

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Prince Albert, S6V 8A1

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The Messiah office is opened Tuesday – Friday from 10am – 4pm for limited church-related matters. Note the use of hand sanitizer and wearing of masks is required for anyone entering the building.

Worship for Sunday, February 7, 2021
5th Sunday after Epiphany, Year B

As we are not worshipping in-person at this time (see announcement on page 2), online Worship Services are live on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am. You can view this live by going to the Messiah Lutheran Church Prince Albert YouTube page and look for “live” feed. If there are technical issues, the recorded service will be available on Messiah Facebook page and Website by 1:00 p.m. 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.

This Week

- **We will be starting Online Sunday School on Sunday, February 7 at 11:30 am** and continuing at this time every Sunday. A resource pack is available for pick up at the church (during office hours). If you did not receive the Zoom link, please call the Messiah office or Pastor Fran for the login information or any other questions.



- **February 7 from 2 - 4pm, the youth** (and family) will gather at Elk Ridge for a fun day.
- **Confirmation** on Zoom, Sundays at 7 p.m.
- **Lectionary Bible Study** continues **Wednesday morning @ 10 a.m.** and each **Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. on Zoom.** Call the Messiah office for the log-in information.

Announcements:

In-Person Worship Service will not be held at this time. Council will meet again on February 23, to review guidance from the SK Synod and the Saskatchewan Health Authority. The decision to remain with virtual services and phone/electronic connection only is not an easy one, and we ask for the support and prayers of the Messiah congregational family. Please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Fran or any member of Messiah Council if you have questions or concerns.

2021 Offering Envelopes & Donation Options

For those people who would like 2021 Offering Envelopes, contact the Messiah office to make arrangements to pick them up or have them sent to you. Please note that your offering number doesn't change from year to year so you can use envelopes left from 2020 and previous years, or write your name and number on a plain envelope. If you are not sure about your envelope number, please contact the office.

E-transfer is an option for those who have online access to their bank account, as well as automatic withdrawals from your financial institution or Canada Helps. Please phone or email the Messiah office for information on these ways of donating.

Thank you for the ongoing financial support. The Messiah ministry relies on these contributions in addition to the numerous volunteers that contribute their time and talents.

Call for winter clothing donations; emergency shelter at capacity as deep freeze continues in P.A.

Amid frigid temperatures, Prince Albert Grand Council Urban Services has put out an urgent call for men's warm winter clothing. "It's important we look after our vulnerable people," PAGC director of Urban Services Geoff Despins said. "We need to do whatever we can to keep them warm. I know today is the call out for [urgent] help but let's keep this going as long as we can. As well as proper footwear we're looking for toques and mitts." Anyone wishing to donate items should contact Natalie at 306-930-1339.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Holy God, **you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.**

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: ELW #844 - *Praise to the Lord*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray, **Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21-31

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

A reading from Isaiah.

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. ²⁴Scarcely are they

planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. ²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:1-11, 20c

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

²**The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem, and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

³The LORD heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.

⁴**The LORD counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names.**

⁵Great is our LORD and mighty in power; there is no limit to God's wisdom.

⁶**The LORD lifts up the lowly, but casts the wicked to the ground.**

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music upon the harp to our God,

⁸**who covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.**

⁹God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they cry.

¹⁰**God is not impressed by the might of a horse, and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD, in those who await God's steadfast love. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

A reading from First Corinthians.

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. ¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW #172 “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”**GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39**

The holy gospel according to Mark in the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” ³⁸He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: Bishop Sid Haugen, Saskatchewan Synod (video)**HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW #617 - *We Come to You for Healing, Lord* (vs. 1, 3 & 5)****PRAYER**

God blesses us through prayer.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray, O God, **receive these gifts as you receive us: like a loving mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need, saying let us pray and responding **Have mercy, O God.**

...

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray...

LORD’S PRAYER

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 creator strengthen you;

Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✠ keep you in peace.

Three-Fold Sung Amen.

SENDING SONG: ELW #808 - *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song* (vs. 1 & 3)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Shine the light of Christ everywhere.

Thanks be to God.