

Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia



April 3, 2022
Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

APRIL 3, 2022

**Congregation standing*

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.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

C: Amen

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

P: Holy One,

C: *we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.*

P: Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In ☩ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Jesus, the Very Thought of You (ELW 754)*

Jesus, the Very Thought of You

1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of you fills us with sweet de - light;
2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind re - call
3 O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite soul, O Joy of all the meek,
4 O Je - sus, be our joy to - day; help us to prize your love;

but sweet-er far your face to view and rest with - in your light.
a sweet-er sound than your blest name, O Sav - ior of us all!
how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!
grant us at last to hear you say: "Come, share my home a - bove."

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878
Music: ST. AGNES, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

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: **Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all 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 LESSON Isaiah 43:16-21

Lector

A reading from Isaiah.

The prophet declares that long ago God performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, God is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new Exodus.

¹⁶Thus says the LORD,
 who makes a way in the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse,
 army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
 they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸Do not remember the former things,
 or consider the things of old.
¹⁹I am about to do a new thing;
 now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.
²⁰The wild animals will honor me,
 the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
 rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
 ²¹the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 3:4b-14

Lector

A reading from Philippians.

Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be

found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 12:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

¹Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke

HYMN OF THE DAY *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart* (ELW 800)

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780–1860
 Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841–1897

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: Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need. [*Brief silence*]

A: Do a new thing in the church. Free us from paradigms that no longer serve the gospel and bring forward leaders who imagine fresh ways of doing ministry. Give us courage in the face of change. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Do a new thing for creation. Reverse the trajectory of climate change and environmental catastrophe. Revive habitats already impaired by human disregard. Amplify the voices of climate scientists and researchers working to chart a new course. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Do a new thing in our world. Break barriers that prevent political enemies from working together for the well-being of all. Make a way for peace and collaboration among the nations. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Do a new thing for those who suffer. Reveal a path for any who are unemployed or underemployed, for those experiencing homelessness, and for all who struggle with money. Comfort those who grieve and restore those who are sick (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Do a new thing within us. Direct us into encounters that broaden our understanding of the human experience. Amplify voices that are ignored or devalued. Deliver us especially from the scourge of racism. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Do a new thing in our death. Fill us with the knowledge of Christ and the power of his resurrection as we give thanks for all the saints who have attained the prize of their heavenly call. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Heavenly Father, You have generously blessed us with families. Thank you for your guidance and protection. As you love and care for us, may we also always love and care for our families and keep them in our prayers. We pray this week for the Absher, Addair and Albertson families as well as our Messiah family. May You keep us all from danger and sickness and guard our hearts so that we are reminded of Your Grace. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

PEACE-IN-PLACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

***Please share signs of peace with those in your immediate vicinity only. If any are not comfortable making physical contact during the peace, please share peace in other ways.*

THE GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism,

we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, 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: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: *Amen.*

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: *Amen.*

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C: *Amen.*

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

***Please process up the center aisle as directed by the ushers. Please maintain social distancing between family groups while processing. Bread and wine will be available from the pastor and the first lay assistant, with empty cups available on your way to the front. Prepackaged grape juice and wafer servings will be available from the second lay assistant. Baskets for empty cups will be set out. Please return to your seats down the side aisles.*

COMMUNION

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: 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.

Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need.

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 *Take My Life, That I May Be (PATMOS) (ELW 685)*

Take My Life, That I May Be

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems. The first system has a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like. Below the treble staff are four lines of lyrics. The second system also has a treble clef with the same key signature and time signature. The melody continues. Below the treble staff are four lines of lyrics. The bass line is a simple accompaniment consisting of chords and single notes.

- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Please exit through either set of doors, maintaining distance between family groups. You are welcome to enjoy fellowship time outside in the parking lot.*

POSTLUDE

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – SUNDAY, April 3, 2022

Pianist: Debbie Walker
Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst) Becky Collie (2nd Lay Asst.) Ella Anderson
Lectors: Susie Weaver
Acolyte: Grace Anderson
Greeters: Sue & Steve Gilnett
Ushers: James Anderson & Bill Weaver
Altar Guild: Donna Combs & Marilyn Gunn
Counters: Sharon & Jake Addair
Live Streamers: Teresa Gigante

Announcements

PASTOR RYAN'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Ryan will be in and out of the office this week. Please call or email him to set up an appointment, at 507-360-7276 and/or messiahmechpr@gmail.com.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Here is this week's information based on our 2022 budget.

- Contributions to the general fund averaged \$3,219.51 (up from \$3,025.97 through March 27, 2022).
- We are \$11,082.37 behind the year-to-date budget needs. (decreasing from \$12,552.37)
- Weekly budget need is \$4,072.

COVID PROTOCOLS UPDATE FROM COUNCIL

As the Church Council continues to monitor the local COVID numbers, and using some new tools from the CDC, we are happy to announce a loose timetable to start bringing some of our worship practices back into the routine! We can start now with passing the offering plates. We are planning to have Communion at the altar rail and more singing on Easter – and an Easter breakfast! Following Easter we will bring back a fuller liturgy, with the sharing of the peace to follow sometime later. For the time being, we will still ask Communion servers to wear masks. Anyone is of course still welcome to wear a mask if they need to, are required to, or feel more comfortable to do so.

LILIES FOR EASTER – ORDERS DUE TODAY

The sign-up sheet for Easter lilies is on the table in the narthex. Please help beautify our worship space. Lilies can be dedicated in memory or in honor of others if you wish. Please note next to your name and phone number the dedication you would like to have included in the Easter bulletin. Lilies are \$14.50 per plant. Please make sure you write “**Easter Lily Order**” on the memo line of your check and/or offering envelope Any questions can be directed to Donna Combs (746-1365).

QUILTERS GATHER TOGETHER (4/6)

The Quilters of Messiah will meet Wednesday, April 6, 9 am to noon. Bring any washable fabric pieces (clean and pressed) that would be appropriate for a quilt, any of your favorite quilting and sewing "tools" and your enthusiasm to work together to produce items that will be of great help to people around the world. Call Glady Hubert with any questions, 814-449-1392.

M.O.M.'S NEEDED

It's that time of year again, when the **Men Of Messiah**, known affectionately as “M.O.M.,” get together to cook for all the rest of us. The traditional Easter breakfast is something that we all look forward to. It does, however, take preparation and willing hands to bring it about. Both cooks and servers are needed, with on-the-job training available. We need new help as we have lost some of our previous volunteers. If you, Man of Messiah, are willing to lend a hand, contact Bill Weaver (559-3503) or email: wweaver701@comcast.net.

EASTER ACTIVITIES AND EGG HUNT FOR CHILDREN

Easter fun returns to Messiah! We will have an Easter egg hunt on the lawn and need your help with donations of individually wrapped candy that will fit in the plastic eggs. Please drop your contribution off in the brightly colored box in the Narthex. Donations will be accepted through Palm Sunday. Thanks in advance for your support!!!

“LETTER JOCKEYS” – THANKS!

Thanks to those who “signed up” to help with our church sign on Atlee Road. Linda Mahovtas will continue to coordinate and answer any questions.

LENTEN ACTIVITIES:

Ecumenical Lenten Videos

Once again our group of local pastors from congregations (mostly) on Atlee Road will produce weekly Lenten videos. The theme this year is “At Cross Purposes: Joy and Abundance in the Season of Lent.” Lent is a season where we usually talk about giving things up – where is there abundance and joy in the midst of that? Keep an eye on the YouTube channel for Pastor Ryan's video, and for a multi-pastor conversation video.

God's Global Barnyard Drive

We are again collecting your coins and more to purchase animals and other items from the ELCA Good Gifts Catalog. The piggy banks are in the narthex keeping watch over the devotional books by the bulletin board. The funds we raise will go towards a shopping spree for our Sunday school students to select small gifts with big impacts for people in many corners of our world. Thanks in advance for your support and generosity – let's fill those piggies up!

Lenten Study

Please join us during Sunday adult Christian Formation time in the Fellowship Hall for a new series: "Wrestle with the Bible: Meeting God in difficult stories from Genesis." We'll cover a number of stories that are tough to talk about, and use our scriptural stretching as a practice for deeper Lenten devotion. Each conversation will be recorded and shared for those who would like to follow along from home. This week we'll be discussing the story of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

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

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!

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE – EASTERN EUROPE RESPONSE

Please visit the Lutheran Disaster Response website to see how you can contribute to the ongoing aid and recovery efforts for a variety of crises, both in the U.S. and around the globe. The situation is especially urgent right now in Ukraine, as well as other Eastern European countries where refugees fleeing Ukraine are seeking safety, such as Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia. Just mark your donations "Eastern Europe Crisis Response."

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

APRIL 10

Palm Sunday

Service with Palms

10:45 AM

APRIL 14

Maundy Thursday

7:00 PM

APRIL 15

Good Friday

7:00 PM

APRIL 17

EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Breakfast - 8:45 AM

Easter activities and egg hunt for children - 9:30 AM

Easter Worship Service - 10:45 AM