

**Messiah Lutheran Church**  
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ZOOM ID # 94203026508 passcode - church

**We are glad you are worshipping with us!** If you are looking for a church home or if you would like a pastoral visit, let us know by giving your contact info to an usher or the Minister. **Our mission** *Living in God's grace, we reach out to invite & welcome all with God's Love.* **Our welcoming statement** *We welcome people of every age, color, culture and political persuasion, every sexual orientation and gender identity, socio-economic status and ability as we celebrate together our unity in Christ. Messiah is a Reconciling in Christ congregation.*

*According to our 2022-2023 Mission Action Plan:  
"In all we say and do we ask for God's guidance."*

## **Fifth Sunday in Lent** **March 17, 2024**

**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.**

### Call to Worship

Lenten travelers, this is the journey—to learn to love God and love our neighbors just as Jesus showed us.

**Our journey teaches us to lose our lives to God as we find and follow Christ in our service to others.**

Come, let us worship God who guides us on this road to the cross.

**Come, let us worship! Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: "You Are Holy" # 525

You are holy, you are whole.

You are always ever more than we ever understand.

You are always at hand.

Blessed are you coming near;

blessed are you coming here

to your church in wine and bread,

raised from soil, raised from dead.

You are holy, you are wholeness, you are present,

let the cosmos praise you Lord!

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,

our Lord!

### Confession and Forgiveness

When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of reconciliation, which begins with our reconciling with God. Trusting in our Partner in grace, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer.

*Offer prayers of silent confession*

**Love that knows no boundaries: we crowd our lives with so much activity that it is hard to find time for you. We become so focused on ourselves, we overlook those around us who are searching for hope. We fill our spiritual emptiness with junk, rather than feasting on your Word.**

**God of mercy, forgive us. Open our eyes, that we may see your new covenant written in plainsight on our hearts. Open our hearts, that we may join you in ministering to brokenness of the world. Amen**

Kyrie, p. 147 (please respond in singing)

Glory to God in the highest, p. 148 (please respond in singing)

Let us pray: O God, **with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Children's Message

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34 (printed on back of bulletin)

Psalm 119:9-16

<sup>9</sup> How can young people keep their way pure?

**By guarding it according to your word.**

<sup>10</sup> With my whole heart I seek you;

do not let me stray from your commandments.

<sup>11</sup> I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.

<sup>12</sup> **Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.**

<sup>13</sup> With my lips I declare all the ordinances of your mouth.

<sup>14</sup> **I delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches.**

<sup>15</sup> I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.

<sup>16</sup> **I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10 (The Message)

<sup>4-6</sup> No one elects himself to this honored position. He's called to it by God, as Aaron was. Neither did Christ presume to set himself up as high priest, but was set apart by the One who said to him, "You're my Son; today I celebrate you!" In another place God declares, "You're a priest forever in the royal order of Melchizedek."

<sup>7-10</sup> While he lived on earth, anticipating death, Jesus cried out in pain and wept in sorrow as he offered up priestly prayers to God. Because he honored God, God answered him. Though he was God's Son, he learned trusting-obedience by what he suffered, just as we do. Then, having arrived at the full stature of his maturity and having been announced by God as high priest in the order of Melchizedek, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who believingly obey him.

Gospel Acclamation, p. 151 "Return to the Lord..."

A reading from the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of John (printed on back of the bulletin)

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Word of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" ELW # 338

1 Beneath the cross of Jesus  
I long to take my stand;  
the shadow of a mighty rock  
within a weary land,  
a home within a wilderness,  
a rest upon the way,  
from the burning of the noontide heat  
and the burdens of the day.

2 Upon the cross of Jesus,  
my eye at times can see  
the very dying form of one  
who suffered there for me.

And from my contrite heart, with tears,  
two wonders I confess:  
the wonder of his glorious love  
and my unworthiness.

3 I take, O cross, your shadow  
for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine  
than the sunshine of his face;  
content to let the world go by,  
to know no gain nor loss,  
my sinful self my only shame,  
my glory all, the cross.

### Installation of Church Council Members

On behalf of this congregation, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the church council, to which you have been elected?

**Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.**

To the congregation: People of God, I ask you, will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

**Congregation: We will, and we ask God to help us.**

Prayers of Intercession  
Passing the Peace

Offertory and Offering Hymn: "We Are an Offering" ELW # 692

We lift our voices  
We lift our hands  
We lift our lives up to You  
We are an offering  
Lord use our voices  
Lord use our hands  
Lord use our lives they are Yours  
We are an offering

All that we have

All that we are  
All that we hope to be  
We give to You  
We give to You

We lift our voices  
We lift our hands  
We lift our lives up to You  
We are an offering  
We are an offering

Offering Prayer: **Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving, p.152  
Holy, Holy, Holy, p.153

Holy Communion: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died! Christ has risen! Christ will come again!**

The Lord's Prayer

Lamb of God, p.154  
Prayer after communion

## Announcements

### Blessing

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and + give you peace. **Amen.**

Hymn: "The Lord Now Sends Us Forth" ELW # 538 (sing twice)

The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,

To make of all the earth a better place to live.

The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,

To make of all the earth a better place to live.

The angels are not sent into our world of pain

To do what we were meant to do in Jesus name.

That falls to you and me and all who are made free.

Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will today.

The angels are not sent into our world of pain

To do what we were meant to do in Jesus name.

That falls to you and me and all who are made free.

Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will today.

Go in peace, welcome new life!  
**Thanks be to God!**

### Announcements

Coffee fellowship downstairs after worship is hosted by the Myerses today!

Easter or spring flowers are welcome to decorate the church for Easter Sunday worship! Please drop them off at the church on Sat., March 30.

**Call Process Up-date:** There will be a **congregational meeting on Sun., March 24<sup>th</sup>** immediately after worship to elect a call committee. There are 2 positions available for Messiah Members, please let Tom Mitchell know if you would like to be considered for the committee (Tom's phone #: 715-209-5433 or email: tclydemitchell@gmail.com).

### Some things coming up

Mondays - Morning Prayer at the parsonage, 7:15am

Tuesdays - Bible Study 1:30pm

March 20 – GIFT at 5:30pm

March 21 – Justice Seekers meeting at 3:30pm, *Bad River* movie discussion at 5:30pm, all are welcome

### HOLY WEEK Worship Schedule(Thurs 3/28—Easter 3/31)

Maundy Thurs. 5:30 soup supper, 6:30 worship

Good Fri. – Sanctuary open, silent prayer 12 to 2:00pm, 6:30 worship

Easter Sunday—9:00 am worship

### Today's Worship Leaders

Ministers and Stewards: Everyone

SAM: Kristin Boland  
Altar Guild: Gail Jenicek, Jane Cook  
Parish Assistant: Tracy Martinez      Council President: Tom Mitchell  
Ushers: Tim Cook Family  
Assistant: Mary Cook  
Choir Director: Tom Yost, Pianist: Owen Polifka  
Zoom Asst: Michelle Lampson

**Thanks for faithful attendance.** March 10, 73 in-house, 7 on Zoom, March 13, 10 in-house

**Prayers for Healing**

Karen Bayliss  
Sarah Garrison  
Merrill Miranowski  
Ken Belanger  
Duane Dehn  
Dave Cook  
Rob Gwinn  
Nancy Jonsson  
Washburn United Methodist Church  
Daniel Saari  
Barb  
Judy Zovac  
Greg and Allison Gillespie  
Karen Novachek  
Dona Copperud  
Bill Maki  
Northland College Community  
Mitchell Martinez

**Requested by**

Darlene Anderson  
Mary Cook  
Bev Dehn  
Marne Belanger  
Bev Dehn  
Lorraine Young  
Ruth Carlson  
Diane Tetzner  
Jessica Mitchell  
Bill Luckenbill  
Mary Cook  
Cindi Orley  
Julie Vadnais  
Friends  
Gail Ballinger  
Karen Maki  
Minister Kristin  
Tracy Martinez

**Prayers for Comfort in grief**

Carol Root  
Terry Nichols  
Joyce Oberdeck

**Requested by**

Kelly Beirl  
Carol Salminen  
Bob & Linda Leis

**Prayers**

-Comfort and love to all affected by violence  
-Peaceful resolution to the wars in Ukraine and Israel  
-Wilma Lamken is at The Oaks, Virginia Heglund and Dona Copperud are at Northern Lights