



# Service of the Word

Palm Sunday

Liturgical Year A  
April 5, 2020

## Messiah Lutheran Church

*Lyndhurst, Ohio + 440.442.6941 + [messiahlyndhurst.org](http://messiahlyndhurst.org)*

# Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church!

**It is good to be together, even if we are meeting online.** If you are new to Messiah, you can find out more about our community at [messiahlyndhurst.org](http://messiahlyndhurst.org) or on our facebook page. During this current health crisis, we will upload our service to our website each Sunday morning ([www.messiahlyndhurst.org](http://www.messiahlyndhurst.org)). We invite you to follow along at home with the order of service included below.

**Prayer Concerns** can be shared via email ([pastor@messiahlyndhurst.org](mailto:pastor@messiahlyndhurst.org)) or phone (440-442-6941). Please indicate if you would like your request to be considered for inclusion in worship. Please note that some elements of the service are pre-recorded and prayer requests may not make it in until the following week.

**Children** are encouraged to participate at home as they are able. If you would like an at-home Sunday School Lesson Packet, please contact Cheryl Moser for more info.

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** is typically celebrated the first and third Sundays of each month, as well as on festival days. The date of our next Communion Sunday is TBD. If Communion is new for you, we invite you to have a conversation with Pastor Paul.

## Serving in Worship Today:

<b>Minister</b>	The Rev. Paul Moody
<b>Organist</b>	Glenn Odenbrett
<b>Reader</b>	Irene Rogner

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*  
Robert Lind

*(As God gathers us on this day of resurrection,  
we take time during the prelude to center ourselves  
and prepare to receive the Gospel: both its proclamation  
of grace and its call to action.)*

## LITANY

Hosanna to the Son of David!

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Hosanna in the highest heaven!

**Hosanna! Save us!**

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*(Please pour water in a bowl before we continue)*

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.  
Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives  
with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **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**

Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the  
servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of  
those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise  
him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now  
and forever.

**Amen.**

# WORD

## **FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 50:4-9a**

*The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.*

<sup>4</sup>The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he wakens—  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,

I did not turn backward.  
<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

<sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.

<sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

## Psalm 31:9-16

*Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)*

<sup>9</sup>Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I <sup>l</sup> am in trouble;  
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat <sup>l</sup> and my belly.

<sup>10</sup>**For my life is wasted with grief, and my <sup>l</sup> years with sighing;  
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones <sup>l</sup> are  
consumed.**

<sup>11</sup>I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to <sup>l</sup>  
my acquaintances;  
when they see me in the street <sup>l</sup> they avoid me.

<sup>12</sup>**Like the dead I am forgotten, <sup>l</sup> out of mind;  
I am as useless as a <sup>l</sup> broken pot.**

<sup>13</sup>For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is <sup>l</sup> all around;  
they put their heads together against me; they plot to <sup>l</sup> take my life.

<sup>14</sup>**But as for me, I have trusted in <sup>l</sup> you, O LORD.  
I have said, "You <sup>l</sup> are my God.**

<sup>15</sup>My times are <sup>l</sup> in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who <sup>l</sup> persecute  
me.

<sup>16</sup>**Let your face shine up- <sup>l</sup> on your servant;  
save me in your <sup>l</sup> steadfast love."**

## SECOND READING:

**Philippians 2:5-11**

*Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.*

<sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL

**Matthew 21:1-11**

The Holy Gospel According to Saint Matthew:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you,

humble, and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

'Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

Pastor Paul Jones Moody

*(Please observe a moment of silence after the sermon)*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Jesus Remember Me*  
ELW #616

*(The hymn will be taught in the worship service; please listen and respond as you are able)*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*(A brief silence)*

God of mercy, awaken your church to new proclamations of your faithfulness. By your Spirit, give us bold and joyful words to speak, that we sustain the weary with the message of your redemption. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our healer, show your compassion for the whole human family that is in turmoil and burdened with illness and with fear. As the coronavirus continues to spread, come to our aid. Heal those who are sick, support and protect their

families and friends from being infected, and sustain all whose livelihoods are at risk. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, drive away fear and anger that cause us to turn against one another. Give courage to leaders who seek liberation for the oppressed. Bring peace and hope to those who are in prison and those who face execution. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, send your saving help to all who suffer abuse, insult, discrimination, or contempt. Heal the wounded. Comfort the dying. Bring peace to those suffering chronic or terminal illness. Tend to all who cry out for relief (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, we pray for all who will prepare and lead worship in this Holy Week. In all things, show us the ways that you call us to die to self, to live for you, and to give of ourselves for the sake of others. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*(Here other intercessions may be offered)*

God of mercy, when we breathe our last, you raise us to eternal life. With all your witnesses in heaven and on earth (*especially*), let us boldly confess the name of Jesus Christ, our resurrection and our hope. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*(If you are gathered with others, please greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying, "Peace be with you" or similar response.)*

## **OFFERING**

*(Please give your tithes and offerings by mail or electronically at [messiahlyndhurst.org](http://messiahlyndhurst.org))*

# THANKSGIVING

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Let us pray. O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to 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.**

# SENDING

## **MISSION PRAYER**

As God has gathered us and filled our hearts with the Gospel, now God sends us forth to serve in mission. Let us pray:

**Gracious God, through belief in Christ and through the presence of the Holy Spirit within us, empower us to share the word; care and support**

**each other and God's community; worship as a family in Christ; and be Christ-like examples to those whose lives we touch.  
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.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

*Jesus Remember Me*  
ELW #616

*(The hymn will be taught in the worship service; please listen and respond as you are able)*

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*(Please observe a moment of silence before the postlude)*

## **POSTLUDE**

### **Messiah Staff Members**

Organist: Glenn Odenbrett  
Choir Director: Vicki Lester  
Christian Education Director: Cheryl Moser  
Office Administrator: Steven Liss  
Building & Custodial: Steve Newcomer

### **Attributions**

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# ***Worship Whys***

## **The Lenten Banner**

The Lenten banner portrays the connection between the two major themes of Lent – *repentance* and *baptism*. The sinner in the foreground has turned away from God and pursued the way of sin, and that has brought the sinner to his/her knees in a barren place. Seeking life-giving water, the sinner finds only a dry streambed and confronts a half-buried skeleton. The way of sin becomes the way of death. The pouring out of a handful of the parched, dusty soil is reminiscent of the words that remind us sinners of our mortality: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The Lenten exhortation responds, REPENT, turn around and "RETURN to the Lord for he is gracious and merciful." The "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" awaits the sinner's return and, standing under the sign of the cross, pours forth the waters of baptism with its promises of forgiveness, rebirth as child of God, and eternal life. The promises of baptism flow unbounded into time and space. The penitential purple of the sky behind the Lamb gradually lightens to suggest the approaching brightness of Easter morning. (via Gail Patton)

## ***Prayers***

**Prayer Team & Prayer Partners:** Prayer is a vital part of the Christian life. Messiah has a Prayer Team which will pray with you and for you. If you have a prayer request, please complete a blue Prayer Request Cards – available in the sanctuary – which offer the following options: (1) request a Pastoral follow-up, (2) include in the intercessory prayers to be read aloud in worship, (3) add to the ongoing list in the Bulletin and Grace Note, or (4) add to the Prayer Partner Email Chain.

*(Contact Nancy Pittard to participate in the Prayer Partner Email Chain and/or to serve on the Prayer Team.)*

**Please pray for our siblings in Christ:** Judy Robards, Lynn Pfenninger, Will Grotto, Jay Imel, Jayne Imel, Denise and Rich Jennings, Karen Murphy, Lisa Perry, Brian Rase, Takuya Sato, Helen Wolfe, Julia, and all families in need of comfort and healing.

*(Your prayer request, printed in the bulletin, will remain active for a period of four weeks. If you wish to have the prayer renewed, please fill out a new request card.)*

# ***Announcements***

**PLEASE NOTE: All upcoming activities and events are subject to change as Messiah responds to the ongoing world health crisis.**

**Financial Secretary Message re: Holiday Giving:** Just a reminder, if generic offering envelopes are used for designated holiday giving (e.g. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Ash Wednesday, Christmas), please designate the religious holiday if you want that offering to be part of the particular holiday giving. If it is not specified, the counting teams will assume it is part of your regular pledge. Otherwise, the designated giving goes to institutions or charities as recommended by the Social Ministry Committee and approved by Church Council. If you have questions, please contact Tom Griffith.

**LWR Personal Care Kits:** This Lent, we're joining Lutheran World Relief, in a Season of Hope, to announce to the world the HOPE of Christ. Messiah is collecting items to assemble LWR Personal Care Kits that give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations. Collection bins for the items are located by the coffee area. Our goal is 50 kits! PLEASE NOTE: Our collection will resume at a later date.

**Miles of Quarters:** To help with Messiah's budget deficit, we are collecting a mile of quarters. That is over 63,000 quarters – more than \$15,000. Put your quarters in the glass jug by the picture easel. PLEASE NOTE: Our collection will resume at a later date.

**Stewardship Committee:** We are pleased to announce that Irene Rogner has agreed to serve as Stewardship Committee Chairperson. Anyone interested in joining the Stewardship Team should contact Irene directly.

The next **Church Council meeting** is on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 7:00pm.

## **Church Office Hours This Week:**

The Church Office will not be open until further notice. However, we will be checking voicemail and email regularly.

**Attendance and Offering** for the week of March 29, 2020:

YouTube Views: 83

Offering (incl. electronic giving): \$3,350.00

(NOTE: \$4,000 a week is needed to remain current with our budget)

**Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS):** The Social Ministry committee has placed educational posters about the ELCA's history of helping refugees through the work of the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS). Take a look at the new posters in the coffee area when you are able, or check out the LIRS website: <https://www.lirs.org/>.



## ***Special Acknowledgments***

*This is our space to honor expressions of appreciation. Email items c/o [office@messiahlyndhurst.org](mailto:office@messiahlyndhurst.org) by Wednesday at 3pm for publication on the following Sunday. We'll keep submissions in print for two weeks.*

♥ None this week.