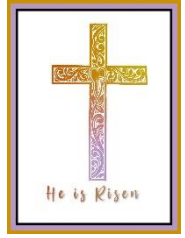


Messiah Lutheran Church
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Messiah Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday, 12 noon – 3pm	

Worship for Sunday April 16, 2023
Second Sunday of Easter/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.



CONGREGATIONAL CALL MEETING UPDATE

At the meeting on Sunday, April 2, there were 39 Messiah members and 6 friends/guests in attendance. Bishop Sid Haugen and Messiah Call Committee chair David Bragg led the discussions and motion related to a call to ministry for Pastor John Mayer Dut, which was approved. A letter of call will be sent by Bishop Sid to Pastor John who has 30 days to respond to the Call. Please keep Pastor John and our congregation in your prayers as we await the decision.



to the **Men's Group** for the Easter morning breakfast, **the Hopkins family** flowers in memory of Marion, and **Linda Moriarty** for the Easter Lilies and altar display. **Thank you to Pastor Ali** for guiding our planning session, and for leading our worship service.

Church Council Members wanted!

Would you like to be a leader and help represent the Church? The Lord is looking for people to step up to the plate to help share the responsibility of representing Messiah. Please consider letting your name stand for Church Council during this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on April 30. Please inform the Nominating Committee before the AGM by contacting Wayne Manchur at 306-961-9998 or email wmanpoolman@shaw.ca. Thank you for your consideration.



Activities and Happenings



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

Saturday, April 15 (10am – 4pm): Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Dr. Ali Tote will lead us in discussing Messiah's ministry, moving forward, and treaty land acknowledgement (Truth & Reconciliation Calls to Action). in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, April 23 @ 3pm: **Kinasao Annual General Meeting**, Trinity Lutheran Church, Saskatoon both in Person and over Zoom. Annual Report and Zoom information is available at kinasao.ca.

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.

A quiet Easter story for the journey: For one year, Jesus had worked in the north country, in Galilee. People ran to him, listened to him, followed him. They heard his stories. They watched him attending to all sorts of people: the rich, the poor, the broken. The followers found their eyes beginning to open to faith, their hearts beginning to open to others.



After a year in Galilee, Jesus and his faith community headed for the south for one week in Jerusalem. On Sunday Jesus rode on a farm vehicle, on the hood of a one-ton grain-truck into Jerusalem; his people followed, singing songs of freedom. But by the middle of the week threatening opposition was growing on every side. Then, on Thursday night, Jesus took his faith community to a banquet hall and took the bread, gave thanks, broke it, and shared the bread with wine around the table. Finally, on Friday came Jesus' arrest and the execution. That Friday, Jesus' little faith community knew that it was all over.

On Sunday, two of the discouraged disciples of Jesus were on their way to Emmaus--a village 7 miles out of Jerusalem. They were talking about the past. About the days when they had started to hope for a better world. They talked of Thursday, wistfully, of that most intimate evening, the breaking the bread, the look on Jesus' face.

But as they walked together, a stranger began walking with them. He asked them why they walked so slowly, so sadly, away from Jerusalem. They were silent for a long moment. Finally, one of them said, "Are you serious?" The other added, "You must be the only person who doesn't know what happened last week." Then they told him about the week, about the wrecked body of Jesus of Nazareth, about the end of hope. The stranger listened and listened some more. Then the stranger began to speak about the words of the prophet Isaiah. "Doesn't the Scripture say that the servant of God would be despised, a man of sorrows? Doesn't the Scripture say that the servant would suffer for the sins of the world?" The discouraged disciples of Jesus listened and listened some more. Then, as they drew near Emmaus the stranger turned to leave them. But the two said, "No, please stay. Abide with us. It's getting dark. It's not safe for strangers out there." So the stranger stayed with them that evening.

While they sat together at table, the stranger, looked at them, took the bread, gave thanks and broke it. A chill went up their spines. Could this be true? Was this the Christ still among them? And then - when the proof was right there, when faith seemed a matter of certainty—then, He vanished from their sight.

People of God, I leave you today with this wonderful Easter story from Luke 24. It seems to be a quiet Easter story. But in its quietness, can you hear the story softly inviting you in. Inviting you and I who are 'still on the road'—at times confident and at time discouraged—to hold deep in our hearts this life-giving Easter faith. This faith that the Christ who had walked with the faith community in Galilee is still walking with each of us today: loving, guiding, and sustaining each step of the way.

A blessed Easter to you all, Bishop Sid

GATHERING

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: ELW#376 'Thine is the Glory'

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)

1. **Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.**
2. **Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.**
3. **Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.
Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!**

HYMN OF PRAISE (ELW p. 204)

1. **Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth. Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth: we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.**
2. **Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love. Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above; on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.**
3. **Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call; Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all: Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright. For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, 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: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], ^{22a}“You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; ²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. ²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. ²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ ^{29a}“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 16

¹Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

²**All my delight is in the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people.**

³But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴**I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods, never take their names upon my lips.**

⁵O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.

⁶**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

⁷I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

⁸**I have set the LORD always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰**For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.**

¹¹You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9

This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings. ³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 205)

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

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

⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” ²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my

hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name. The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: Pastor Ali

HYMN OF THE DAY: Hymns for the Family of God #299 ‘He Lives’

1. I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today; I know that He is living, whatever men may say. I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer, And just the time I need Him He's always near. Refrain: He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way. He lives, He lives, Salvation to impart. You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart!
2. In all the world around me I see His loving care, And though my heart grows weary I never will despair; I know that He is leading, through all the stormy blast, The day of His appearing will come at last. Refrain: He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way. He lives, He lives, Salvation to impart. You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart
3. Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian Lift up your voice and sing Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ, the King! The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find, None other is so loving, so good and kind. Refrain: He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way. He lives, He lives, Salvation to impart. You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.

APOSTLES' CREED (ELW p. 206)

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

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING HYMN: WOV#732 'Create in Me A Clean Heart'

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER: Let us pray. **Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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.**

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: **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.**

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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us. **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.** Taste and see that the Lord is good,

COMMUNION MUSIC: Instrumental

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. **Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: Hymns for the Family of God #295 'I Know that My Redeemer Lives'

1. **I know that my Redeemer lives! What joy the blest assurance gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ever-living head!**
2. **He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save;
He lives in majesty above; He lives to guide his Church in love.**
3. **He lives to silence all my fears; He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart; He lives all blessings to impart.**
4. **He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Savior, still the same;
What joy this blest assurance gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

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