



Welcome to Messiah Lutheran

1st Sunday in Lent

February 26, 2023

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.**

Most merciful God...

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. 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: *"The Heart Of Worship"*

Verse 1

When the music fades all is stripped away
And I simply come
Longing just to bring something that's of worth
That will bless Your heart

Pre-Chorus

I'll bring You more than a song
For a song in itself is not what You have required
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart

Chorus

I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You all about You Jesus
I'm sorry Lord for the thing I've made it
When it's all about You all about You Jesus

Verse 2

King of endless worth no one could express
How much You deserve
Though I'm weak and poor all I have is Yours
Ev'ry single breath

Pre-Chorus

I'll bring You more than a song
For a song in itself is not what You have required
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart

Chorus

I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You all about You Jesus
I'm sorry Lord for the thing I've made it
When it's all about You all about You Jesus

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GREETING: The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray: **Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us. The devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall

not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

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

PSALM 32

¹Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

**²Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

³While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

**⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

**⁶Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.**

⁷You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

**⁸I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

⁹Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

**¹⁰Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 4th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written,
'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"

¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

L: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON SONG: "Who You Say I Am"

Verse 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*

Continued on next page...

Verse 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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SERMON

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.

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

OFFERING MOMENT:

Our Lord Jesus offered himself for us in love on the cross. We bring our offering in response, giving thanks for such an amazing gift! May God's Spirit bless and use these gifts in Christ's name!

OFFERING: *“Lord, I Need You” – Praise Band*

OFFERING PRAYER: O Mighty One, you have done great things for us, and holy is your name. Bless all that we offer you – ourselves, our time, and our possessions – that through us, your grace and favor may be made know to all the world for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

PRAYERS:

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

You alone are God. Sustain your church in times of change and transition. Give vision and wisdom to bishops, their staff, and all entrusted with the ministry of administration. We especially pray your blessing and guidance for our Northwest Minnesota Synod Staff...

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Guide your people at Moe, Messiah, and Bethel. Inspire us in our loving devotion and service to you. Increase our awareness of your purpose and plan for us, both as individual congregations, and as collaborative faith families seeking to serve you in the world.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You know our temptations. Sustain those who govern and legislate. Instill in them a sense of your justice and righteousness, that equity and peace would pervade all the regions and nations of the world.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You are a hiding place for all in distress. Draw near to exiles, and accompany all refugees and immigrants seeking safe haven. Be with your people in Turkey and Syria who are suffering from the chaos of recent earthquakes. In times of trouble, trauma, or illness, surround your people with your steadfast love (*especially those we name before you...*)

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You offer abundance to all. Bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Care for those who tend to the needs of others, especially worship greeters and ushers, coffee fellowship hosts, and those providing meals for Lenten suppers.

Merciful God, **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:

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

SENDING SONG: *"In the Secret"*

Verse 1

In the secret, in the quiet place
In the stillness You are there
In the secret, in the quiet hour I wait,
Only for you
'Cause I want to know you more

Chorus:

I want to know You
I want to hear Your voice
I want to know You more

I want to touch You
I want to see Your face
I want to know You more

Verse 2

I am reaching for the highest goal
That I might receive the prize
Pressing onward, pushing every hindrance aside
Out of my way
'Cause I want to know You more

Chorus:

I want to know You
I want to hear Your voice
I want to know You more

I want to touch You
I want to see Your face
I want to know You more

Chorus:

I want to know You
I want to hear Your voice
I want to know You more

I want to touch You
I want to see Your face
I want to know You more

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**