

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Musician: Elaine

Reader: Garry

Ushers: Ken & Betty

PowerPoint:

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 4, 2020

18th Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

Theme: Season of Creation

Blessing of the Animals/St. Francis of Assisi

Worship Service starts at 10:30am. Please pre-register by phoning or emailing the office. SK Health Authority and SK Synod guidelines regarding physical distancing and adjustments to the worship service will be followed. In addition, masks will be worn and will be provided if you do not have one.

The service will be recorded and available on the Messiah Facebook page, YouTube channel and Website by 1:00 pm on Sunday. For those without internet access, a **telephone conference call is provided beginning Sunday at 1pm.** *Please phone the office for the conference call information.*

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.

Announcements:

1. **Volunteers needed** ... Can you help out during worship service on Sunday mornings. We are looking for people to read the lessons, usher/greet, and run the power point. If you are able to attend services, perhaps you might consider helping out from time to time. The protocols are quite simple and we will guide you through the process. 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. **October Newsletter** will be available on our website and/or available upon request.
 5. On Thanksgiving Sunday, we will be collecting items and financial contributions for the Food Bank. Please bring in your dried goods by Friday.
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GATHERING

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

We worship this Sunday with all the creatures we love. We join the Psalmists and rejoice with all living things. We sing with the all the birds and animals that make our lives richer because of their presence.

OPENING DIALOG

Jesus Christ, we assemble with all your creatures in this circle of life.

We ask you to join our circle and celebrate with us.

Jesus Christ, as we join in celebration with you and all creation,

We ask for your blessing, your *shalom*, on the creatures present here that we love, and on all creatures celebrating in the wild.

In the name of God, who creates all life, in the name of Jesus Christ, who redeems all life, and the name of the Spirit, who renews all life, we cry with all in the circle of life: **Shalom! Shalom! Shalom! May your blessing come!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "wild grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

¹Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ²He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? ⁵And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:7-15

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁸**You have brought a vine out of Egypt; you cast out the nations and planted it.**

⁹You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.

¹⁰**The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

¹¹You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.

¹²**Why have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

¹³The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

¹⁴**Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;**

¹⁵behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

[Jesus said to the people:] ³³"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

⁴¹They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." ⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes"? ⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." ⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

IN PRAISE OF ANIMALS (a version of Psalm 148)

All dogs and cats, large and small: **Praise the Lord!**
All goldfish, guppies, and swimming creatures: **Praise the Lord!**
All rabbits, hamsters, and guinea pigs: **Praise the Lord!**
All robins, wrens, and singing birds: **Praise the Lord!**
All bats, squirrels, and raccoons: **Praise the Lord!**
All horses, cows, and sheep: **Praise the Lord!**
All lizards, snakes, and creeping things: **Praise the Lord!**
Every animal in the sky, the sea, and the forest: **Praise the Lord!**

(prepared by seasonscreation.org 2014)

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

All worshippers with animals can stand, each person placing a hand on the animal being held.

Pastor Fran: [*Pet's name*], may the power of this blessing from Christ fill you with life, bind you to your human partners, and lead you to praise your Creator. Amen.

Let us pray,

Creator God, we give you thanks and praise that you have blessed our lives so abundantly with these animals who accompany us in our lives. Bless them and our life together as we commend ourselves, and one another to your care, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW #726 "Light Dawns on a Weary World"

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

With thankfulness, we pray for the gifts that have been given to continue the ministry of this congregation.

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 TO CARE FOR CREATION

Creator God, teach us to see you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you. Awaken our praise and thankfulness for everything that you have made, praying, Creative Spirit and responding, **enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.**

...

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us 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 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

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

BLESSING

God the Father, who created the world, give you grace to be wise stewards of his creation. **Amen.**

God the Son, who redeemed the world, inspire you to go out as labourers into his harvest. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, whose breath fills the whole creation, help you to bear his fruits of love, joy and peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Sung: Amen. Amen. Amen.

(from "Let All Things Their Creator Bless": Liturgy for Use During the Season of Creationtide, Diocese of Guilford, p. 37)

SENDING SONG: ELW #835 "All Creatures, Worship God Most High" (Vs 1 & 2)

DISMISSAL

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation, and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

(from "Let All Things Their Creator Bless" Liturgy for Use During the Season of Creationtide, Diocese of Guilford, pp. 38-39).