

# *Welcome to Messiah Lutheran*

## *+ Fifth Sunday in Lent +*

### **The Attraction of the Repellant Cross**



Two themes vie for attention in the readings: divine forgiveness (with attention paid to the human sinfulness that makes it necessary!) and the cross's mysterious power.

Jeremiah prophesies of God's desire and ability to wipe the slate clean and to come even closer than before, in the form of a "new covenant" with God's people. But how is this possible? God and God's people were already as close as husband and wife — one flesh! Even so, God promises to forgive the divorce and forge an even more profound unity and intimacy with God's people.

The composers of both psalm alternatives (51 and 119) sing of the relief and joy of being forgiven and then taught, sustained, and sanctified by God's Spirit. Both psalmists testify that relief and joy more than balance the agony of confessing their unworthiness and brokenness and their own culpability for both.

In the gospel, Jesus plants the image of the (dead) seed coming to life and bearing fruit, as a metaphor for his own crucifixion and being "lifted up" on our behalf. The Greeks ask to see Jesus. We might paraphrase Jesus' oblique response this way: "If you want to see me, first look down into the dirt; then look up to the cross."

The connection point for the two themes is deep (even intimate) service to the other. Jeremiah tells us that God will come closer to us than a husband to a wife—directly into our hearts! Deep in this mystery we will be known—truly known even beyond our fear of being known—and forgiven and loved. Jesus then promises that through his life in us, we will be drawn into a similar emptying of selves as we enter richly into the lives of others so that they too will know the joy and relief of being known and loved. In this way, confession leads finally to mission.

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# *Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church*

*The mission of Messiah Lutheran Church is to glorify Christ,  
by nurturing our faith, sharing His love, and teaching His Word.*

*March 21, 2021*

*10:30 a.m.*

## *~ We Gather for Worship ~*

### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
the keeper of the covenant,  
the source of steadfast love,  
our rock and our redeemer.

**Amen.**

God hears us when we cry and draws us close in Jesus Christ.  
Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Fountain of living water,

**C: pour out your mercy over us.**

**Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.**

**Rebuild what we have ruined**

**and mend what we have torn.**

**Wash us in your cleansing flood.**

**Make us alive in the Spirit**

**to follow in the way of Jesus,**

**as healers and restorers of the world you so love.**

**Amen.**

L: Beloved, God's word never fails.

The promise rests on grace:

by the saving love of Jesus Christ,

the wisdom and power of God,

your sins are ☩ forgiven, and God remembers them no more.

Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

## OPENING SONG: “Here I Am To Worship”

**1** Light of the world  
You stepped down into darkness  
Opened my eyes let me see  
Beauty that made  
This heart adore You  
Hope of a life spent with You

**Chorus** So here I am to worship  
Here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God  
And You're altogether lovely  
Altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me

**2** King of all days  
Oh so highly exalted  
Glorious in heaven above  
Humbly You came  
To the earth You created  
All for love's sake became poor

**Chorus** So here I am to worship  
Here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God  
And You're altogether lovely  
Altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me

**Bridge** And I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross  
And I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross

**Chorus** So here I am to worship  
Here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God  
And You're altogether lovely  
Altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me

**\*GREETING and PRAYER:**

**L:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**L:** Let us pray: **O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*~ We Hear God's Word ~*

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

**PSALM 51:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup>Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.

<sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass judgment.

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

<sup>6</sup>You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

<sup>7</sup>Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**<sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.

**<sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

**<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

### **\*GOSPEL: John 12:20-33**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 3rd chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. <sup>27</sup>"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **SERMON SONG: "Mighty To Save"**

**1** Ev'ryone needs compassion  
Love that's never failing  
Let mercy fall on me

Ev'ryone needs forgiveness  
The kindness of a Saviour  
The hope of nations

**Chorus** Saviour He can move the mountains  
My God is mighty to save  
He is mighty to save  
Forever Author of salvation  
He rose and conquered the grave  
Jesus conquered the grave

**2** So take me as You find me  
All my fears and failures  
Fill my life again  
I give my life to follow  
Ev'rything I believe in  
Now I surrender

**Chorus** Saviour He can move the mountains  
My God is mighty to save  
He is mighty to save  
Forever Author of salvation  
He rose and conquered the grave  
Jesus conquered the grave

**Bridge** Shine your light and let the whole world see  
We're singing  
For the glory of the risen King  
Jesus  
Shine your light and let the whole world see  
We're singing  
For the glory of the risen King

**Chorus** Saviour He can move the mountains  
My God is mighty to save  
He is mighty to save  
Forever Author of salvation  
He rose and conquered the grave  
Jesus conquered the grave

## SERMON

### ~ We Respond as God's People ~

#### APOSTLES' 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.

**OFFERING MOMENT:** *In gratitude we share these gifts to further the work of God's kingdom! In gratitude we receive the gifts of bread and wine, signs of our Lord's gracious presence in our midst!*

#### Special Music: "Who You Say I Am"

1 Who am I that the highest King  
Would welcome me  
I was lost but He brought me in  
Oh His love for me  
Oh His love for me

**Chorus 1** Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God  
Yes I am

2 Free at last  
He has ransomed me  
His grace runs deep  
While I was a slave to sin  
Jesus died for me  
Yes He died for me

**Chorus 2** In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God  
Yes I am

**Bridge** I am chosen not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me not against me  
I am who You say I am  
I am chosen not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me not against me  
I am who You say I am  
  
I am who You say I am

**Chorus 1** Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God  
Yes I am

**Chorus 2** In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God  
Yes I am

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**OFFERING PRAYER:**

**Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life. with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*~ We Celebrate our Lord's Presence ~*

**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.**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.



Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.  
Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.  
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.  
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.  
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.  
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.  
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.  
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

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.

The body of Christ given for you ... *eat of the bread*  
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.

The blood of Christ shed for you ... *drink of the cup*

### **\*POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

### **\*LORD'S PRAYER:**

**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.**

### **BENEDICTION**

**~ We Are Sent to Serve ~**

## **CLOSING SONG: “Lord Reign In Me”**

**1** Over all the earth You reign on high  
Every mountain stream every sunset sky  
But my one request Lord my only aim  
Is that You'd reign in me again

**Chorus** Lord reign in me reign in Your pow'r  
Over all my dreams in my darkest hour  
You are the Lord of all I am  
So won't You reign in me again

**2** Over every thought over every word  
May my life reflect the beauty of my Lord  
'Cause You mean more to me  
Than any earthly thing  
So won't You reign in me again

**Chorus** Lord reign in me reign in Your pow'r  
Over all my dreams in my darkest hour  
You are the Lord of all I am  
So won't You reign in me again

**Chorus** Lord reign in me reign in Your pow'r  
Over all my dreams in my darkest hour  
You are the Lord of all I am  
So won't You reign in me again

**Tag** Won't You reign in me again

Won't You reign in me again

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**DISMISSAL:** Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God!**

## Announcements

**“The Cup of our Life” for Lent:** Join us on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM for Lenten worship at Messiah each week! This upcoming week the theme will be: “The Cup of Compassion.”

**Summer Bible Camp season is fast approaching!** Camp Emmaus brochures are now available in the narthex. Located on beautiful Lake Morgan just outside of Menahga, MN, Camp Emmaus has over 340 wooded acres, offering lots of space to explore! Go to <https://pathwaysbiblecamps.org/> for more information and to register for camp. An early bird discount is being applied through March 21<sup>st</sup>!

**Worship during Holy Week:** To fully experience the glorious joy of Easter, we must first journey through the sorrow found at the cross and tomb! You are invited to attend the following Holy Week worship services: ***Maundy Thursday, 6:30 PM at Messiah Lutheran*** featuring the celebration Holy Communion and the stripping of the altar. ***Good Friday, 6:30 PM at Moe Lutheran*** featuring extinguishing candles to create an ever darkening of the sanctuary space as we read the scripture passages of our Lord’s Passion.

### **First Communion for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders:**

The celebration of First Communion for Fifth Graders traditionally occurs during Holy Week. We have some catching up to do, since 2020 Fifth Graders didn’t get the opportunity to do First Communion instruction. This year, Fifth and Sixth Grade First Communion will occur on **Tuesday, March 23rd from 5:30-7:30 PM**. All 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students are invited to attend. Each student should bring at least one parent, grandparent, or godparent. We will begin with a fellowship meal, followed by a time of instruction, and concluding with the celebration of Holy Communion.

### **Lenten Offering Boxes help support “Backpack for Kids”:**

Throughout Lent, each family can fill their offering boxes and return them at our Holy Week or Easter worship services! This offering is designated toward helping the Backpack for Kids program. The backpack program is offered to Pre-K through 6th grade students who need supplemental nutrition on weekends and school breaks. Each school week, a bag is sent home with the student containing food items that the children can prepare and eat with minimal assistance. Example items include Easy Mac, cereal, granola bars, juice boxes, etc. All donations go through the Roseau Food Shelf. We are excited to help support this vital community service through our 2021 Lenten Offering Boxes!

**Tin Cups Offering:** Donations will go towards the **Messiah Youth's College Care Packages** outreach project.

**“Lord, Hear our Prayer”:** If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, we would love to pray for you! You can be placed on the confidential prayer chain by reaching out to Messiah's Prayer Chain Coordinator, Mary Olson (218-463-2364). To make a request for prayers during worship, fill out the prayer request form found on the table in the narthex and turn in to the church office. *If you have any questions, please feel free to ask either Mary, Deacon Joanne, or Pastor Dave.*

### *Staying connected*

*Thank you for worshiping with us in person, via radio, or on Facebook Live!*

**Messiah radio broadcast:** Tune in on Wild 102 radio at 10:30 am or via [Roseauonline.com](http://Roseauonline.com).

**Today's Radio Broadcast is sponsored by Messiah Lutheran Church.**

**FaceBook Live:** Go to Messiah's Facebook page to watch livestream video of worship at 10:30am.

**Breeze App:** If you listen to the radio broadcast of our worship service, please Check In to today's worship via the Breeze app on your phone.

**Worship 3/14/2021 - Attendance:64; Offering: \$2,557 Weekly; Direct Debit: \$600**

### *Worship Servers for Sunday, March: 21*

**Communion:** Bonnie H. /Bonnie D.

**Reader:** Jodie Janzen

**Greeter/Usher:** Bonnie Delmore

**Sound Booth:** Paul Grafstrom

**Council Rep:** Bonnie Delmore

**Counters:** Stu & Beth McFarlane

### *Worship Servers for Sunday, March: 28*

**Communion:** No Communion

**Reader:** Carol Guy

**Greeter/Usher:** Keith Okeson

**Sound Booth:** Marty Trangsrud

**Council Rep:** Keith Okeson

**Counters:** Jon & Bonnie Hagen

## *Week at a Glance*

### Sunday, March 21

10:00am Sunday School  
 10:30am In Person Worship Service  
*W/Communion & Adult Praise Band*  
 10:30am FB Live/Radio  
 11:30am Youth Praise Band  
 7:00pm 7-12<sup>th</sup> Virtual Zoom YG

### Monday, March 22

1pm Quilting

### Tuesday, March 23

10am Quilting

### Wednesday, March 24

3:30pm – 4:30pm: 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade YG  
 5:15pm Bell Choir Practice  
 5:30pm: Confirmation “TO GO BOX”  
 Suppers  
 6:00pm: 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation  
 Classes.  
 6:30pm: **Messiah Lent Worship Service**  
 7:15pm – 8:20pm: 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade R.O.C.K.  
 8:20pm 10-12 Gr. Student Leaders @Messiah

### Sunday, March 28

10:00am Sunday School w/Bell Choir  
 10:30am In Person Worship Service  
 10:30am FB Live/Radio  
 1:00pm Youth Praise Band  
 7:00pm 7-12<sup>th</sup> Virtual Zoom YG

### Monday, March 29

1pm Quilting  
 7pm Zoom Meeting for 2022 ELCA  
 Minneapolis Summer Youth gathering

### Tuesday, March 30

10am Quilting

### Wednesday, March 31

6:30pm 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Movie Night @  
 Messiah

*Note: Jay Vacation April 2<sup>nd</sup> – April 11<sup>th</sup>*

## *Messiah Leadership:*

*Pastor* Dave Swonger:

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**Youth Director:** Jay Ostgaard:

[\*jjostgaard@gmail.com\*](mailto:jjostgaard@gmail.com)

**Council President:** Karyn Santl

**Organist:** Joyce Hulst

**Custodian:** Yhone Magnusson

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*Office hours: Tues-Thurs, 9:00am-3:00pm*

**(NOTE NEW OFFICE HOURS)**