

Messiah Lutheran Church

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GATHERING

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

WELCOME

We begin in silence.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:13--53:12

The fourth servant poem promises ultimate vindication for the servant, who made his life an offering for sin.

The servant pours himself out to death and is numbered with the transgressors, images that the early church saw as important keys for understanding the death of Jesus.

¹³See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. ¹⁴Just as there were many who were astonished at him —so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals—¹⁵so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall

contemplate. ^{53:1}Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. ⁹They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper. ¹¹Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹²Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 22

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

²**My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer; by night, but I find no rest.**

³Yet you are the Holy One, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴**Our ancestors put their trust in you, they trusted, and you rescued them.**

⁵They cried out to you and were delivered; they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

⁶**But as for me, I am a worm and not human, scorned by all and despised by the people.**

⁷All who see me laugh me to scorn; they curl their lips; they shake their heads.

⁸**“Trust in the LORD; let the LORD deliver; let God rescue him if God so delights in him.”**

⁹Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb, and kept me safe on my mother’s breast.

¹⁰**I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; you were my God when I was still in my mother’s womb.**

¹¹Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help.

¹²**Many young bulls encircle me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me.**

¹³They open wide their jaws at me, like a slashing and roaring lion.

¹⁴**I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; my heart within my breast is melting wax.**

¹⁵My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; and you have laid me in the dust of death.

¹⁶**Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me; they pierce my hands and my feet.**

¹⁷I can count all my bones while they stare at me and gloat.

18They divide my garments among them; for my clothing, they cast lots.

19But you, O LORD, be not far away; O my help, hasten to my aid.

20Deliver me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog.

21Save me from the lion's mouth! From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.

22I will declare your name to my people; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.

23You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

24For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.

25From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

26The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

27All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

28For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

29Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

30Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

31They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:16-25

In the death of Jesus, forgiveness of sins is accomplished and access to God is established. Hence, when we gather together for worship and when we love others, we experience anew the benefits of Jesus' death.

16"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds," **17**he also adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." **18**Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. **19**Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, **20**by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), **21**and since we have a great priest over the house of God, **22**let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. **23**Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. **24**And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, **25**not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW p. 189, "Let Your Steadfast Love"

GOSPEL READING: JOHN 18:1-19:42

REFLECTION: "Man of Sorrows"

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 353 - "Were You There" vs. 1, 2, & 5

BIDDING PRAYER

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.

Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for our bishops, for pastors, for all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church, and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for God's creation.

Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those in need.

Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

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.

We leave in silence.

