



Messiah Lutheran Church
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Messiah Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday; 9am -4pm

Worship for Sunday April, 2, 2023
Palm Sunday with Holy Communion



Worship Services are in-person and livestreamed/posted on the Messiah YouTube channel. **Wearing of masks is not required but Messiah is a mask-friendly environment.** Covid vaccinations, social distancing, and hand sanitizing are encouraged.

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.



- We offer condolences and prayers to Garry & Peggy Reinhardt and their family, on the recent passing of his twin brother **Larry Reinhardt** on March 25. There will be a celebration of life held on April 2 in Watson, SK.
- Condolences and prayers to Stirling Hopkins and their family on the recent passing of **Marion Hopkins** on March 28. There will be memorial service here at Messiah Lutheran Church on April 8, time TBA.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” – Matthew 5:4

CONGREGATIONAL CALL MEETING – Sunday, April 2

The Messiah Call Committee are pleased to recommend **Pastor John Dut** for call to Messiah. A special congregational meeting of call will be held following the worship service on Sunday, April 2. Bishop Sid Haugen will be in attendance. Note: Nineteen (19) voting members are required for quorum, proxy / absentee voting is not permitted, and approval of the call requires approval by two-thirds of the voting members in attendance.

Update: Greetings from the Call Committee!

The Messiah Call Committee has worked together since October to give direction to Messiah’s search for its next ordained leader. After much study of candidate biographies, interviews, reference checks, and prayerful deliberation with God and each other, we unanimously recommend *Pastor John Dut* to be the next Pastor of our church.

John came to Canada over 20 years ago as a refugee from the South Sudan. He graduated with a Master of Divinity (continued on p.2)

from Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS), Saskatoon in 2013, and since then has served several parishes in the Saskatchewan and Manitoba Northwestern Ontario (MNO) Synods. John and his wife Alieza have five mostly adult children.

Our committee is particularly impressed with the broad worldview he can provide thanks to his cultural background and wide variety of experiences. We feel that John can connect not only with our members but a variety of cultures in our community. We see an opportunity for outreach to immigrant families and linking with the Multicultural Society as a resource for accomplishing this. John lists prayer, teaching and visiting as his top three skills for ministry.

While John does speak with an accent we may not be used to at first, we will have the chance to visit with him face-to-face and receive mentorship from the Saskatchewan Synod on welcoming a Pastor from another culture. (keep in mind that Rev. Dr. Ali Tote serves as the Assistant to the Bishop and can be an extremely valuable resource in this process). Again, we are excited to present Pastor John to the people of Messiah! We hope he will be our next Pastor.

Messiah Call Committee: Lorne Christopherson, Harvey Jacobsen, Lois Manchur, Shannon Pettem, Madison Pettem-Mark, David Bragg.

Please contact any of the call committee members if you have questions.



Monthly **potluck lunch on Sunday, April 2**, will follow the congregational call meeting.

All are invited to bring a lunch item (cold finger foods such as sandwiches, vegetables/salads, and desserts) to join in a meal and fellowship, and all are welcome to help with cleanup.

Congregational Activities and Happenings:

Choir practice @ 9:15am each Sunday morning prior to the worship service.

Tuesday, April 4 at 7pm: Women's Bible Study Group - '12 Women of the Bible' series. Join us in the Peace Chapel, and bring a friend if you would like.



Easter Sunday flowers: If you would like to donate flowers for the Easter service, please drop them off at Messiah by **Wednesday, April 5**. If you are donating 'in memory or honour of a loved one or friend', please contact the Messiah office to have their name added to the Easter Sunday Worship Bulletin.

Good Friday, April 7: Worship Service will begin at 10:30am.

Easter Sunday, April 9: The Men's Group will provide an Easter morning breakfast from 9:00 – 9:45am. **Easter Worship Service** will follow at 10:30am.

Saturday, April 15 (10am – 4pm): For a number of years, Council has planned a congregational gathering to discuss Messiah's ministry, moving forward, and treaty land acknowledgement (Truth & Reconciliation Calls to Action). Covid put that plan on hold until now. Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Dr. Ali Tote will lead us in these discussions in the Fellowship Hall. Details related to lunch, etc., will be provided prior to the date. We welcome Messiah's members and friends to attend; your input is important and valued; it will be a time to speak and to listen to each other when discussing Messiah's ministry and where God is leading us.

In addition, Pastor Ali will lead the Messiah worship service on April 16.

Sunday, April 30: Messiah Annual General Meeting will follow the Worship Service.

Saturday, May 6: Messiah Women's Group gathering at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. Denise Haugen will provide information about relaxation (stress reliever) techniques and then we'll enjoy coffee/potluck brunch. Join in for conversation and fellowship; friends are welcome.

GATHERING

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

ACCLAMATION

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" ¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

BLESSING OF PALMS

Let us pray. **We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL SONG: Messiah Choir with Congregation

Choir will begin and end; congregation joins in for these verses:

- V.1 **Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang!
Through pillared court and temple, the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to His breast,
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.**
- V.2 **From Olivet they followed mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of men and angels rode on in lowly state,
Nor scorned that little children should on His bidding wait.**
- V.3 **'Hosanna in the highest!' that accent song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven, our King.
O may we ever praise Him With heart and life and voice,
And in His blissful presence eternally rejoice!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray. **Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent your son, our Lord Jesus Christ to become one of us, and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to**

your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection; 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 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens — awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 31:9-16

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.

¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.**

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. I have said, “You are my God.**

¹⁵My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

¹⁶**Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.”**

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be used to his advantage; rather, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELWp.189

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord. Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you promised; we will trust your word. Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

SERMON: Bishop Sid Haugen. - Matthew 21:1-11

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW#661 ‘I Love to Tell the Story’

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sustained by God’s abundant mercy, let us pray.

Save your church, O God. Enable us to boldly confess in every time and place that Jesus Christ is Lord. With the humility of your servants, equip your people to be faithful stewards of your Word. May the instruction of Your Word and

the counsel of Your Spirit renew and guide us that we might be living stewards of your gifts and instruments of your grace in our often troubled world. **Receive our prayer.**

...

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and all your promises. **Amen.**

OFFERING HYMN: ELW#481 'Come to the Table'

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. **God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your kingdom. And now, prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.**

THE LORD'S SUPPER

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 THE LORD'S SUPPER:

To all who wish to share in the body of Christ and hear again His word of forgiveness . . . come as the ushers direct you.

COMMUNION MUSIC: Instrumental

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks almighty God that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life found in your forgiveness; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

And now, may the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Three-Fold Sung Amen.**

ENDING SONG: ELW#798 'Will You Come and Follow Me'

DISMISSAL

Go in God's peace and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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