



Messiah Lutheran Church
 1796-15 Avenue East, Prince Albert, S6V 8A1
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Messiah Office: Tuesday – Friday from 11am to 3pm	

Worship for Sunday, February 25, 2024 @ 10:30am
Second Sunday in Lent; Diaconal Sunday

Worship Leader: Pastor John Mayer Dut

Sunday Worship Services are at **10:30am**
 and are also livestreamed and posted on the Messiah YouTube channel.

Wearing of masks is not required but Messiah is a mask-friendly environment.

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 – February 25

- **Choir Practice** at 9:15am. We are back on, come out and join us in singing praises to the Lord!
- **Coffee Time: before and after** service – a time of fellowship, laughter and visiting.



Coming Up

- ❖ **Lectionary Bible Study – Wednesday, February 28 @ 7pm;** in person and via zoom.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81198671375?pwd=cVJtTVcyaIVDTzhMMUhhNRGlhTIRadz09>
- ❖ **Lenten Lunches (Calvary United) every Thursday until March 21: 11:30am – 1pm.**
 Soup/sandwich lunch at 12noon; service from 12:30-1pm.
- ❖ **Women's Bible Study – Tuesday, March 4 @ 7pm;** in Peace Chapel.



Coffee Fellowship

- ❖ **Coffee's On (& Fellowship)! Tuesday, February 27, 10 – 11 am** in the Fellowship Hall: You are All invited!! And each following month on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. *Come one and all; see your friends, bring your friends, meet new friends.* Chat, Visit or just Shoot the Breeze, but **Come, Cause the Coffee is ON!!**



On March 3rd, we will be welcoming another child into the fold of God for baptism. **Henrik Trond Tomtene**, son of Bradley & Jessica Tomtene will be baptized during the service. Please come and take part in this truly marvellous sacrament.

Worship Assistants are needed for Sunday Services.

The sign up sheet is in the Narthex and lists ways you can help. Please have a look and sign up to usher, read or operate PowerPoint. Your gift of time and service is greatly appreciated.



The World Day of Prayer
invites you...

'I beg you, bear with one another in love.'

... to a **Service at St. Joseph Parish** (260-25 St. E.), **Friday, March 1, at 2:00pm.**
The 2024 World Day of Prayer was designed by the WDP committee of Palestine.

Come join with the rest of Prince Albert as we pray with everyone around the world. A light lunch will follow! To provide an estimate of numbers attending, a signup sheet is in the Narthex; or phone / email the Messiah office by February 29 if you plan to attend.



The second anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine is on February 24; together with Christian leaders of Orthodox, Catholic, Evangelical, and other faith traditions in Canada, the World Evangelical Alliance's Peace & Reconciliation Network, The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, and The Canadian Council of Churches; we pray:

O Lord our God, We ask your loving kindness upon the state and the people of Ukraine during this time of war. We pray for all those who are suffering physically, emotionally, psychologically, or spiritually in Ukraine and throughout the world as a result of the Russian invasion, that you would lessen their suffering and grant them comfort and healing. We pray that you would enlighten the hearts of those who pursue violence. Grant them the peace of true repentance and wisdom to cease their sinful actions, seek forgiveness and make amends for their actions. We ask for peaceful existence in Ukraine that is deep and inalienable, and that they are never again subjected to invasion or violence. And grant that we may all praise you, our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, One in the Holy Trinity. Amen.

Congregational Announcement

Please **check your church mailbox** for any mail you may have received in the last couple years. Many people have items that haven't been claimed, thus missing any correspondence or important information! Thank you.



GATHERING & WELCOME

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

Introduction: *The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.*

Today, the last Sunday of February is Diaconal Ministry Sunday, the day the ELCIC celebrates the witness expressed through service (diakonia). Through our baptism all Christians are called to share God's word and to serve our neighbours in Christ's name. It is also a day to recognize and give thanks to God for all of those who serve in official calls as deacons in our church. The video sermon will be delivered by Deacon Gretchen Peterson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. **Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy God, **we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through ✙ Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: ELW#514 'O Word of God Incarnate'

GREETINGS:

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.138)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Children's Message

WORD

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

First Reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you." ¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:23-31

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off-spring of Israel.

²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25

Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION(ELW p.142)

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

Gospel: Mark 8:31-38

The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the Eighth Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: Deacon Gretchen Peterson (video)

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW#808 'Lord Jesus, You Shall be My Song'

APOSTLE'S CREED

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

Pastor: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need, saying: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING HYMN: ELW#186 'Create in Me a Clean Heart'

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **Jesus, you are the bread of life. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. We pray this in your name. Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and give you peace. (sung) **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

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

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace. Share your bread. **Thanks be to God.**

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