

Messiah Lutheran Church

1796-15 Avenue East
Prince Albert, S6V 8A1

Website: www.messiahluthpa.ca

Facebook and YouTube: [MessiahLutheranChurchPrinceAlbert](https://www.facebook.com/MessiahLutheranChurchPrinceAlbert)

Pastor Fran Schmidt

Cell: 1-306-716-3954

Email: pastor.mlc@sasktel.net

Office: 306-763-7374

E-mail: messiah@sasktel.net

The Messiah office will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday; 9am – noon.

Emails and phone messages to the Messiah office will be checked regularly.

Worship for Sunday, August 22, 2021

13^h Sunday after Pentecost, Year B

Sunday Worship Service, in person and live broadcast on-line, begins at 10:30am. Pre-registration is not required and the wearing of masks is optional. Hand sanitizing is encouraged, and offering is collected as you enter the Sanctuary. The service is taped for later viewing on the Messiah Facebook page and website.

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.



RECONCILIATION (Stoney Knoll) GATHERING INVITATION FROM ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, LAIRD; starting at 10am, Tuesday, August 24. The gathering will take place on the traditional lands of the Stoney Knoll Nation beginning with a Pipe Ceremony and concluding with a Friendship Dance at 3pm. Please see the poster on the Messiah Facebook page for more details/directions or call the Messiah office

Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) invites you to pray for the people of Haiti, and to consider making a gift as CLWR and ELCIC join leading Canadian aid agencies, through the Humanitarian Coalition, in launching an appeal to raise funds and rush emergency assistance to those affected by the devastating earthquake in Haiti. Please pray for those affected and for the partners and community members who are rushing to bring help and comfort. Donate by designated offering for "Haiti Crisis" through Messiah, online at clwr.org/Haiti, phoning the CLWR office at 1-800-661-2597 (Monday to Thursday, 9:00 – 16:00 CDT), or by mailing a cheque to 600-177 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0W5.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN: ELW#529 “Jesus, We Are Gathered”

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.

KYRIE: ELW, p. 203

HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW, p. 204

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray, **Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

In the Near East, covenant means “agreement” or “alliance.” It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.

A reading from Joshua.

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” ¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 34:15-22

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and God's ears are open to their cry.

¹⁶**The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.**

¹⁷The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them and delivers them from all their troubles.

¹⁸**The LORD is near to the broken-hearted and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**

¹⁹Many are the troubles of the righteous, but the LORD delivers them from every one.

²⁰**God will keep safe all their bones; not one of them shall be broken.**

²¹Evil will bring death to the wicked and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

²²**O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants, and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20

Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.

A reading from Ephesians.

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW, p. 205**GOSPEL: John 6:56-69**

The Holy Gospel according to John in the sixth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The "hard saying" that offends Jesus' disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: "To whom shall we go?"

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. ⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.” ⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

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

SERMON: ‘THE OTHER OPTIONS’

Silence for Reflection

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW#808 “Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Made children and heirs of God’s promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need, praying Lord in your mercy, and responding **hear our prayer.**

...

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; 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 HYMN: ELW#481 “Come to the Table”

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray, **Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, 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

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. **Thanks be to God!**

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN: ELW#473 "Holy, Holy, Holy"

TABLE BLESSING

Now may the body and blood of our precious Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace, now and unto everlasting life. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray, Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,

✠ be upon you now and forever.

Three-Fold Sung Amen.

SENDING SONG: ELW#840 “Now Thank We All Our God”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

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