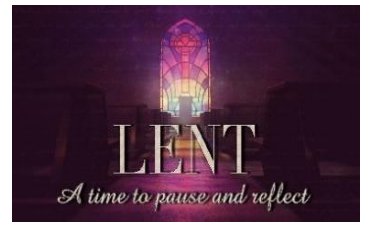




Messiah Lutheran Church
 1796-15 Avenue East, Prince Albert, S6V 8A1
 Website: www.messiahluthpa.com
 Facebook and YouTube: [MessiahLutheranChurchPrinceAlbert](https://www.facebook.com/MessiahLutheranChurchPrinceAlbert)



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

Worship for Sunday March 26, 2023
Fifth Sunday in Lent

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.



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 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.

Note: Our 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.

Hospital Visits: *If you know of anyone in hospital, including out of town such as Saskatoon, please call the Messiah office. The hospitals are not able to notify Messiah directly so this information needs to be provided by family and friends if the patient would like a visit or call.*



GATHERING

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p.94)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.** Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Holy God, **we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: ELW#331 'As the Deer Runs to the River'

GREETING (ELW p. 184)

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. 184)

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day. – (Chorus)

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW#329 'As the Sun with Longer Journey'

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the LORD."

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." ⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.'" ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD." The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 130

¹Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

²**O LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**

³If you were to keep watch over sins, O LORD, who could stand?

⁴**Yet with you forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.**

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

⁶**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning, more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love; with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

⁸**For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 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.

Gospel: John 11:1-45

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." ¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." ²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." ⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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

SERMON: Lutheran Pastor John Boyd, currently serving St. George's Anglican in Kamloops, BC.

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW#335 'Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross'

APOSTLE'S CREED (ELW p. 189)

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation, saying Merciful God and responding **receive our prayer**.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 191)

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. **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.**

PEACE: The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
We share a sign of that peace.

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING HYMN: ELW#692 'We are an Offering'

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. 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.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

God, the giver of love, ✝ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **(sung) Amen. Amen. Amen.**

SENDING SONG: ELW#808 'Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song'

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love. **Thanks be to God.**