

*Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*April 24, 2022
Second 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. 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

Second Sunday of Easter

April 24, 2022

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. Please extend a warm welcome to Pastor Elizabeth Yates who will be leading us in worship on today.

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**

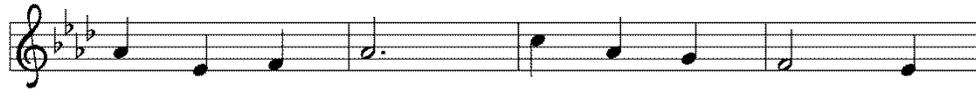
P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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.

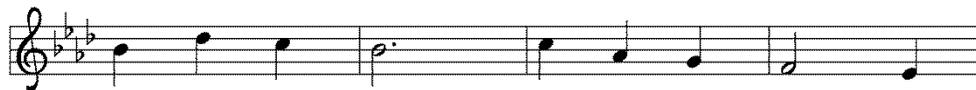
C: **Amen.**



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Refrain
 Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

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 Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987
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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: O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body 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 5:27-32

Lector

A reading from Acts.

Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.

²⁷When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON: Revelation 1:4-8

Lector

A reading from Revelation.

The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.

⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who "have not seen and yet believe."

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Elizabeth Yates



1 The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound-ed feet
 2 The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound-ed side,
 3 The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound-ed hand
 4 May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and stand



from gar - den tomb through dark - ened cit - y street,
 breathes out his Spir - it on them to a - bide
 the bread for those who fail to un - der - stand,
 with those op - pressed in this and ev - 'ry land,



un - locks the door of grief, de - spair, and fear,
 whose faith still wa - vers, who dare not be - lieve;
 re - veals him - self, de - spite their lin - g'ring tears,
 till all are blessed and can a bless - ing be,



and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.
 new grace, new strength, new pur - pose they re - ceive.
 en - flames their hearts, then quick - ly dis - ap - pears.
 re - stored in Christ to true hu - man - i - ty.

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 Music: WOODLANDS, Walter Greatorex, 1877-1949
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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: Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation. *[Brief silence]*

A: Holy One who acts righteously, equip your church as witnesses of your goodness to go and tell others of your abundant love, that they may believe that Jesus is our salvation and life. God, in your mercy,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: Renew your people's commitment to use resources responsibly and to live well with your creation. Invite us to recognize and nurture signs of resurrection life in the natural world. God, in your mercy,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: Direct those who are given human authority to lead with humility and compassion. By your Holy Spirit channel their attention toward serving those who are most in need. God, in your mercy,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: Uphold your children who cry out to you (*especially*). Wherever people are overcome by the fear of death, breathe into them your life and peace. God, in your mercy,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: Inspire those who lead your people in worship and praise, especially the art and music ministries of this congregation. With joyful motion and sound, send us forth with praise that we cannot keep to ourselves. God, in your mercy,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: Give us the words of your saints who, like Thomas, boldly confessed your Son as Lord and God. With Jesus our leader, empower us to live according to his ways. God, in your mercy,

C: *hear 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 Blosser, Bradley-Combs and Buckholz 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. God, in your mercy,

C: *hear our prayer.*

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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: *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: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, 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

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 Risen! Alleluia!

(ELW 382)



- 1 Christ is ris-en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!
- 2 Christ is ris-en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;
- 3 Christ is ris-en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay
- 4 Christ is ris-en! Hence-forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall.



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!
through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re-turns to life once more;
now has found a glo-rious mor-row in the ris - ing of to - day.
We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have triumphed o - ver all.



Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;
death and hell be - fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic - tor now,
See the grave its first-fruits giv - ing, spring-ing up from ho - ly ground;
All the doubt-ing and de - jec - tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;



bow - ing down in joy be - fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.
an - gels on his steps at - tend-ing, glo - ry round his wound-ed brow.
Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found.
hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

Refrain



Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!



Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – SUNDAY, April 24, 2022

- Pianist: Debbie Walker
- Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst) Teresa Gigante (2nd Lay Asst.) Lois Schroeder
- Lectors: Lois Schroeder
- Acolyte: Abby Schroeder
- Greeters: Jean Martin
- Ushers: Roger Schroeder & Gordon Gunn
- Altar Guild: Donna Combs & Marilyn Gunn
- Counters: Becky Collie & Leroy Deere
- Live Streamer: Heather Williams

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 \$3,366.84 (up from \$3,211.11 through April 17, 2022).
- We are \$11,282.57 behind the year-to-date budget needs. (decreasing from \$12,913.35)
- Weekly budget need is \$4,072.

GLOBAL BARNYARD

Donations have been counted and the total amount collected for is \$224.27. Thank you to all who contributed to this project. We'll share the final shopping cart of goodness on May 1st!

MCEF FUNDRAISER AND NEEDS

The third Monday at Chicken Salad Chick is MCEF day. Say you support MCEF and a percentage of the sale will be donated to MCEF. Current needs include boxed meals (such as Hamburger Helper), pasta and rice sides and deodorant (for men and women) and full size sheet sets.

NEW ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION STUDY STARTING MAY 1

Starting May 1 we will be discussing the book *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion* by Father Gregory Boyle. It tells the story of Father Boyle's work with gang populations in East Los Angeles, and it is full of powerful stories of grace, redemption, and compassion – perfect for the Easter season of resurrection. Please find a copy now (library, e-reader, book store, online) so you have it ready for the 1st. (A small number of copies is available from church.) Please read the introduction and chapter 1 for the first discussion.

COVID PROTOCOLS UPDATE FROM COUNCIL

The Church Council continues to monitor the local COVID numbers to ensure that we are staying in the "Low" category in Hanover County and the surrounding area. We will continue to gradually bring back various worship and other church activities, including 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.

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.”

KAIROS REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Kairos will be held from **June 26 (Sunday evening) to July 1 (Friday noon) at Roanoke College**. Kairos is the Synod's week-long faith formation event, offered each summer for youth who will be 9th-12th graders in the fall. Kairos has many special features: event theme t-shirts, Open Talent Mic Show, faith testimonies, comic relief, reflection time, prayer stations, speed friending, t-shirt fashion show, small group time, and more!

This event is a chance for youth who are already committed to a life of faith to be part of a unique Christian community for an entire week, to have a fresh experience of the grace and presence of God in that community, and to develop habits for discipleship that can be taken home as they live out their baptismal call to be followers of Jesus. Check out the following link for more information: <https://vasynod.org/event/kairos/>

POWER IN THE SPIRIT REGISTRATION NOW OPEN -July 14-16, 2022

What does it mean to be a leader in the Church and a follower of Jesus? The words of Saint Thomas reveal a disciple whose faith in Jesus makes him willing to go where Jesus goes, even when danger and death are real possibilities. For Thomas, it's better to be unsafe with Jesus than to stay behind as Jesus heads into dangerous places. For the Church today, we just may be called to a similar faith that goes with Jesus—even into danger. At Power in the Spirit 2022, we'll explore these themes, and more!

Come and learn! Come for fellowship! Come to serve your neighbor! Come to Power in the Spirit 2022! Check out this link for more information: <https://vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/>

IN-PERSON SYNOD GATHERING REGISTRATION IS OPEN

We look forward to gathering in-person as the Virginia Synod on July 15-16 in conjunction with Power in the Spirit to celebrate ministries of service from around the Virginia Synod, gather together for worship, and learn from one another.

Everyone can attend. Unlike an Assembly where the number of participants is limited, anyone in the Virginia Synod can attend the Synodical Gathering. Congregations are encouraged to send at least two leaders, but anyone interested can register.

There are **two options for Registration:**

- **On-Campus Housing** includes the event, one-night lodging on the campus of Roanoke College, plus Friday lunch, Friday dinner, and Saturday breakfast. The cost will be \$140.
- **Commuter** includes the event, including Friday lunch, Friday dinner, and Saturday breakfast. The cost will be \$100.

You are automatically registered for the Synodical Gathering if you attend Power in the Spirit.

Even if you can't attend the whole gathering, you are invited to be a **part of a Festival Worship Service at College Lutheran on Friday, July 15 at 7:00 PM.**