

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran

+ Fourth Sunday in Lent +



The Cosmic Love of God

The prologue of John's gospel begins with the story of creation, connecting the Word that became flesh in Jesus with the bringing forth of life and all things. Then, as the gospel continues, the testimony of John the Baptist is shared, which continues to point the reader to Jesus' significance for the whole world, not only one group or people. John, upon seeing Jesus approach him in the wilderness, declares "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

(John 1:29). The Gospel of John highlights the cosmic reach of Jesus and the purpose for which Jesus was sent. God loves the whole world, not just part of it. And God loves us, all of us. God's purpose in sending Jesus is "that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:17).

Our world and our lives include darkness and sin, evil and brokenness. But God's love for us and for the world is complete, passionate, and sacrificial. God is not willing to settle for part of the world, or for some of us. Instead of condemning all that is not pleasing, God gave God's own son, lifted up on the cross, so that all might have the possibility of eternal life. The light of God's love shining down from the cross demonstrates the totality of God's love and proclaims God's desire to transform the dark places in this world into places of light, healing, and salvation.

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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 14, 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: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” – ELW 631

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

4 Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

*GREETING:

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***KYRIE:** *During the season of Lent, the Cantic of Praise is omitted and we add the Kyrie. The word “Kyrie comes from the Greek word meaning “Lord.” When we hear the words “Kyrie eleison” it means “Lord, have mercy.” This is an appropriate response as we reflect on our Lord’s mercy and grace poured out for us on the cross!*

Tune: Lord Jesus Think on Me



1 Have mer-cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol-lemn prayer.
2 Have mer-cy on us, Christ, and wash a-way our sin.
3 Have mer-cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de-part.



We come to hear your liv-ing word; it saves us from de-spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be-gin.
Re-new us with your sav-ing pow'r; cre-ate in us new hearts!

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray: **O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through 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: Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death's door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress.**

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.**

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

***GOSPEL: John 3:14-21**

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

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

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON SONG: “*Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*” – ELW 623

- 1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

- 3 Nothing in my hand I bring;
simply to thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778

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: *What a privilege to share the gifts we've been given!
In doing so, we honor God by caring for God's creation and God's children.*

OFFERTORY: *Sing as gifts are brought forward to the altar.*

We give thee but thine own. What 'ere that gift may be.
All that we have is thine alone, a trust oh Lord from thee.

OFFERING PRAYER:

Almighty God, draw our hearts to you! Guide our minds, fill our imaginations, and control our wills, so that we may be wholly yours. Use these gifts to your glory and for the well being of your people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS:

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

You sent your Son that the world might be saved through him. Inspire the witness of the church throughout the world. Empower missionaries, Bible translators, and ministries of service in your name. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

From east to west your steadfast love is shown. Nourish seas and deserts, wilderness areas and cities. Give water to thirsty lands; nurture spring growth that feeds hungry creatures; bless farmers as they prepare for the growing season. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You sustained your people in the wilderness. Give courage to all who lead in times of crisis and scarce resources. Prosper the work of those who aid victims of famine and drought. Bring peace in places where scarce resources cause violence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your mercy endures forever. Deliver all who cry to you, especially those who are hungry or without homes. Give life in places where death seems triumphant; give healing to those who are sick and comfort to those who mourn. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

By grace we have been saved. Fill this congregation to overflowing with that grace, that we show mercy to others. Nourish any in our midst who are hungry, especially children, and bless our ministries of feeding and shelter. Give us patience and courage when the way seems long. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your Son was lifted up that whoever believes might have eternal life. We praise you for all who have died in Christ. Bring us with all the saints into the fullness of your promises. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing" - ELW 545

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug-gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri-umph in re - deem-ing grace.
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum-mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil-der-ness.
Ev - er faith-ful, ev - er faith-ful to your truth may we be found.
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end-less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.
Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

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 21st!

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 5th and 6th 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 5th and 6th 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.*

Messiah Quilting: *Please join us! Mondays from 1-4pm and Tuesdays from 10am-4pm*, through March (we will be following Minnesota State Covid-19 guidelines).

Staying connected

Thank you for worshipping 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.

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 3/7/2021 - Attendance:49; Offering: \$1,715 Weekly Direct Debit: \$600

Worship Servers for Sunday, March: 14

Communion: No Communion

Reader: Barb Erickson

Greeter/Usher: Amy Filpula

Sound Booth: Bob & Andrew Tuttle

Council Rep: Kevin Wensloff

Counters: Warren & Marsha Hagen

Worship Servers for Sunday, March: 21

Communion: Roxanne F. /Bonnie D.

Reader: Jodie Janzen

Greeter/Usher: Bonnie Delmore

Sound Booth: Paul Grafstrom

Council Rep: Bonnie Delmore

Counters: Stu & Beth McFarlane

Week at a Glance

Sunday, March 14

10:00am Sunday School
 10:30am In Person Worship Service
 10:30am FB Live/Radio
 11:30am Youth Praise Band
 7:00pm 7-12th Virtual Zoom YG

Monday, March 15

1pm – 4pm: Quilting

Tuesday, March 16

10am – 4pm Quilting
 5:15pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 17

3:30pm – 4:30pm: 1st – 2nd Grade YG
 5:30pm: Confirmation “TO GO BOX”
 Suppers
 6:00pm: 7th, 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation
 Classes
 6:30pm: Messiah Lent Worship Service
 7:15pm – 8:20pm: 7th-12th Grade R.O.C.K.

Sunday, March 21

10:00am Sunday School
 10:30am In Person Worship Service
 W/Communion & Adult Praise Band
 10:30am FB Live/Radio
 1:00pm Youth Praise Band
 7:00pm 7-12th Virtual Zoom YG

Monday, March 22

1pm – 4pm: Quilting

Tuesday, March 23

10am – 4pm Quilting

Wednesday, March 24

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

Messiah Leadership:

Pastor Dave Swonger:

218-452-4639

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701-955-4479

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Youth Director: Jay Ostgaard:

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Council President: Karyn Santl

Organist: Joyce Hulst

Custodian: Yhone Magnusson

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Office hours: Tues-Thurs,

8:30am-4:30pm