

*Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*April 18, 2021
Third Sunday of Easter*

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*To share the Good News of Jesus Christ
and to invite all to join us in faith, worship, and service.*

The service will be livestreamed at 10:45 am on Messiah's FB page, and that video will be available later on the church website and YouTube. There is no pre-recording of the service on YouTube this week.

Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/MessiahMech/>

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Pastor: The Rev. Ryan Radtke

Church: (804) 746-7134; Email: MessiahMech@gmail.com; Website: MessiahMech.com

Third Sunday of Easter

April 18, 2021

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome visitors! May the Spirit of Christ fill your heart as we worship today. You are invited to make Messiah your church home.

EASTER GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: ***He is risen, indeed! Alleluia***

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

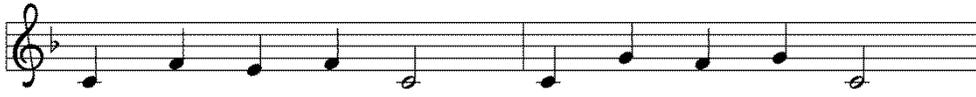
C: ***we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus 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.***

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

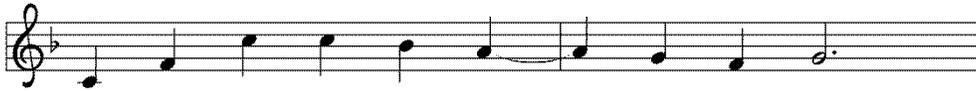
C: **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

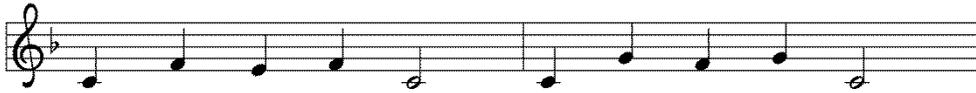
Day of Arising



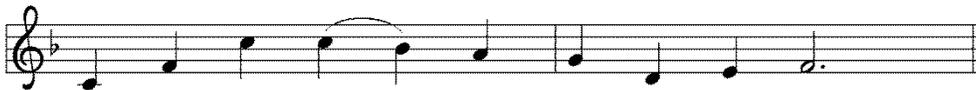
1 Day of a - ris - ing, Christ on the road - way,
2 When we are walk - ing, doubt - ful and dread - ing,
3 Lo, I am with you, Je - sus has spo - ken.
4 Christ, our com - pan - ion, hope for the jour - ney,



un - known com - pan - ion walks with his own.
blind - ed by sad - ness, slow - ness of heart,
This is Christ's prom - ise, this is Christ's sign:
bread of com - pas - sion, o - pen our eyes.



When they in - vite him, as fades the first day,
yet Christ walks with us, ev - er a - wait - ing
when the church gath - ers, when bread is bro - ken,
Grant us your vi - sion, set all hearts burn - ing



and bread is bro - ken, Christ is made known.
our in - vi - ta - tion: Stay, do not part.
there Christ is with us in bread and wine.
that all cre - a - tion with you may rise.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
Music: RAABE, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929
Text © 1996 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

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THE GREETING

P: 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.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray:

C: *Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection 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.*

FIRST LESSON Acts 3:12-19

Lector

A reading from Acts.

After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him.¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON: 1 John 3:1-7

Lector

A reading from 1 John.

God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:36b-48

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke

Do you ever ask a question emphatically? Is there ever surprise woven into your queries? When you say "What," do you sometimes need both a question mark *and* an exclamation point? As in, "The dog did what?!" Well, ladies and gentlemen, have I got a time-saving punctuation innovation for you: it is my distinct pleasure to introduce you to the interrobang. Check it out:



From our friends at Merriam Webster dictionary: “Most punctuation marks have been around for centuries, but not the interrobang: it’s a product of the 1960s. The mark gets its name from the punctuation that it is intended to combine. *Interro* is from ‘interrogation point,’ the technical name for the question mark, and *bang* is printers’ slang for the exclamation point.” I’m not sure why it didn’t catch on, but there you have it – a handy tool for when just one punctuation mark simply isn’t enough to express what you’re trying to say.

It seems to me like the resurrection is interrobang-worthy. The women arrive at the tomb: it’s empty` The disciples are sitting together in a locked room, afraid, and Jesus is suddenly standing among them` Jesus died – on the cross – and was laid in a tomb. Three days pass. But now he’s standing here, talking to us, showing us his wounds and telling us to be witnesses` Really`

Listen to the disciples’ interrobang of emotions from today’s Gospel again: “Jesus stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’” Poof! “They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, ‘Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?’” Why are we frightened` “‘Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.’ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. *While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering...*” Can this be real` What does this mean` Happiness and overwhelming joy are swirled together with incredulity and wonder and shock. And when you turn to your keyboard to try to write this story down, you might really wish you had one of these babies:

Here’s how Jesus responds to the disciples’ collective interrobang: before anything else, he says: Peace be with you. And then he invites them to touch, to see, to feel. Touch his wounds, see the marks, feel his hands and feet – it’s really him. Flesh and bones. No ghost. Make it tangible. Make it real. Turn their interrobangs into something they can wrap their minds around. And then, and I love this, Jesus says, “Got anything to eat?” What’s more normal than that? Sitting together for a meal once again, having some broiled fish. Just like they’d done so many times before. Just like they’d done the Thursday before. And then he *teaches* them.

Jesus says, “Peace be with you,” and then he facilitates that peace. He shows them his now eternal wounds, his permanent marks of love from the cross, and says, “Touch. See. Feel. I am real. This salvation is real. Eat with me. Let’s do something normal. Something necessary. And let me teach you. Let me explain to you now that you can finally understand, now that you are finally on the other side of the cross and the empty tomb, not that your interrobangs can give way to understanding. Let me open your minds and your hearts to the scriptures.” And he does just that. And then he gives them a job.

“Repentance and forgiveness of sins are to be proclaimed in my name. To all nations, starting here, in Jerusalem. *You are witnesses of these things.*” The witnesses are the first runners in the relay race of revelation. They pass along batons of epiphany, in the form of the good news. They pass on the gospel of repentance and forgiveness of sins in Jesus’ name. They bring the interrobangs, and then walk with those whose punctuation marks have been fused by the good news until peace reigns, until it becomes real for them, and until their minds and hearts are opened. “I am forgiven` I am forgiven! I am forgiven. That changes things. I need to put my changed self out there.”

And that’s just what the disciples did. They witnessed. They shared. They spread the peace and the forgiveness and the opened minds and hearts. Peter and the disciples begin their work in the book of Acts, healing and casting out demons and proclaiming to the crowds. When they heal a lame man, the Israelites who see it very much experience their own interrobang of disbelief and wonder, as Peter says, “Why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we made him walk?” And Peter explains: “it’s not us, it’s the power of God through Jesus. And even though you all were complicit in his crucifixion, God raised him from the dead. To this we are witnesses. Faith in the risen Lord Jesus brought about this healing. And faith in the Lord Jesus brings more than just that: Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

Fast forward a generation or two to the letter of 1 John. I’d like to add an interrobang to the first line of that reading: “See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God` And that is what we are.” Can you believe that we should be called God’s children` But that is precisely what we are! Even when it doesn’t make sense, we hope in the one who was revealed to us – the one who was revealed to take away sins. And what has been revealed to us, we reveal in our own lives and interactions, too.

The last couple of weeks I feel as though I’ve been reduced to interrobangs on a daily basis, but not of incredulous wonder; more of helplessness. Another mass shooting` Another police shooting` Another protest` Another outcry` Another natural disaster – and it’s a volcano this time` Another story of corruption` Another story of an Asian-American being assaulted because they somehow personally caused a virus` Another story of a business having to close its doors forever` Our world is so, so broken. So full of hurting people and people hurting. So full of sin and its indiscriminate collateral damage. So full of pain. How long, O Lord`

I don’t understand all of this. All of the hatred and violence. I don’t understand why we are killing each other, ourselves, our futures. I ask, Where is God in all of this` How does God allow all of this to happen? What will be has not yet been revealed, but I wish I could see things from God’s point of view, to see that this will all be reconciled. I was watching a TV show the other day, and a character was saying that God is crafting a beautiful tapestry, but that we can only see it from behind, full of ragged threads and muddy colors. We can’t

yet see the final work of art God is producing. And that's a really cool image. But it's frustrating, to say the least.

What will be has not yet been revealed, but what we do know is this: we are God's children *now*. "See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God` And that is what we are." And I think that's where we start. We are God's children. We are commissioned disciples. We are *witnesses* to these holy things that God does in us, for us, through us. We are the relayers of God's revelations and love and forgiveness and healing. In our own lives. In our own souls. For sinners and injurers and brokenness.

Just as Jesus came and spoke a word of peace first and foremost to the disciples' confused wonder-fear interrobangs, so we must go lovingly-boldly into the world and speak words of peace. *Be peace*. And peace isn't just the absence of conflict; it's the justice that the prophets proclaim when all people experience the fullness of life that God intended. And so we must ourselves become what we received from Jesus: the body of Christ, given for the world. The blood of Christ, shed for forgiveness of sins. The peace that surpasses all understanding. The wounded healers, willing to take on others' hurts as our own. We must make Jesus' love tangible. We must make forgiveness touchable and real. We must sit down with people like human beings having a normal meal together, doing necessary work together, truly there for each other, *real* for each other. Where the world is so broken and wounded that it can't take steps forward, we bring healing and opened minds and hearts to listen and accompany and do the tough work and get us all on our feet again.

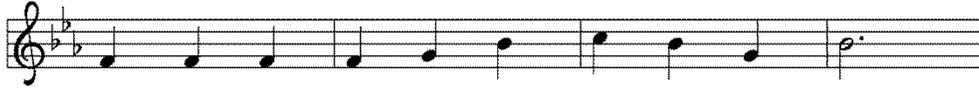
Jesus took interrobangs of disbelief and transformed them into exclamation points of proclamation! Jesus took disciples who couldn't see a future, a way forward, and transformed them into relayers of revelation, witnesses, able to respond to the question marks of others. In Jesus' name God hears our helpless interrobangs and transforms us into the children of God that we already are, capable and equipped to do good in the world, able to repent and ask others to do the same. Jesus takes the wounds of the crucifiers and transforms them into living symbols of love and forgiveness to heal a broken world.

Peter called Jesus the "Author of life." If Jesus has a keyboard, I imagine it has a ` key on it. Because, as you may have noticed, the interrobang has a cross built right into it. And there is nothing more graciously confounding, more surprisingly freeing, than the cross of Christ. Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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

A: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love. *[Brief silence]*

A: Living God, in the midst of Easter joy we are still filled with questions and wondering. Open our hearts and minds as we encounter the scriptures, so that the church embodies repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to all nations. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Creating God, like a master artist you have fashioned the universe out of your love and delight. Heal your creation where it is in need of restoration. Provide all the inhabitants of earth a peaceful and sustainable home. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: God of all, the nations hunger and thirst for your righteousness. Many call on you for guidance and strength. Answer their hopes with the peace of Christ and give your lovingkindness to national, state, and local leaders of people. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress. Grant to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and nurse them back to health and wholeness (especially). Be close to the hearts of the lonely. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Loving Parent, you have given us such love that we should be called the children of God. Reveal yourself to us so that we in this community of faith will become more and more like you in our mutual love and bold witness. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: God of all times and ages, those who have died in you now see you as you are. We thank you for their lives among us. Assure us of the peace you have promised, that we may join them in everlasting life. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: God, you are life. We pray for our world, our country, our community, and our church as we face the challenges of coronavirus. We pray for those who grieve the loss of loved ones, for the sick and their families, for those fearful of an unknown future. We pray for the millions of unemployed, for children and others at home - that they be safe from abuse. We pray for those who are alone and isolated during this time that they may feel your loving presence. We pray for all the hospital and health care workers, and all first responders, that they receive needed supplies and be kept protected in the work they do. We pray for those making decisions about how to live into the

future and when that will happen. Keep us all in your care as we wait for a new day. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of all families, you have given us families to be sanctuaries of blessing, comfort, and love for each other. Under your protection fill us with harmony, hope, and health. We pray this week for the Anderson, Anton and Arnold families as well as our Messiah family. Guard all of our hearts that we may display love instead of hate, anger, or bitterness. Lead us all to be grateful for your abiding love and enable us to glorify you by sharing that love with others. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

THE GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: 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

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P: 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:

**C: *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: 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.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: *Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.***

P: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C: *Come, Holy Spirit.*

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C: *Come, Holy Spirit.*

P: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C: *Amen.*

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**C: *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.***

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

COMMUNION

A: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

C: *Amen*

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

A: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ that you have received strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: *Amen*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: 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.

C: *Amen*

BLESSING

P: 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.

C: *Amen*

SENDING SONG Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

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DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

(Text used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #11886-S)

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – SUNDAY, April 18, 2021

Pianist: Debbie Walker
Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Becky Collie (2nd Lay Asst.) Roberta McMillen
Lectors: Roberta McMillen
Acolyte: Ella Anderson
Ushers: Daren & Max Williams; Pat Hubert
Altar Guild: Gladys Hubert & Rosalee Cline
Counters: Donna Combs & Erna Jung

Announcements

PASTOR RYAN'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Ryan's office hours for this week are listed below. You can also reach Pastor Ryan via email at messiahmechpr@gmail.com or by phone at 507-360-7276 if you'd like to talk or set up an appointment.

Wednesday-Friday 11:00 am-4:00 pm

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Here is this week's information based on our 2021 budget.

- Contributions to the general fund averaged \$3,205.88 (down from \$3,316.30 through April 11, 2021).
- We are \$10,861.62 behind the year-to-date budget needs (increasing from \$8,633.12 the last time reported).
- Weekly budget need is \$3,991.00.

MCEF FUN-RAISER AT CHICKEN SALAD CHICK FOR APRIL 19

The "Fun Raiser" at Chicken Salad Chick continues on the 3rd Monday of each month, mention that you support MCEF and 10% of the sale is donated to MCEF. Thank you for your support of your of your neighbors in need through MCEF.

EASTER GREETINGS FROM PNG

Every Synod in the ELCA has a Companion Synod of Lutherans somewhere in the world. The Virginia Synod has a companion relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea. Please check out this link to learn more about the relationship, and to watch some Easter greetings videos our two Synods exchanged. <https://www.vasynod.org/ministries/global-mission/>

OUR JOURNEY TO EMMAUS

All ages are invited into a synod-wide faith formation experience: Our Journey to Emmaus. **Participants will engage the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24) in seven movements over seven Sundays beginning on May 2.** Each weekly email will have a portion of the story, reflections for all ages, and movement activities for all types of bodies. You can sign up for weekly emails by registering below. You may participate with your congregation or ministry or on your own. If you have questions, please contact **Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick** (bayerderrick@vasynod.org). Here is the link to register: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfMGfBsa5A5pD5sBlwf96UqeYouGA00J6V7YxebaSAKYeoyjQ/viewform>

INFORMATION ON VACCINATIONS

The Virginia Department of Health recently released a downloadable Virginia COVID Info Toolkit with information on vaccines and the vaccine registration system. You can access the information at: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine/patient-education/>. If you need to register for the vaccine, confirm your registration, or update your record, go to: <https://vaccinate.virginia.gov/>

SMALL GROUPS

If you'd like to have a small group or committee meeting at the church, please check out the Small Group Meetings and Cleaning Protocols. You can contact Davina when wanting to schedule a time for your group to meet and get the latest protocols. The only areas open at this time include the Fellowship Hall, the hallway to the restrooms, and the restrooms. All other parts of the building remain 'closed' for now. There are also copies of the forms at church on the kitchen counter for you to use at your meeting along with necessary cleaning supplies. Davina will maintain the completed forms in her office. Thanks for all you do! Stay well everyone!

REBUILD! VA – SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM

All available funds for the Rebuild VA Grant Program have been exhausted at this time. They are hopeful that Congress will soon pass a stimulus package that provides additional relief to small businesses. To be notified of any additional developments, please sign up at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7TRWMD6>.

VIRGINIA RENT AND MORTGAGE RELIEF PROGRAM (RMRP)

The Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program (RMRP) is designed to support and ensure housing stability across the commonwealth during the coronavirus pandemic. Depending on availability of funds and household need, the RMRP may provide financial assistance for rent payments for eligible households. This includes financial assistance for rent payments past due beginning April 1, 2020 and onward. For more information please visit: Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD): www.dhcd.virginia.gov/rmrp.

SMILE! MESSIAH RECEIVES .5% DONATION WHEN YOU SHOP ON AMAZON!

Even though the most recent holiday shopping season is behind us, the Stewardship team would like to remind everyone to sign up and use Amazon Smile! Signing up is easy and does not interfere with Prime Membership benefits. Amazon donates .5% of eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Step 1: visit smile.amazon.com; Step 2: sign in with your amazon account credentials; Step 3: Search for "Messiah Lutheran Church Mechanicsville"; Step 4: Start SHOPPING! *please remember to bookmark smile.amazon.com for easy access every time you shop. You must add the "smile" for this program. Thank you all and happy shopping!