

Messiah Lutheran Church
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Office hours for essential Messiah business only: Tuesday - Friday 10am – 2pm
Masks must be worn at all times within the Messiah building

Worship for Sunday, February 20, 2022
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany, Year C
Service of Word and Prayer

In person services (livestreamed on the Messiah YouTube channel and posted on the Messiah website following the service) begin at 10:30am each Sunday. Holy Communion is suspended until at least the end of February. The wearing of masks at all times is mandatory. Covid vaccinations, social distancing, and hand sanitizing are encouraged. Please do not attend if you aren't feeling well, and make use of Covid testing if necessary.

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.



Today:

Sunday School at 11:45 am, right after Worship Service on Zoom. To receive the Zoom link for Sunday School, please call the Messiah office or Pastor Fran.

No Confirmation Class tonight but we will resume next Sunday, February 27.

This Week:

Wednesday, February 23 at 7 pm – Lectionary Bible Study continues on Zoom only. All are welcome to join this study. For more information or to receive the Zoom link, please contact the Messiah office or Pastor Fran.

Next Sunday:

We welcome Camp Kinaseo Executive Director Darin Felstrom, to give a "Temple Talk" at the beginning of our Worship Service.

Upcoming:

Ash Wednesday Service will be held on March 2 @ 7pm. This service will be available in person as well as livestreamed on the Messiah YouTube channel.

Mid-week Lenten Service will be offered in person and via Zoom, on Wednesdays, starting March 9th to April 6th at 7pm. We will gather in the Peace Chapel, with the theme: "Turning Toward God's Abundance". Register through Messiah office or Pastor Fran to receive the Zoom link.

Other Announcements:

Thankfully, our Covid numbers are declining, and Pastor Fran is again able to extend pastoral visitation in people's homes or care facilities. If you, or someone you know, is in need of pastoral support, prayer or a visit, please call the Messiah office or Pastor Fran directly.

We are looking for worship assistants to help on Sunday mornings by either reading or operating power point. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex, and thank you for serving in this way!!

Expressing Christ's Care for Others:

Stephen Ministers bring distinctively Christian care to those in need. They express Christ's care for others by listening and comforting, calling on their training and employing the tools of faith. If this sounds interesting to you, please consider joining our next training class starting soon—contact Pastor Fran or Linda Moriarty to learn more.

March 2022 Seminars on Ecumenical Stewardship:

You are invited to join the March 2022 series of Ecumenical Stewardship Seminars. We're thinking about the use of sacred buildings and properties in new ways. Join on Thursdays, March 3, 10, 17, and 24 at 3pm (SK time). All are welcome. This webinar is planned in the spirit of the LAURC Covenant by the Ecumenical Stewardship Committee of the Anglican Diocese of Qu'Appelle, the Saskatchewan Synod of the ELCIC, and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Regina. For further information, contact Archdeacon Cheryl Toth at stewardship@sasktel.net Registration required:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpduiurjluHdE69wl-4LG15vIH00mGqViK>

Doctrine of Discovery: As part of your Lenten Spiritual Practice, you are invited to join the BC Synod as they take an in depth look at the Doctrine of Discovery, a document that has shaped western attitudes towards indigenous people for the past five centuries. Starting Thursday, March 3, at 9pm. You can sign up on Eventbrite Link: <https://bit.ly/3IQ3peD> Video 1: https://youtu.be/iAj7OP_oYbc

Video: <https://youtu.be/bhezcVydARE>



February is Black History Month. Throughout this month, the work of the Eastern Synod's Racial Justice Advisory Committee is shared by joining in their challenge to engage in learning, conversation and action. This week, as part of the #BlackHistoryMonth challenge extended by the committee, the theme of "Culture" is explored.

To learn more, visit the Eastern Synod website: <https://easternsynod.org/bhm/>.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN: ELW#853 "When Morning Guilds the Skies" vs. 1 & 4

GREETING and OPENING DIALOGUE: WOV, p. 46

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.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.
(John 1)

SCRIPTURE SONG: HYMN: ELW#318 "Alleluia, Song of Gladness" vs. 1

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray, O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.

A reading from Genesis.

³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. ⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' " ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40

¹Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
²For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.
³Put your trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and find safe pasture.
⁴Take delight in the LORD, who shall give you your heart's desire.
⁵Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD, and see what God will do.
⁶The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.
⁷Be still before the LORD and wait patiently. Do not be provoked by the one who prospers,
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
⁸Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.
⁹For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.
¹⁰In a little while the wicked shall be no more; even if you search out their place, they will not be there.
¹¹But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.
³⁹But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O LORD; you are their stronghold in time of trouble.
⁴⁰You, O LORD, will help them and rescue them; you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,
because in you they seek refuge.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.

A reading from First Corinthians.

³⁵But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ⁴²So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. ⁵⁰What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.
Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW#172 "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!" 2X

GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38

The Holy Gospel according to Luke in the sixth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.

[Jesus said:] ²⁷"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³²"If you love

those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ³⁷Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”
The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: “The Golden Rule”

CHILDREN'S SONG: “Praise Him, All Ye Little Children” vs. 1

SERMON: “Forgiveness Soup”

Silence for reflection

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW#714 “O God of Mercy, God of Light”, vs. 1, 3 & 5

RESPONSE TO THE WORD: CREED AND CONFESSION: WOV p. 49

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit. (Jude 20)

Keep yourselves in the love of God; look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Jude 21)

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Silence for reflection and self examination.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen

PEACE

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. (2 Corinthians 13:11)

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

(We share a sign of that peace

PRAYER

God blesses us through prayer.

OFFERING HYMN: ELW#583 "Take My Life, that I May Be", vs. 1, 2 & 4

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. Merciful God, in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you embrace our lives with your great love for humanity. With joy and gladness, we ask that these gifts may be for many a sign of that love, and that we may continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made, praying God of grace, and responding, hear our prayer.

...

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever in the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Three-Fold Sung Amen.

SENDING SONG: ELW#726 "Light Dawns on a Weary World"

DISMISSAL

Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.