



Messiah Lutheran Church  
*Fifth Weekend in Lent*  
March 29, 2020

\* All congregational responses are in ***bold, italics.***

**Three Chimes welcomes us to worship.**

**Invocation** - Blessed be the holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, Who is present, Who gives life, Who calls into existence the things that do not exist. ***Amen***

**Confession and Forgiveness** - If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess (moment of reflection). ***Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from You, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from Your resurrection life. We have strayed from Your love for all people. Turn us back to You, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to You and dwell in Your house forever. Amen.***

Receive good news: God turns to you in love. "I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live," says our God. All your sin is forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God's grace for you.

***Amen***

**Peace** - The peace of the Lord be with you. ***And also with you.*** Share the peace with one another with the phrase, "*Peace be with you.*"

**Hymn** -

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

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**Greeting** - The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. ***And also with you.***

**Prayer of the Day:** ***Almighty God, Your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of Your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve You in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

**First Reading** - Ezekiel 37.

A reading from Ezekiel, Chapter 37. <sup>1</sup> The LORD took hold of me, and I was carried away by the Spirit of the LORD to a valley filled with bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around among the bones that covered the valley floor. They were scattered everywhere across the ground and were completely dried out. <sup>3</sup> Then he asked me, "Son of man, can these bones become living people again?" "O Sovereign LORD," I replied, "you alone know the answer to that." <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Speak a prophetic message to these bones and say, 'Dry bones, listen to the word of the LORD!' <sup>5</sup> This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Look! I am going to put breath into you and make you live again! <sup>6</sup> I will put flesh and muscles on you and cover you with skin. I will put breath into you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'" <sup>7</sup> So I spoke this message, just as he told me. Suddenly as I spoke, there was a rattling noise all across the valley. The bones of each body came together and attached themselves as complete skeletons. <sup>8</sup> Then as I watched, muscles and flesh formed over the bones. Then skin formed to cover their bodies, but they still had no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Speak a prophetic message to the winds, son of man. Speak a prophetic message and say, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, O breath, from the four winds! Breathe into these dead bodies so they may live again.'" <sup>10</sup> So I spoke the message as he commanded me, and breath came into their bodies. They all came to life and stood up on their feet—a great army. <sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones represent the people of Israel. They are saying, 'We have become old, dry bones—all hope is gone. Our nation is finished.' <sup>12</sup> Therefore, prophesy to them and say, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O my people, I will open your graves of exile and cause you to rise again. Then I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> When this happens, O my people, you will know that I am the LORD. <sup>14</sup> I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live again and return home to your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken, and I have done what I said. Yes, the LORD has spoken!'" (NLT2) Word of God, word of Life. ***Thanks be to God!***

## **Second Reading – Romans 8.**

A reading from Romans, 8th Chapter.— Paul writes to the church in Rome, <sup>6</sup> Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end; attention to God leads us out into the open, into a spacious, free life. <sup>7</sup> Focusing on the self is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self ignores God, ends up thinking more about self than God. That person ignores who God is and what he is doing. <sup>8</sup> And God isn't pleased at being ignored. <sup>9</sup> But if God himself has taken up residence in your life, you can hardly be thinking more of yourself than of him. Anyone, of course, who has not welcomed this invisible but clearly present God, the Spirit of Christ, won't know what we're talking about. <sup>10</sup> But for you who welcome him, in whom he dwells—even though you still experience all the limitations of sin—you yourself experience life on God's terms. <sup>11</sup> It stands to reason, doesn't it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, he'll do the same thing in you that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself? When God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely as he did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ's! (MSG)

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

## **Gospel – John 11** The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the Eleventh Chapter. ***Glory to You, O Lord.***

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. <sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup> But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup> After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>13</sup> Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup> For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup> Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." <sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." <sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." <sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup> When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been

here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup> He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" <sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." <sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. (NRSV)

The Gospel of the Lord: ***Praise be to You, O Christ.***

**Sermon**

**Rev. Timothy Knauss**

**Meditation Moment** - *Psalm 48:9 O God, we meditate on Your unfailing love as we worship in Your Temple.* My Reminder -

**Response to God's Word**

**Apostle's 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 the People**

Lord as we pray, we kneel alongside Messiah Jesus, in Your presence, with the help of the Spirit.

**#1** Lord God, this is a difficult time for us. You created us to be in community with one another and this time of social distancing is not easy. Instead of our focus on fear, give us Your peace; instead of negative thoughts remind us we are citizens of Your Kingdom. As often as we wash our hands, remind us of those who don't have clean water for daily living and may it motivate us to reach out as we are able to help provide children around the world and in our country with the simple essentials of life. Lord, in Your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

**#2** Lord Jesus, when parents brought their children to You, You touched them and prayed over them, prayed for them. Now we pray for Your healing power to flow through those struggling with Covid-19 and for those who do not know that they carry it. Help them and protect those around them. Provide a cure for the Coronavirus and heal our economy. We pray for residents of Tel Hai, Simpson Meadows, Freedom Village, and all nursing homes and retirement communities. Though You walk with us in the valley of the shadow of darkness, bring a miraculous end to this darkness in our world. Lord, in Your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

**#3** Holy Spirit, in Your faithfulness You never leave us without guidance if only we will listen. Reveal to us how to react to one another with hope, with love and with patience. Empower us to be good kingdom citizens, helping our neighbor to live in safety, supporting them in all life's needs. Remind us that we are to fear and love God so that we neither covet goods nor deny the needs of others nor betray or slander them but in all things interpret their actions with compassion. Help us when we reach out to Safe Harbor, The Lord's Pantry,

Gemma Services, neighbor who have no family close by or friends that have lost their employment. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, today we especially pray for Andy (Allewelt), Julia (Pollock), Doug (Russell), Barbara (Yorke), Claudia (Pohl), Matthew (Mortimore), Vivian (Close), Marsenna (Rentel), Julianna (Eslinger), Carol Jean (Bruner), Tina (Breslin), Arlene (Greenwald), Jim (Balbierer), Erin (Selcher), Phyllis (Serfass), Roberta (Kissinger). We pray for the freedom from suffering of all living creatures everywhere. We pray for all to whom death draws near this very day. We pray for those dear to us whom we now name in our hearts before You ... *(a moment of silence)*. Faithful God deliver us from a sudden and unprepared for death and receive our prayers, as we watch and wait for Your coming. All these things and more we ask in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, by the power of Your Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Offertory Prayer** - Holy and generous host, You set a table where we feast as friends. Prepare us to witness to Your goodness with every gift You have given us to share, that all people may know Your peace through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer** - Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**Blessing** - Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace. **Amen.**

**Hymn**

*What Wonderful Love is This vs 1,3 & 4*

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**Dismissal** - Go in peace. Share the Good News. **Thanks be to God.**

**Fourth Weekend in Lent – March 21 & 22, 2020**

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Mobile Giving – text to 610.609.7116

**For Prayer or Card**

Marsenna Rentel is in Chester County Hospital for treatment for COPD.

Daughter of Jenette Eslinger, Julianna is being teste for the Covid-19 virus.

**Our lesson translations this week** - Ezekiel 37:1-4 is the New living Translation 2<sup>nd</sup> edition; Romans 8:6-11 is The Message Bible; John 11:1-45 is the New Revised Standard Translation.

**This week and beyond at Messiah**

**Our office is closed until further notice. Pastor Tim, Denise, and April will be working from home. Feel free to contact them via their emails:**

**Pastor Tim:** [PrTimKnauss@outlook.com](mailto:PrTimKnauss@outlook.com)

**Denise:** [Denisestearns19@gmail.com](mailto:Denisestearns19@gmail.com)

**April:** [secretaryelite@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryelite@gmail.com)

**If you have a pastoral emergency, please call Pastor Tim on his cell number 814.312.7033 or at his home number 610.384.1707**

**All activities at the church are cancelled until further notice.**

**Messiah Community Preschool** – CLOSED until Downingtown School District resumes.

Next Sunday’s Service will be at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

The lessons for next Sunday are Isaiah 50:4-9, Philippians 2:5-11 and Matthew 27:11-54

## **Tentative Holy Week and Easter Schedule**

Thursday, April 09, 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship

Friday, April 10, 7:30 p.m. Good Friday Worship

Saturday, April 11th NO WORSHIP

Easter Sunday, Worship with Holy Communion 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Easter Breakfast 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. We are still planning for this with prayers that by that time we can be together with one another. If not, breakfast will be postponed until we can be together.

***March Newsletter is available through our website.***

**Birthdays** – March 29-Jackson Kline, Parker Kline, March 30-Yvonne Petrillo, Matthew Harris, Tyler Farra, Aidan Mento, Hayden Barry, March 31-Shelia Yamasaki, April 1-Frank Liotta, April 2-Kathryn Johnson Kelly Holub, Gary O'Connor, Jennifer Burrows, April 3-Nathaniel Cain, Michael Koch, April 4-Fatima Class, Ella Groff

**LAMBS Easter Gift Bags** – We will not put together bags due to the current medical climate. I will send out greeting cards from the congregation. Please call me at 610-380-8468 or tshumate24@gmail.com. Thank you. Tanja Shumate

**Helping with bagged lunches for the community - Safe Harbor** has temporarily suspended serving their daily hot meal to the community, but they are still trying to provide those in need with at least a bagged lunch. If you would like to put together a couple bagged lunches in the comfort of your home and then drop them off at church on Monday that would be great. There will be a blue bin outside the church doors for you to drop your lunch bags in (or if there is a car in the parking lot Pastor may be there and you can drop them off inside as well). If you don't have lunch bags at home, don't go shopping! I will have some bags at church in the bin that you can use. Please contact me with any questions ~ Kelli at madiandmak@comast.net or 484-798-9087.

**Postponed. Money Matters and Stewardship for Teens.** Sponsored by Thrivent Financial and VAMOS. Come learn about making wise financial decisions regarding banking, credit, credit scores, college debt, and use of personal time and resources. For more information contact Bob McGonigle at 610-942-4993 or at bobmcgonigle167@gmail.com

### **Mid-week Lenten Services**

“Got Faith?” The text from Hebrews 11:1 defines faith in this way: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Our Lenten series focuses on the book of Hebrews, especially the eleventh chapter. The first four weeks provide a journey through the faith of the Old Testament figures, especially Noah, Abraham, Moses, and the Israelites. The fifth week brings us to Jesus, “the perfecter of our faith,” and his path to the cross.



**Our liturgy this year is “Holden Evening Prayer” composed by Marty Haugen. We have sung several his songs for worship throughout this past year.**

**Week of Lent 5:** Jesus, the Perfecter of Our Faith *Enduring the cross, Jesus became “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.” How does the way of the cross define our faith?*

We as the family of Messiah Lutheran Church are strengthened by worshipping together. Yet that is not all that defines who we are, especially in unprecedented times such as this. Continue to hold one another in prayer. Continue to reach out to your neighbor in need. Continue to share the love of Christ with your neighbor in your words and actions as we respond to the changes that are taking place around us.

Precautions related to the COVID-19/Coronavirus does have an impact on our activities and gatherings. We recognize that they may also have a negative impact on our giving. Ministry and pastoral care will continue to be a priority! Please continue to give and support our ministries. Although our activities may be reduced or curtailed for a time, our fixed expenses for our ministries, staffing, and building operations continue. You can send your check. You can give through our website [www.MessiahLutherans.com](http://www.MessiahLutherans.com). Or you can use mobile/text giving (see information below). Thank you for your continued support!

**Mobile/Text Giving** is available through the GivePlus app on Apple or Android phones as well as online through your web browser (the link is on our website [MessiahLutherans.com](http://MessiahLutherans.com)). Text giving is another option by texting to 610-609-7116. You'll need to use the link that is shared to register with your credit card. However, you'll be able to just text your gift quickly in the future once registered.

## How can I support the ministry of Messiah Lutheran Church?

### First and foremost, with your prayers

for our ministry teams, our staff, our council, and our members.

### Secondly, with your participation

in Growing God's Family through one of our three weekend worship opportunities as well as through our ministry groups. These small groups gather around the study of God's word and/or perform ministries at Messiah and within our local community.

### Thirdly, with your tithes and offerings

Use one of these flexible methods to support Messiah financially:

**Offering envelopes** | We provide envelopes for your cash or check gift, and you can place them in the offering plate.

**Bill pay** | Use your bank's bill pay system to set up your weekly/bi-weekly/monthly offering. Your bank will send a check from your checking or savings account to Messiah at no charge.

**eGiving** | You can set up electronic giving in several ways:

If you currently use Vanco's Simply Giving, you can continue. If you'd like more flexibility, move to Give+.

To use Give+, download the app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store. Search for Messiah by name or zip code.

On Messiah's website ([www.messiahlutherans.com](http://www.messiahlutherans.com)) - Click the Give Online button at the top of the page.

Text your gift - Send a text with your gift amount to 610.609.7116.

Need help? Go to [www.messiahlutherans.com/online-giving-instructions/](http://www.messiahlutherans.com/online-giving-instructions/).

**Thrivent Choice Dollars** | No matter how you give, you can direct your Choice Dollars to Messiah if you have a qualifying Thrivent product. Check with your Thrivent financial professional.





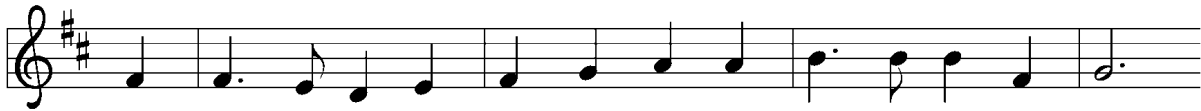
## Beneath the Cross of Jesus



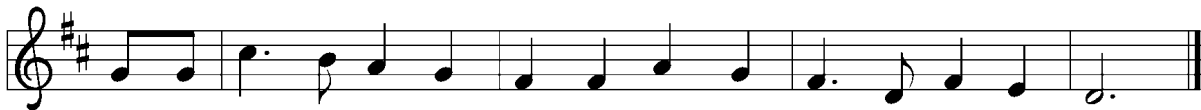
1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;  
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see  
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might-y rock with - in a wea - ry land,  
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.  
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with-in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,  
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:  
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,

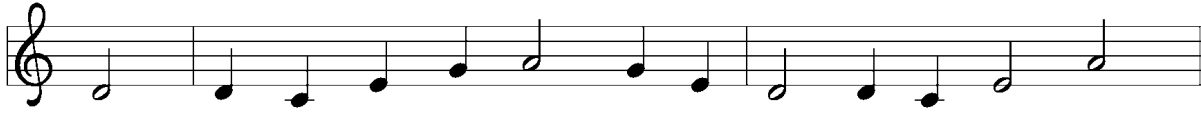


from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.  
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869

Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

## What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835