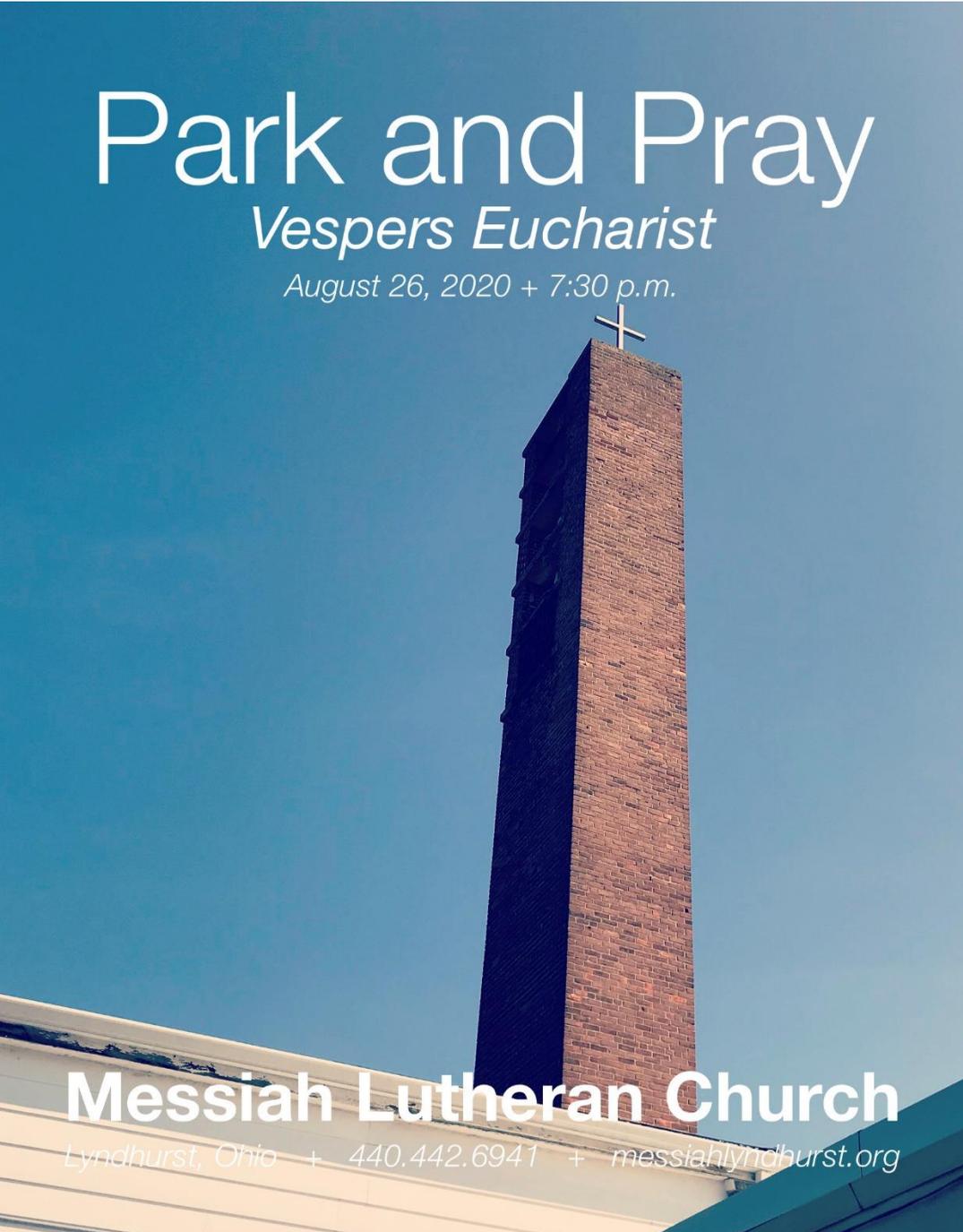


# Park and Pray

## *Vespers Eucharist*

*August 26, 2020 + 7:30 p.m.*



**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 in the parking lot.**

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 Sunday services to our website each Sunday morning ([www.messiahlyndhurst.org](http://www.messiahlyndhurst.org)).

**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 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:

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	The Rev. Paul Moody
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Jim Rase
<b>Usher</b> (offering)	Alison Griffith
<b>Usher</b> (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" as a sign of peace shared 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, and has been modified to include the celebration of Holy Communion.*

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

## 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)*

## REFLECTION

## EVENING CANTICLE

*Jesus, Remember Me*  
ELW #616

*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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the health of the creation, for abundant harvests that all may share, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For public servants, the government, and those who protect us; for those who work to bring peace, justice, healing, and protection in this and every place, especially in this election year, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel, for those who are sick and suffering, and for those who are in captivity, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need, especially during this COVID-19 pandemic, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all servants of the church, for this assembly, and for all people who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*(A time of silence follows)*

Giving thanks for all who have gone before us and are at rest, rejoicing in the communion of all the saints, we commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to you, through Christ our Lord.

**To you, O Lord. Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

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

## MEAL

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,  
but guided us into the path of love and light.

In every age you sent prophets

to make known your loving will for all humanity.

The cry of the poor has become your own cry;  
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.

In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant  
to preach good news to the afflicted,  
to break bread with the outcast and despised,  
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.  
In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Let the people say,  
"Christ has died..."

**Christ has died.**

"...Christ is risen..."

**Christ is risen.**

"...Christ will come again."

**Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,  
we await the day when Jesus shall return  
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.  
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, "Amen."

**Amen.**

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,  
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup  
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.  
Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, "Amen."

**Amen.**

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age,  
that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,  
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, now and forever.  
**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 - gainst 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.*

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

The body of Christ, given for you.

*(We eat the bread together)*

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*(We drink the cup together)*

## **COMMUNION HYMN**

*Eat This Bread*  
ELW #472

## **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrdden, 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.**

## **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.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **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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