

Park and Pray

A setting of Vespers (Evening Prayer)

July 15, 2020 + 7:00 p.m.



Messiah Lutheran Church

Lyndhurst, Ohio + 440.442.6941 + messiahlyndhurst.org

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church!

It is good to be together, even if we are meeting in the parking lot.

If you are new to Messiah, you can find out more about our community at messiahlyndhurst.org or on our facebook page. During this current health crisis, we will upload our Sunday services to our website each Sunday morning (www.messiahlyndhurst.org).

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

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

Serving in Worship Today:

Presiding Minister	The Rev. Paul Moody
Assisting Minister	Jim Rase
Organist	Glenn Odenbrett
Usher (offering)	Alison Griffith
Usher (parking)	Tom Griffith

Logistical Notes

Parking: Please follow the direction of the parking coordinator to orient your vehicle towards the Southeast entrance to the church building.

Tithes and Offerings can be given as we depart after tonight's prayer service. An usher will be stationed at the exit of the parking lot.

During tonight's Vespers, participants are encouraged to flash their headlights after each "amen", and to offer a short "double honk" after the Blessing as a way to share a sign of peace with one another.

Notes on The Service

Vespers is commonly called "Evening Prayer", which is one of the daily prayer practices of the Church that has endured through the centuries. It is commonly associated with monastic communities, but it has been adapted for use in congregations in many contexts. The order we use tonight is similar to the Lenten Midweek Vespers from earlier this year and last year, although it has been adapted for use in this parking lot setting.

Vespers is not typically a preaching service, but rather invites participants into holy reflection through Scripture, poetry, art, and prayer. Its liturgy makes use of Psalm 141, which was thought to have originated in Jewish Temple practices, as the assembly watched the cloud of incense arise in the worship space. It also prominently features one of the most beloved songs in the Christian tradition: the Magnificat (Mary's Song), which points to God's merciful care for the hungry and the lowly, and challenges the proud, the mighty, and the rich. This text is part of the proclamation of the royal rule of God that has come in the person of Jesus Christ that "turns the world upside down" (Acts 17:6).

Both of these scriptures are, more often than not, sung. Tonight, we will speak them and hear them as poetry.

We invite you into quiet contemplation in this peaceful service of prayer. Linger here as you are able; let God be God as we together listen for the divine presence in our lives.

OPENING

WELCOME

PRELUDE

DIALOGUE

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
the light no darkness can overcome.
Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
and the day is almost over.
Let your light scatter the darkness
and illumine your church.

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning you called light into being,
and you set light in the sky
to govern night and day.
In a pillar of cloud by day
and a pillar of fire by night
you led your people into freedom.
Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ:
may your Word be a lamp to our feet
and a light to our path;
for you are merciful,
and you love your whole creation,
and with all your creatures we give you glory,
through your Son Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever.
Amen.

PSALMODY

PSALM 141

O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly;
hear my voice when I cry to you.

**Let my prayer rise before you as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,
and guard the door of my lips.

**Let not my heart incline to any evil thing.
let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers,
nor eat of their sweet foods.**

Let the righteous strike me;
their rebukes, as oil upon the head, are not to be refused.
Yet my prayers are continually against the deeds of the wicked.

**Let their rulers be thrown down upon the stones,
that they may hear my words, for they are sweet.**

Just as one who tills the earth breaks the rock,
so let their bones be scattered at the mouth of the grave.

**But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God;
in you I take refuge; strip me not of my life.**

Guard me from the trap that they have laid for me
and from the snares of evildoers.

**Let the wicked fall into their own nets,
while I alone pass through.**

(Ample silence follows the psalm for communal reflection)

PSALM PRAYER

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before you, O God, and let your lovingkindness descend upon us, that with purified hearts we may sing your praises with the church on earth and the whole heavenly host, and may glorify you forever and ever.

Amen.

WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

to be announced

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

EVENING GOSPEL

Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

(Ample silence follows the Gospel for communal reflection)

EVENING CANTICLE

Jesus, Remember Me
ELW #247

*The canticle will be taught during the service,
please respond at the direction of the Presiding Minister.*

Tonight's canticle connects us back to that tune which we learned in the first season of Sunday morning worship at home" during the COVID-19 quarantine. Singing it now, together, in person, is a powerful affirmation of God's faithfulness in this difficult time. Our intent is to, eventually, rotate through all of the hymns we've sung together in Sunday at-home worship, as they have become part of our shared congregational quarantine experience.

PRAYERS

Let us pray. O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER



Lord, remember us in your king - dom, and teach us to pray.



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a-against us. Save us from the time of tri - al



and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,



and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Singing the Lord's Prayer connects us back to both our Lenten Vespers midweek prayer services, as well as our Sunday gatherings in the recent seasons of Advent and Time After Epiphany. The language featured in this setting is based on the 1970s translation of the scripture that clarifies the former "lead us not into temptation" by rendering it as "save us from the time of trial", which is closer to the intent of Matthew chapter 6, where the longer version of this common prayer is found.

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

*(Please greet one another with the sign of Christ's peace
by sounding a short double horn honk)*

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

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Portions of Evening Prayer (Vespers).

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image: Pastor Paul, August 2018.