

**Messiah Lutheran Church**

1796-15 Avenue East

Prince Albert, S6V 8A1

Website: [www.messiahluthpa.ca](http://www.messiahluthpa.ca)

Facebook and YouTube: [MessiahLutheranChurchPrinceAlbert](#)

**Pastor Fran Schmidt**

Cell: 1-306-716-3954

Email: [pastor.mlc@sasktel.net](mailto:pastor.mlc@sasktel.net)

**Donna Deobald, Admin Assistant**

Office: 306-763-7374

E-mail: [messiah@sasktel.net](mailto:messiah@sasktel.net)

For the week of April 6 - 9, the Messiah office will be open 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, April 4, 2021  
Easter Sunday, Year B  
Holy Communion**



Messiah Worship Services are live Sunday morning at 10:30am (in-person services are currently suspended) on the Messiah Lutheran Church Prince Albert YouTube page; “live” feed. To watch the service later or if technical issues, the recorded service will be available on Messiah Facebook page and website by 1:00pm each 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.



*In Loving  
Memory*

**EASTER MEMORIAL FLOWERS**  
Thank you to all those who have brought flowers in  
‘Memory of their loved ones’

---



♥ Linda and Debbie ♥ for decorating the Sanctuary

---

## This Week

- **Online Sunday School Easter Sunday @ 11:30am.** Please contact the Messiah office or Pastor Fran for login information, and/or to arrange for picking up or delivery of the April resource packet.
- **No Confirmation on Easter Sunday, April 4.**
- **Lectionary Bible Study on Wednesday morning @ 10 am, and Wednesday evening on Zoom.** Please contact the Messiah office or Pastor Fran for login information.

## Worship Service Update

Messiah Council met twice over the last week. Information from Bishop Sid Haugen (as outlined below) was reviewed, and the current and ongoing situation discussed. While we are eager to return to in person services and especially hoped to be able to gather on Easter Sunday, we are very concerned about the widening spread of the Covid variant. ***While this is an extremely difficult decision, we will continue with online (live-streamed and recorded) services at this time.*** If you have any questions or feedback, please contact any member of Council.

**Background:** Two weeks ago, a Messiah Council member participated in a meeting with Rev. Dr. Ali Tote (many will recall Pastor Ali was an intern at Messiah, and an epidemiologist), Bishop Sid and just over 100 faith leaders, lay and rostered, from across the Saskatchewan Synod. We gathered in Word and prayer, listened to Ali's presentation on the state of the pandemic in our province, and engaged in a conversation about the possibilities and risks as a synod. Pastor Ali and Bishop Sid met following the meeting and, based on the state of the pandemic and on the consultation with synod leadership, present a summary of provincial Health Directives for faith communities, and Synod recommendations for our faith communities.

**Provincial Health Directives as of March 19**, allow for faith communities to meet in worship with a limit of 30% of capacity (maximum of 150) while rigorously following Health Directives. With the COVID variants suddenly appearing in Regina, that has been amended to restrict Regina faith communities to a hard cap of 30 participants. Synod supports provincial Health Directives as a non-negotiable basic standard for our faith communities.

**Synod guidelines** throughout the pandemic, based on our consultation with synod leadership, have been more rigorous than Health Directives. The church of Jesus is a place of healing. We take that call seriously in the pandemic. We would err on the side of keeping our faith community safe, and avoiding finding our faith communities as a place of COVID outbreak.

### Synod recommendations on the current phase in the pandemic:

- 1. Faith communities in Regina and Saskatoon** (and communities with a majority of members whose work takes them regularly into the two cities) to continue with Virtual services at least until new Health Directives come out.
- 2. Faith communities outside of the Saskatoon and Regina region** either to continue with virtual service or to worship in person with a cap of 30 participants. A sudden influx of worshippers in these faith communities including family members from Regina and Saskatoon 'coming home' could bring Regina / Saskatoon COVID problems to other areas of our synod. For the same reason, Synod advises against supply ministers based in Regina and Saskatoon agreeing to lead worship in other synod faith communities at this time.

**Bishop Sid's prayer for our church:** Lead us, loving God, as we continue on a journey that sometimes seems endless. Provide us with 'manna', just enough daily blessing to get us through each day in this strange time. Manna that will sustain us until we can once again 'plant our fields'. And by all means, O God, hold us close in these days, so that we that may together walk the remainder of this pandemic journey in the wilderness trusting that your New Day is coming. Amen.

## GATHERING

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

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### EASTER ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

#### GATHERING HYMN: ELW #525 “*You Are Holy*” (x2)

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray,

**God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD

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

#### FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:6-9

*More than 700 years before Christ, the prophet Isaiah proclaims the good news of God’s salvation and calls all people to rejoice! God will make a rich feast for all people. God will wipe the tears from their eyes. And most importantly, God will destroy death itself.*

<sup>6</sup>On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. <sup>7</sup>And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; <sup>8</sup>he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. <sup>9</sup>It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God’s mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let Israel now declare, “God’s mercy endures forever.”**

<sup>14</sup>The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup>**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!**

<sup>16</sup>The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!”

<sup>17</sup>**I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

<sup>19</sup>**Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup>“This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter.”

<sup>21</sup>**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup>**By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

*The core of the Christian faith and Paul’s preaching is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the earliest of his followers, so we experience the presence of the Risen One in the preaching of this faith.*

<sup>1</sup>Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. <sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW #172 “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!”**

### **GOSPEL: John 20:1-18**

The holy gospel according to John in the twentieth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*This morning begins with confusion: the stone has been moved and the tomb is empty. Disciples arrive, then angels, and finally Jesus himself. Out of the confusion, hope emerges, and a weeping woman becomes the first to confess her faith in the risen Lord.*

<sup>1</sup>Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup>So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup>The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup>and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup>for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples returned to their homes. <sup>11</sup>But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup>and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.

<sup>13</sup>They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." <sup>14</sup>When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:** "Bringing out the alleluias!"

**SERMON:** "Alone in the Tomb"

**HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW #364 "Christ Has Arisen" (Vs. 1, 4 & 5)**

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love, praying Hear us, O God and responding **Your mercy is great.**

...

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

#### **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

With thanksgiving, we praise you O God, for all you have given us, ourselves, our time and our possessions. Use us and all we have, that the world may know of your love through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let us pray, **God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

As we walk through the Great Thanksgiving and as we share communion here and at home, we do so believing that it is God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit who unites us in all times and in all places. This is God's gift of grace for you wherever you are.

The Lord is with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn saying;

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints. To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

As we share this meal wherever we are, we are fed by the body and blood of Christ.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **COMMUNION**

As we share our communion at home, you may say "this is the body of Christ given for you", as you consume the bread or wafer. And you may say "this is the blood of Christ given for you", as you consume the wine or grape juice.

**TABLE BLESSING**

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied. **Thanks be to God!**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray, Well spring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

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

**BLESSING**

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever +.  
**(Sung) Amen, Amen, Amen.**

**SENDING SONG:**

**"Hallelujah Chorus" by G.F. Handel as performed by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Chorus**

**DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**



Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License #SAS103624. All rights reserved.  
Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License, License #A-700000.  
All rights reserved.