

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Colleen Bowen

Reader:

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Ushers:

Ken & Betty Haugen

PowerPoint:

Madison Pettem

Camera Operator: Merv Bender

The office is open on a limited basis for church related activity: Tuesday – Friday from 10am – 4pm. Please note that the use of hand sanitizer and masks will be required for anyone entering the office with the exception of the church staff and financial volunteers.

Worship for Sunday, October 18, 2020
20th Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. is happening in-person and LIVE on our YouTube channel. **Please pre-register if you plan to attend the in-person service** by phoning or emailing the office. Saskatchewan Health and SK Synod guidelines regarding physical distancing will be followed including adjustments to the service. Masks will be worn and can be provided if you do not have one. If there are technical issues with the LIVE service, the recorded version will be available on the Messiah Facebook page and Website by 1:00 pm on Sunday.

Prayers for Healing and On-Going Health Concerns: We pray for comfort and healing for all those who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their time of need.

We offer our condolences to Sandra Perrin and family on the passing of her husband, Fred Perrin on Thursday, October 8, 2020. We remember them in our prayers.

We offer our condolences, prayers and support to Mary, Dennis, Elaine, Jessica & Brian, and the family of Albert Serfas who passed away Monday, October 12. May God grant you peace in this time of loss, and comfort in years of wonderful memories.

- **October 25** – please consider wearing red to worship on October 25, as we celebrate Reformation Sunday. This recognizes the day (October 31) that Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses (disputes) to the Wittenberg Castle Church door, beginning what became the church's reformation, the birth of the Lutheran church. As the church is continually reformed by the power of the Holy Spirit, we wear red as a symbol of the Spirit's fire.

- **All Saint's Sunday – November 1**



On Sunday, November 1, we celebrate All Saints Sunday. It is an opportunity to remember those who have passed since the last All Saints Sunday. Their names will be read, and a candle lit by a volunteer during the service. If you would like your loved one included as part of this remembrance, please contact the church office.

- **Starting on November 1, Messiah will resume offering communion.** This will be offered in one element: a piece of bread/gluten-free wafer. The efficacy, or value, of the communion is not diminished by receiving only one element as the grace extended in one element is sufficient, according to Martin Luther and the reformers. The communion bread will be placed individually in a small, sealed bag and distributed in the narthex (foyer). After you have put on your mask and sanitized your hands, you will be invited to take your bread with you to your pew. Then at the time of communion, we can open our bags and receive communion at the same time. Please take your bags home with you to recycle. For those joining us online, you will be invited, once again, to set your table at home and to commune with the gathered community.

Announcements:

1. **Can you help out?** We are looking for volunteers to read the lessons, usher/greet, and operate the power point. If you are attending in-person, we ask that you consider helping out from time to time. The protocols are quite simple and guidance is provided. Call the church office to sign up.
2. The **Lectionary Bible Study** is being offered **Wednesday at 10am and 7pm every week**. This study follows the lectionary (cycle of Scripture readings on Sunday mornings). The reading, study, and conversation happens either in-person or online using a zoom link. Please email or call the church office or Pastor Fran to receive the link.
3. **Thank you for all the ways you continue to support Messiah!** Your prayers and concern for our Messiah family are greatly appreciated. Financial donations can be made through pre-authorized payments, e-transfer, Canada Helps, mail, drop off at the office mailbox, or pick up from your home – call the office for details.
4. **Confirmation by Zoom October 18 @ 7:00 p.m.**



Worship for Sunday, October 18, 2020
20th Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN: ELW #819 “Come all You People”

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. **Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the LORD has anointed to end Israel's exile. The LORD makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this LORD as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the LORD claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

A reading from Isaiah.

¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed:

²I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron,³I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me.⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me,⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other.⁷I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96:1-9

¹Sing to the LORD new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

A reading from 1st Thessalonians.

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW, p. 188**GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22**

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" ²¹They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

MESSAGE: "It's a Trap!"

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW #765 "Lord of all Hopefulness" vs. 1 & 4

RESPONSE TO THE WORD: CREED AND CONFESSION

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith; **pray in the Holy Spirit.**

Keep yourselves in the love of God; **look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: **Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!**

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**
Please share a sign of that peace with your family group.

OFFERING PRAYER

We pray for gifts that have been given to continue the ministry of the church.

Let us pray. God, our Creator, **you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature. With these gifts we bless you for your tender nurture and care. Help us to delight in your will and walk in your ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need, praying Lord, in your mercy, and responding **hear our prayer.**

...

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us how to pray...

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 comity 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

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy,
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and Holy Spirit,
Sung Amen. Amen. Amen.

SENDING SONG: ELW #822 "O Sing to the Lord" vs. 1, 4 & 5**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**