

Service of the Word

The Third Sunday of Easter

Liturgical Year A
April 26, 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
Readers	Corinne Schreiber & Kaylee Tsevdos

GATHERING

PRELUDE

(tune to "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright" – ELW #384)
Puer Nobis
Paul Manz

*(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, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd],
³⁶"Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" ³⁸Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

I will call on the name of the LORD. (Ps. 116:13)

¹I love the LORD, who has ¹heard my voice,
and listened to my ¹supplication,

²**for the LORD has given ¹ear to me
whenever ¹er I called.**

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave ¹came upon me;
I came to ¹grief and sorrow.

⁴**Then I called upon the name ¹of the LORD:
“O LORD, I pray you, ¹save my life.”**

¹²How shall I re- ¹pay the LORD
for all the good things God has ¹done for me?

¹³**I will lift the cup ¹of salvation
and call on the name ¹of the LORD.**

¹⁴I will fulfill my vows ¹to the LORD
in the presence of ¹all God’s people.

¹⁵**Precious in your ¹sight, O LORD,
is the death ¹of your servants.**

¹⁶O LORD, truly I ¹am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me ¹from
my bonds.

¹⁷**I will offer you the sacrifice ¹of thanksgiving
and call upon the name ¹of the LORD.**

¹⁸I will fulfill my vows ¹to the LORD
in the presence of ¹all God’s people,

¹⁹**in the courts of ¹the LORD’s house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. ¹Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING:

1 Peter 1:17-23

The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.

¹⁷If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the

foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake.
²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart.

²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Luke 24:13-35

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

The Holy Gospel According to Saint Luke:

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.

²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." ²⁵Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

Be Not Afraid
ELW #388

(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)

For those whose hearts are fervent with love for your gospel, that they are empowered to tell the story of your love in their lives and to show hospitality in response to this love. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the diverse natural world: for jungles, prairies, forests, valleys, mountains, and for all the wild and endangered animals who call these spaces home, that they are nurtured and protected. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For broken systems we have inherited and that we continue to perpetuate, forgive us. Restrain the nations from fighting over limited resources. Redeem us from the cycles of scarcity and violence. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For all who call upon your healing name, give rest. Stay with us, and walk with all those who are hungry, friendless, despairing, and desiring healing in body and spirit (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the faith forming ministries of this church. For those preparing for baptism, first communion, confirmation, and membership (*especially*). For those who participate in Sunday school and adult education; guide and inspire learners of every age and ability. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

(Here other intercessions may be offered)

Create in our hearts a yearning to rest in your promise of eternal and resurrected life. Give us thankful hearts for those who have died, even as we look forward to the hope of new life with 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

Be Not Afraid
ELW #388

(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

Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!
(Based on tune to ELW #380)

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.

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: Jay Imel, Jayne Imel, Denise and Rich Jennings, Karen Murphy, Lisa Perry, Takuya Sato, Helen Wolfe, Julia, 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.)

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! PLEASE NOTE: Our collection will resume at a later date.

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. PLEASE NOTE: Our collection will resume at a later date.

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, May 19, 2020 at 7:00pm.

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 April 19, 2020:

YouTube Views: 71

Offering (incl. electronic giving): \$7,352.00

(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 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 all for making the Easter service, bulletin and anthem available. Kudo's to Pastor Paul and Katie, Tom Trost, Glenn Odenbrett, Tom Griffith, Judy Burghart, Cheryl Moser, Steven Liss and the singers participating in the Easter Anthem (and anyone that I may have missed). It was a truly enjoyable service. I can't wait to be able to assemble as a true congregation once again. Peace,
c/o Jim Rase