

# Service of the Word

Good Friday

April 2, 2021



**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 Easter (4-4-21), weather permitting. If Communion is new for you, we invite you to have a conversation with Pastor Paul.

## Serving in Worship Today:

**Minister**

The Rev. Paul Moody

# GATHERING

*For centuries, Christ-followers have gathered on Good Friday to remember and interpret what Christ's crucifixion and death means for us in our life of faith. This year, even though we are still sequestered and socially distanced from one another, we still gather in our homes to hear the ancient story, one more time.*

*Oftentimes, Good Friday services push us further and further into the darkness of night and death, and so we invite you to prepare your space for this. Candlelight is particularly appropriate, and it will be helpful to have seven or more candles if possible. Tonight's Gospel lesson is divided into seven sections, and we invite you to extinguish one candle after each section, making the room successively darker.*

*After the the Gospel story is read, we will toll a chime thirty-three times, signifying the approximate age of Jesus at the time of his death. Finally, we pray. We pray for the Church, and for the world, for justice and peace and love to reign supreme, even when death is all around.*

*If you have a cross in your home, please have it with you, within arm's reach. The service ends with a veneration of the cross, noting Christ's presence with us in our suffering, followed by what is known as the reverencing of the cross, in which you are invited to touch, hold, or even kiss the cross that you have with you. This spiritual practice originated around the 4th century in Jerusalem, and later became a broader, more common practice around the 7th century, and continues with us today.*

*May we all be reminded tonight of God's accompaniment with us in death, and God's work amidst death to undo all sin and injustice, for the sake of the life of the whole world.*

## **GATHERING LITANY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

On this holy day of remembrance,  
we mourn the death of Jesus the Christ.

**Gather us in, O Lord.**

On this holy day of sorrow,  
we are honest about our sin that leads to death.

**And we remember our complicity in his execution.**

On this holy day of grief,  
we reflect on Jesus' presence with us always.

**And carry with us Christ's love.**

And now, we wait for deliverance.

**Gather us in, O Lord.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **WORD**

*(After each selection of the Gospel passion narrative is read,  
we pause in silence as each successive candle is extinguished.)*

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL I**

**John 1:1-4, 11-14**

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL II**

**John 18:1-14**

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL III**

**John 18:19-24**

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL IV**

**John 18:28-19:16**

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL V**

**John 19:17-27**

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL VI**

**John 19:28-30**

*(Please pause in silence as we prepare to pray)*

## **BIDDING PRAYER**

Let us pray, dear siblings in Christ, for the holy church throughout the world.

*(Silent prayer)*

Almighty and eternal God,  
you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ.  
By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world.  
Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name,  
and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people.  
We ask this through Christ who is Love.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for Elizabeth Eaton and Abraham Allende, our bishops, for our pastors, and all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

*(Silent prayer)*

Almighty and eternal God,  
your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy.  
Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders.  
Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church,  
and help each of us in our various vocations  
to do faithfully the work to which you have called us.  
We ask this through Christ who is Love.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

*(Silent prayer)*

Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church.  
Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism.  
Give them new birth as your children,  
and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church.  
We ask this through Christ who is Love.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for our siblings who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

*(Silent prayer)*

Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity.  
Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son.  
Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith,  
and keep us united in the fellowship of love.  
We ask this through Christ who is Love.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

*(Silent prayer)*

Almighty and eternal God,  
long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses.  
Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own  
may receive the fulfillment of the covenant promises.  
We ask this through Christ who is Love.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

*(Silent prayer)*

Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace  
all those who call out to you under different names.  
Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses  
of the love made known to us in your Son.  
We ask this through Christ who is Love.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

*(Silent prayer)*

Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity  
so that all may long to know you and find peace in you.  
Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and  
in the lives of your faithful everywhere,  
and gladly acknowledge your life-giving reign.  
We ask this through Christ who is Love.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for God's creation.

*(Silent prayer)*

Almighty and eternal God,  
you are the creator of a magnificent universe.  
Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care  
and bring all things to fulfillment in you.  
We ask this through Christ who is Love.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

*(Silent prayer)*

Almighty and eternal God,  
you are the champion of the poor and oppressed.  
In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority,  
so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, and freedom,  
and a share in the goodness of your creation.  
We ask this through Christ who is Love.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for those in need.

*(Silent prayer)*

Almighty and eternal God,  
you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart.  
Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers,  
free those unjustly deprived of liberty,  
and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease.  
Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble,  
that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need.  
We ask this through Christ who is Love.

**Amen.**

Finally, let us pray for all those things  
for which Christ would have us ask:

**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.**

*(Please pause and draw your attention to the sign of the Cross in your midst)*

## **VENERATION OF THE CROSS**

Behold the life-giving cross  
on which was hung the savior of the whole world.  
**Oh come, let us worship him.**

## TOLLING OF THE BELLS

*(33 bells are tolled to remember the approximate age of Jesus when he was killed)*

## SENDING

### REVERENCING THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

*As we are sent into this solemn night, we invite you to linger and reverence the sign of the cross in your midst. This may include pausing and touching it, offering a silent prayer, or the simple act of noting it, as we remember God's presence in the midst of death throughout the world.*

#### **Messiah Staff Members**

Organist: Glenn Odenbrett

Choir Director: Vicki Lester

Christian Education Director: Cheryl Moser

Office Administrator: Steven Liss

Building & Custodial: Steve Newcomer

#### **Attributions**

The majority of today's liturgy is derived from Evangelical Lutheran Worship's order for Good Friday worship, including the prayer of the day and the bidding prayer. Portions are from Sundaysandseasons.com, copyright 2015, Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #44485. Scripture is from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Cover Image: Prateek Gautam via [unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com)