite people into the Reign of God, encourage them to grow in the Body of Christ, equip them to be sent into the World in the power of the Spirit.

"As the Father has sent me I am sending you" John 20:21"

Worship @ 10am

BLC Service live-stream starts at 10.00 am. Do tune in from 9.45am onwards as we prepare ourselves for worship, and to catch up on announcements.

Upcoming Sunday, 7 May 2021

Easter 6 Sunday

Speaker: John Cheah

Worship Lead: Isaac

Scripture readings:

Acts 10:44-48

Psalms 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

For Sunday, 16 May 2021

Easter 7 Sunday

Speaker: Rev. Thomas Low

Worship Lead: Ee Lyn

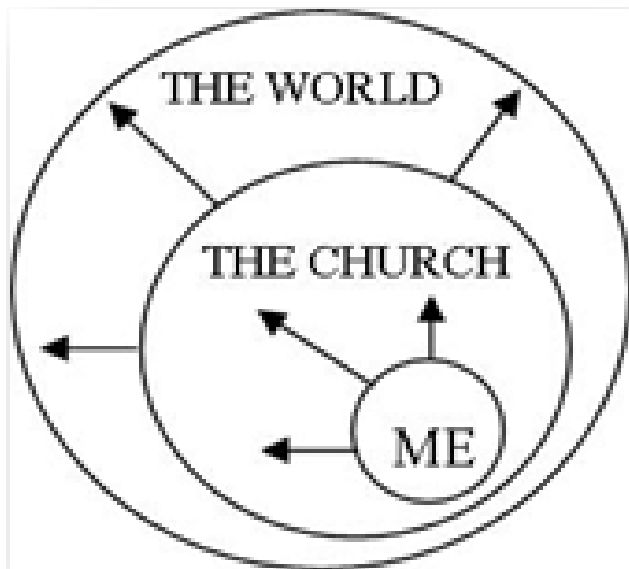
Scripture Readings

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalms 1

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19



"The BLC Missions Collections are supporting the following:
> Batu 20, OA Congregation
> United Voice – Moh Foong
> Bible Translation Researchers
> Alongsiders
(<http://alongsiders.org>)

Announcements

Connectivity.

Let's continue to actively and intentionally reaching out in support to one another during this pandemic situation in prayer and fellowship, following SOPs. If you want to chat with us actively and interact with one another, we have a BLC Family chat group on whatsapp. Do let Adeline (+60122402811) know if you want to be added to the group. Thanks.

Prayer support.

We want to support you in prayer. Do send in your requests via whatsapp to Ps Thomas, Adeline or Council.

Expressions of worship through tithes and offerings

can be made via e-transfer to:

Bangsar Lutheran Church

RHB Bank AC No: 21427700006185

If doing an e-transfer, please specify area of giving, e.g. Tithe, Mission or Agape Fund. If members are aware of any organisations, persons or church members who need support - they can reach out to the pastors or council members and ask for help. We would look into it.

Prayer

1. For the pandemic situation in our nation, and worldwide. Remembering India especially.
2. For frontliners who have been working tirelessly - strength to continue and to protect them.
3. For the vaccination program here in our country.
4. For our fellow citizens to be civic conscious, and take careful and vigilant to practice SOPs.
5. For healing for all those have affected by the Covid.
6. Peace at homes, especially to those who work and study at home.
7. That God will raise up righteous and able leaders in this nation to resume a new government. (1 Tim. 2:1-3)
8. For the Lord's healing, grace, and strength for all who are undergoing continual health challenges - family members and loved ones, and their caregivers.



Contact Info

Pastor

Rev Thomas Low + 012 317 2632

Administrator

Adeline Lim +012 2402811

Bangsar Lutheran Church

No 23, Jalan Abdullah, Bukit Bangsar,
59000 Kuala Lumpur.

Our official website -

<https://bangsarlutheran.org/>

Livestream:

<https://www.youtube.com/BangsarLutheranChurchMalaysia/>

Connect with us via Social media

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/bangsarlutheran

Instagram

[bangsarlutheran](https://www.instagram.com/bangsarlutheran)

Twitter

[Twitter.com/bangsarlutheran](https://twitter.com/bangsarlutheran)

Council

Council Chair

Chin Hor

Secretary

Joey Lin

Treasurer

Suzanne

Worship

Isaac

Community

Sheh-Ren

Learning

Davin Wong

Outreach

Ooi May Jean

Media

Nelson

Facilities

Larry Lee