



Messiah Lutheran Church
Fourth Weekend in Lent
March 22, 2020

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

Three Chimes welcomes us to worship.

Invocation - Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ 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

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: ***Bend Your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By Your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts and anoint us with Your spirit, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.***

First Reading - 1 Samuel 16:1-12

A reading from First Samuel the Sixteenth Chapter. ... ¹ Now the LORD said to Samuel, "You have mourned long enough for Saul. I have rejected him as king of Israel, so fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my king."

² But Samuel asked, "How can I do that? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me." "Take a heifer with you," the LORD replied, "and say that you have come to make a sacrifice to the LORD. ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you which of his sons to anoint for me."

⁴ So Samuel did as the LORD instructed. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town came trembling to meet him. "What's wrong?" they asked. "Do you come in peace?"

⁵ "Yes," Samuel replied. "I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Purify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." Then Samuel performed the purification rite for Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice, too.

⁶ When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, "Surely this is the LORD's anointed!"

⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The LORD doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

⁸ Then Jesse told his son Abinadab to step forward and walk in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "This is not the one the LORD has chosen." ⁹ Next Jesse summoned Shimea, but Samuel said, "Neither is this the one the LORD has chosen." ¹⁰ In the same way all seven of Jesse's sons were presented to Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these."

¹¹ Then Samuel asked, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse replied. "But he's out in the fields watching the sheep and goats." "Send for him at once," Samuel said. "We will not sit down to eat until he arrives." ¹² So Jesse sent for him. He was dark and handsome, with beautiful eyes. And the LORD said, "This is the one; anoint him."

¹³ So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David from that day on. Then Samuel returned to Ramah. Word of God, word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

Second Reading – Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from Ephesians the Fifth Chapter. ... Paul said to the followers in Ephesus. ⁸ You groped your way through that murk once, but no longer. You're out in the open now. The bright light of Christ makes your way plain. So no more stumbling around. Get on with it! ⁹ The good, the right, the true—these are the actions appropriate for daylight hours. ¹⁰ Figure out what will please Christ, and then do it. ¹¹ Don't waste your time on useless work, mere busywork, the barren pursuits of darkness. Expose these things for the sham they are. ¹² It's a scandal when people waste their lives on things they must do in the darkness where no one will see. ¹³ Rip the cover off those frauds and see how attractive they look in the light of Christ. ¹⁴ Wake up from your sleep, climb out of your coffins; Christ will show you the light! Word of God, word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel – John 9:1-41

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John the Ninth Chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

- ¹ As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"
- ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.
- ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."
- ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."
- ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."
- ¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"
- ²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."
- ²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"
- ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains. 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

Messiah Discipleship Prayer

Lord Jesus may all who see my face today see a reflection of Your love.

***May my eyes recognize You in others and my ears
listen for Your Word throughout the day.***

***May I breathe in Your presence with each breath,
filling me with Your motivations and compassion.***

May my mouth speak honest and encouraging words.

May my heart beat in rhythm with Yours.

***May my hands do Your will: working for justice,
healing and peace to grow Your Kingdom.***

May my knees humbly bow to Your wisdom and will in all things.

May I be blessed by being a blessing to others.

***And may I, through all the chances and changes,
the trials and the challenges of the day, trust in Abba as You did, Lord Jesus. Amen***

Prayers of the People

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

Creator God, though we take so much for granted, You continue to richly bless us. Thank You for newborn children, for couples celebrating anniversaries, for those who have recovered from sickness or distress, for those who break free from addiction, for those who have found employment, for those surrounded by faithful friends. Continue to bless us along life's way, yet teach us to be content whatever the circumstance, always giving thanks to You. In a troubled world, ***Lord hear our prayer.***

Suffering Jesus, we remember before You all who have suffered the devastation of Covid-19; those who have become ill and those who care for them in their trials, for those who feel isolated by social distancing and those who cannot stay home and fear infection. Use us to remember and to be the instruments of Your Presence and the Means of Your Comfort. May our will be freed to follow Your guidance that we bring help as You know we can. In a troubled world, ***Lord hear our prayer.***

Holy Spirit bring the Kingdom with justice and mercy and establish among the nations, the rightness of God's grace and mercy. Bind up the brokenhearted, restore health and wholeness to the ill and raise up all who have fallen. Be the light of God's dawning on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death. Take care of first responders, medical personnel, law enforcement officers, children, the elderly and innocent creatures. In a troubled world, ***Lord hear our prayer.***

Lord, today we especially pray for William (Thomas), Muriel (Andress), William (Dunn), Claudia (Pohl), Matthew (Mortimore), Vivian (Close), Marsenna (Rentel), Carol Jean (Bruner), Tina (Breslin), Arlene (Greenwald), Mike (Ebling), 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,
✠ bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace. **Amen.**

Hymn

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

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.

March Newsletter is available through our website.

Birthdays – March 22-Robert McDade, Jenna Young, March 23-Pat Kramer, Abigail Mortimore, Landon Eaton, Daniel Holloran, Richard Cullen, March 24-Joshua Reiner, March 25-Charles Nelson, Christopher Bonner, March 26-Kelly Nau, March 27-Becky Tonge, Cindy Middlestead, Joseph Ryan

Lambs Easter Gift Bags - Starting March 21 we will have the Easter gift bags sitting out in the library to collect Easter gifts for our LAMBS (Loved and missed brothers and sisters). They will be in the library until April 5th. Some suggestions for gifts are small packs of crackers or cookies, Easter candy, Lifesaver candy, notecards, stamps, or any other gifts would be very much appreciated. If you have any questions or would like to deliver a bag, please call me at 610-380-8468 or tshumate24@gmail.com. Thank you. Tanja Shumate

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 3: The Faith of Moses *By faith, Moses chose the hard path to follow God’s call. How does our faith affect the choices we must make?*

Week of Lent 4: The Faith of the Israelites *By faith, generations of Israelites wandered the wilderness, entered the promised land, heard the words of the prophets, and suffered persecution. Amid life’s joys and difficulties, how do we persevere in our faith?*

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. 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). 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) - 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/.

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.

