



Service of the Word

Ash Wednesday

Lectionary Cycle B
February 17, 2021

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 and/or in the church 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 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:

Presiding Minister	The Rev. Paul Moody
Assisting Minister	Jim Rase
Organist	Glenn Odenbrett
Reader	Drinda Kiner

GATHERING

*(As God calls us to worship us on this somber day of repentance,
please gather at home in silence, and light a candle as you are able)*

GREETING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Because of the coming Day of the Lord, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community reminds God of his gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save.

¹Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—
²a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
 a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
 nor will be again after them
 in ages to come.

¹²Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD, your God,

for he is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,

and relents from punishing.

¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,

and leave a blessing behind him,

a grain offering and a drink offering

for the LORD, your God?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;

sanctify a fast;

call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation;

assemble the aged;

gather the children,

even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,

and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar

let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.

Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,

and do not make your heritage a mockery,

a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples,

'Where is their God?'"

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 51:1-17

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your ¹steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out ¹my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through ¹from my wickedness,
and cleanse me ¹from my sin.**

³For I know ¹my offenses,
and my sin is ev- ¹er before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil ¹in your sight;**

so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.

⁵Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

⁸**Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**

¹³Let me teach your ways | to offenders,
and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.

¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.**

¹⁵O Lord, o- | pen my lips,
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.

¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or | I would give it.
You are not pleased | with burnt offering.**

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will | not despise.

SECOND READING:

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our

ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
Cleveland Lutheran Acapella Choir
April 30, 2006

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

The Holy Gospel According to Saint Matthew:

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and

wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

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

Lord of Our Life
ELW #766



1 Lord of our life and God of our sal - va - tion, star of our
2 See round your ark the hun - gry bil - lows curl - ing, see how your
3 Lord, you can help when earth - ly ar - mor fails us; Lord, you can
4 Peace in our hearts, our trou - bled thoughts as - suag - ing, peace in your



night and hope of ev - 'ry na - tion: hear and re - ceive your
foes their ban - ners are un - furl - ing. Lord, while their poi - soned
save when dead - ly sin as - sails us; and, in the day when
church, where kin - dred souls are rag - ing, peace, when the world its



church's sup - pli - ca - tion, Lord God Al - might - y.
ar - rows they are hurl - ing, you can pre - serve us.
hell it - self ap - palls us, grant us your peace, Lord:
end - less war is wag - ing, peace in your heav - en.

INVITATION TO LENT

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(A long silence is kept for reflection and self-examination)

Most holy and merciful God,
**we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault,
by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.

May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

(Please mark the sign of the cross on your forehead with ashes if possible and receive the following word)

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

(Please observe a long moment of silence)

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen us in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit
keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

(A brief silence)

O God, you call your church to be ministers of reconciliation throughout the world. Inspire your church in its proclamation of the gospel and guide its ministries to build up the body of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O God, you created the earth and all its inhabitants and you declared that it is good. Protect mountains and valleys, animals and plants, and direct us to be good stewards of all you have made. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O God, you desire peace. Direct governments and leaders to work for the well-being of all people and raise up advocates to speak and serve on behalf of the downtrodden. Lord, in your mercy.
hear our prayer.

O God, you are our hope in the midst of despair, our help in the midst of sorrow, and our consolation in the midst of affliction. Grant comfort to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (*especially*) and support caregivers who attend to all in need. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O God, you are love, and you call us to love one another. Accompany with your grace those journeying toward baptism and call us all to repentance as we prepare to celebrate Christ's death and resurrection. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

(Here other intercessions may be offered)

O God, you are our life and our salvation. We give you thanks for the righteous who have died in faith. Inspire us by their example to proclaim your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus 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

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

BLESSING

You are what God made you to be:
 created in Christ Jesus for good works,
 chosen as holy and beloved,
 freed to serve your neighbor.
 God bless you † that you may be a blessing,
 in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.
 Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Restore in Us, O God
 ELW #328



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen-dor of your love; re -
 2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
 4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
 fruit-less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.
 tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
 we, when all our search-ing ends, may see you face to face.

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 Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933
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DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;
be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor all people;
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

(Please observe a moment of silence before the postlude)

POSTLUDE

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley
Sandra Eithun

Messiah Staff Members

Organist: Glenn Odenbrett
Choir Director: Vicki Lester
Christian Education Director: Cheryl Moser
Office Administrator: Steven Liss
Building & Custodial: Steve Newcomer

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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 and friends of David Duncan, the family and friends of Randall Fagan, the family and friends of Toni Wozniak, Jim Butler, Don Fulton, Tracy Galvin, Gayle E., Sara Hritz, Jayne Imel, Paul Lovett, Adam Meredith, Morrey and Chris Nuss, Lisa Perry, Pam Schneider, Phyllis Short, Kathy Strom, Jim Szatkowski, and all those 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.

Readers Needed for Virtual Services: Have you ever wanted to read the scripture for our virtual services? You can now check the home page of our website and look for the signup sheet banner near the top of the page. You'll be able to sign up and then record yourself reading in a quiet place and email it to Pastor Paul to add to the service. If you have questions, please feel free to reach Kristy at kbdesigns2010@hotmail.com. Thank you!

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.

OHIO Covid-19: Now that testing is more widely available – we wanted to share some of the key resources:

- *Ohio Corona Virus Portal:*
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home>
- *Link/Map for Testing Sites:*
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/testing-ch-centers/>
- *Phone for Info:* 1-833-427-5634

Lent & Holy Week Worship

Wednesday 2/17	Ash Wed. Worship	7:00pm
Wednesday 2/24	Lenten Vespers	7:00pm
Wednesday 3/3	Lenten Vespers	7:00pm
Wednesday 3/10	Lenten Vespers	7:00pm
Wednesday 3/17	Lenten Vespers	7:00pm
Wednesday 3/24	Lenten Vespers	7:00pm
Sunday 3/28	Palm Sunday Holy Communion	10:00am **
Thursday 4/1	Maundy Thursday Worship	7:00pm **
Friday 4/2	Good Friday Worship	7:30pm
Sunday 4/4	Easter Holy Communion	10:00am **

** Park and Pray service if weather permits.