

Service of the Word

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Liturgical Year A
March 22, 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 be uploading our service to [youtube.com/mlclyndhurst](https://www.youtube.com/mlclyndhurst) each Sunday morning. 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
Readers	Barb Decker

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Near the Cross
arr. Greg Howlett

*(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

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 a small amount of 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.

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

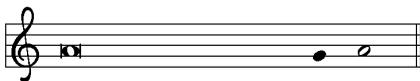
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

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.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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 mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 23

You anoint my head with oil. (Ps. 23:5)

¹The LORD^l is my shepherd;

I shall not^l be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down^l in green pastures
and leads me be-^l side still waters.**

³You restore my^l soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways^l for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall^l
fear no evil;**

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they^l comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence^l of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is^l running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days^l of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the^l LORD forever.**

SECOND READING:

Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL

John 9:1-41

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

The Holy Gospel According to Saint John:

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him

who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him,

"You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SERMON

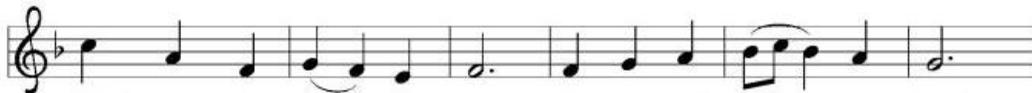
Pastor Paul Jones Moody

(Please observe a moment of silence after the sermon)

HYMN OF THE DAY

God, Whose Almighty Word
ELW #673

God, Whose Almighty Word



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in

God of insight, open the hearts of the church and the world to all who testify to your deeds of power (*like Jonathan Edwards, whom we commemorate today*). Raise up voices in your church that are often silenced or overlooked due to age, gender expression, race, or economic status. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, empower us to care for the land and all living things that dwell in it and beneath it. Provide rich soil for crops to grow. Bring rain to lands suffering drought. Protect hills and shorelines from damage caused by erosion. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, bring peace to all people and nations. Anoint leaders who seek goodness, righteousness, and truth on behalf of all. Frustrate the efforts of those who would seek to cause violence or terror. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, you care for our needs even before we ask. Come quickly to all who seek prayer this day (*especially*). Accomplish healing through the work of doctors, nurses, physical therapists, nutritionists, and all who tend to human bodies. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, help this assembly lift up the unique gifts of each person who enters, no matter their physical capacity, cognitive ability, or sensory need. Help us to be creative and brave in making our facilities and our ministries accessible to all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

(Here other intercessions may be offered)

God of insight, you call out to those who are asleep and awaken them to new life with you. We give thanks for your saints (*especially*). Join us together with them as your children in this world and the next. 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, in-person at the Messiah office, 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

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

Abide, O Dearest Jesus

ELW #539

Abide, O Dearest Jesus



- 1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, a - mong us with your grace,
- 2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, a - mong us with your word
- 3 A - bide with heav'n-ly bright - ness a - mong us, pre - cious Light;
- 4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings a - mong us, boun - teous Lord;
- 5 A - bide, O faith - ful Sav - ior, a - mong us with your love;



that e - vil may not harm us nor we to sin give place.
and thus now and here - af - ter true peace and joy af - ford.
your truth di - rect and keep us from er - ror's gloom - y night.
let us in grace and wis - dom grow dai - ly through your word.
grant stead - fast - ness and help us to reach our home a - bove.

Text: Josua Stegmann, 1588–1632; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923
Music: CHRISTUS, DER IST MEIN LEIBEN, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615

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

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Portions of Holy Communion, Setting Four.

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Griffith.

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, Lila Boehler, Ed Caudill, Lynn Pfenninger, Will Grotto, Jay Imel, Jayne Imel, Lisa Perry, Vaughn Wingfield, Helen Wolfe, April, 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.)

Prayer Ponderance: Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God (Philippians 4:5-6).

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!

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.

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.

Pastor Paul's Office Hours This Week:

Tuesday & Wednesday 9:30am – 12:00pm

Church Office Hours This Week:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10:00am – 3:00pm

Attendance and Offering for the week of March 15, 2020:

Attendance: 55

Offering (incl. electronic giving): \$4,971.60

(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!



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.

- ♥ The 8:30 service would like to say THANK YOU to the Dempsey family. Beverly has blessed us many times with her solos and a few weeks ago her husband, William, did also. Listening to their beautiful voices is truly a gift from God.
c/o Carol Sopko

This Week at Messiah

TODAY	Holy Covenant Church NA ("Never Alone")	1:30 pm 7:00 pm
Monday 3/23	Al-Anon	8:00 pm
Thursday 3/26	NA ("Back to Basics") AA	7:00 pm 8:00 pm
Friday 3/27	Living With Hope	7:00 pm
Sunday 3/29	NA ("Never Alone")	7:00 pm