

Service of the Word

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Liturgical Year A
May 24, 2020

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 online. 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 service to our website each Sunday morning (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) 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:

Minister	The Rev. Paul Moody
Organist	Glenn Odenbrett
Assisting Minister	Jim Rase
Reader	Katie Moody

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Prelude on "Bryn Calfaria"

(tune to "Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor" – ELW #475)

*(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.)*

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked
at baptism, as the presiding minister begins)*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,

we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

(Water may be poured as the presiding minister gives thanks)

We give you thanks, O God,

for in the beginning you created us in your image
and planted us in a well-watered garden.

In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.

When we did not know the way,
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.

At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water,
for the water in our daily lives,
and for all water everywhere.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.

Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.

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

Let us pray. O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Acts 1:6-14

Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

⁶When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

Sing to God, who rides upon the clouds. (Ps. 68:4)

¹Let God arise, and let God's ene- | mies be scattered;
let those who | hate God flee.

²**As smoke is driven away, so you should drive | them away;
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the
pres- | ence of God.**

³But let the righteous be glad and rejoice | before God;
let them also be mer- | ry and joyful.

⁴**Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who | rides
the clouds;**

I AM is that name, rejoice | before God!

⁵In your holy habita- | tion, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defend- | er of widows;

⁶**you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners | into
freedom;**

but the rebels shall live in | desert places.

⁷O God, when you went forth be- | fore your people,
when you marched | through the wilderness,

⁸**the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence
of God, the | God of Sinai,**

at the presence of God, the | God of Israel.

⁹You sent a bountiful | rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance | when it languished.

¹⁰**Your people found their | home in it;
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision | for the poor.**

³²Sing to God, O kingdoms | of the earth;
sing praises | to the Lord.

³³**You ride in the heavens, O God, in the | ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice, your | mighty voice.**

³⁴Ascribe pow- | er to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is | in the skies.

³⁵**How wonderful you are in your holy places, O | God of Israel,
giving strength and power to your people! | Blessed be God!**

SECOND READING:

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6}Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

John 17:1-11

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.

The Holy Gospel According to Saint John:

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples], he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am

no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

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

Goodness is Stronger than Evil
ELW #721

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

(A brief silence)

O God, call your people to be one, as you are one. Unite your church in the truth of your gospel, the love of our neighbor, and the call to proclaim your reign to all people. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Breathe life into your creation. Guide your people as we explore the mysteries of the universe. We pray for the work of scientists and mathematicians whose skill enriches our understanding (*like Nicholas Copernicus and Leonard Euler, whom the church commemorates today*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Make your justice known among the nations of the earth. Protect the vulnerable (*especially in nations currently in crisis*). Redirect those who use violence and greed as weapons. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Come to the aid of your children. We pray for those engulfed in grief, those without supportive families, and for all who are isolated, powerless, or afraid, that all may rest their anxieties in your care. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Give courage to all who embark on new ventures. We especially remember this day those who risked their lives to serve in our armed forces. Grant safety to those serving at home or abroad, and assure them of your never-failing strength. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

(Here other intercessions may be offered)

Raise all your saints to eternal life. Until that day, we give you thanks for the faithful examples of those who have listened to your voice and now rest in you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; 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)

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

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Goodness is Stronger than Evil
ELW #721

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

DISMISSAL

Christ is risen, just as he said.
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

(Please observe a moment of silence before the postlude)

POSTLUDE

Now the Green Blade Rises
(based on the tune to ELW #379)

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 Holy Communion, Setting Four.
Portions from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #44485. Scripture 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: SpaceX via unsplash.com.

Prayers

Prayer Team & Partners: Prayer is a vital part of the Christian life. Messiah has a Prayer Team which will pray with/for you. If you have a prayer request, please complete a blue Prayer Request Card – available in the sanctuary – which offer these 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: The family of Dorothy Raynak, sister of Bette Schmidt, who died suddenly on Mother's Day; Linda Makee and family at the death of sister-in-law Joanne Meredith; the family and friends of Shirley Blagg; Will Grotto, Jay Imel, Jayne Imel, Denise and Rich Jennings, Laura Kennedy, David Kosovich, Meredith Moore, Lisa Perry, John Talbert, Helen Wolfe, and all 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.

Pastoral Care: The world is experiencing an unprecedented season of difficulty, and all of us are affected in our own way. If you would like to connect with Pastor Paul for a conversation, please call or email the church office: 440-442-6941 or pastor@messiahlyndhurst.org.

Attention to Anyone Who is a Father, or Ever Had One: Please email your photo submissions to Kristy at: kbdesigns2010@hotmail.com if you'd like to be included in the Father's Day slideshow. Please submit photos by Wednesday, June 17th.

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: Messiah is collecting items to assemble Lutheran World Relief 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.

Church Council: the next meeting is on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 7:00pm.

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

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 May 17, 2020:

YouTube Views: 52 Offering (incl. electronic giving): \$3,475.00

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

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service: 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 by Wednesday at 3pm for publication on the following Sunday. We'll keep submissions in print for two weeks.

- ♥ Thanks to everyone who participated or helped prepare the Mother's Day service on Sunday, May 10, 2020. Pastor Paul and Katie, Glenn Odenbrett, Tom Trost, Ben and Kathy Johnson, Tom Griffith, Kristy Bohinc, Steven Liss and anyone that I may have missed.
c/o Jim Rase
- ♥ A thank you in abundance to Kristy Bohinc for all her creative slideshows and additions to the website each week. Your talent is greatly appreciated and makes Messiah shine.
c/o Vicki Lester
- ♥ Thank you, Gail Patton for all the work you do around and inside Messiah Lutheran Church. You take care of plants, trees and shrubs to beautify our church grounds, even working after dark many evenings. Plants are kept watered and potholes are filled as needed. Painting as required. Anything needed done as above and more.
c/o Helen Wolfe