

*Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*March 15, 2026
Fourth 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. 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

4th Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

Hearing Assistance Receivers are available upon request.

** Please stand as you are able **

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

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

A brief silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

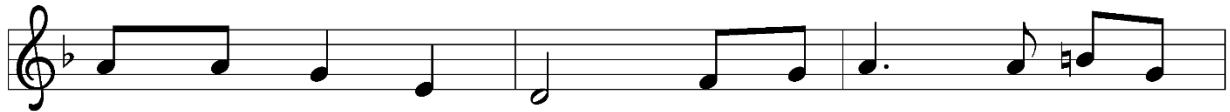
C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: 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.

C: Amen.



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
 2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
 3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
 on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
 though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
 bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
 sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
 bod - y of our Lord.
 riv - er, you the sea.

One of the following may be sung as a final stanza at the appropriate time.

General

Light of life beyond conceiving,
 mighty Spirit of our Lord;
 give new strength to our believing,
 give us faith to live your word

Lent 3

Living Water of salvation,
 be the fountain of each soul;
 springing up in new creation,
 flow in us and make us whole.

Lent 1

From the dawning of creation
 you have loved us as your own;
 stay with us through all temptation,
 make us turn to you alone.

Lent 4

Give us eyes to see you clearly;
 make us children of your light.
 Give us hearts to live more nearly
 as your gospel shining bright.

Lent 2

In our call to be a blessing,
 may we be a blessing true;
 may we live and die confessing
 Christ as Lord of all we do.

Lent 5

God of all our fear and sorrow,
 God who lives beyond our death,
 hold us close through each tomorrow,
 love as near as every breath.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: Marty Haugen

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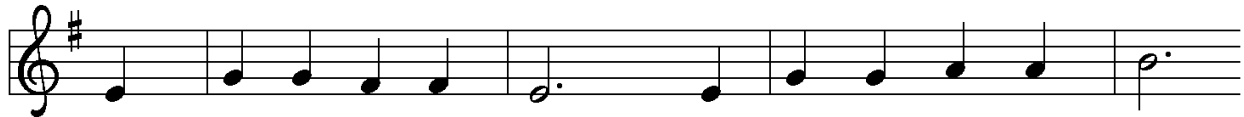
***THE GREETING**

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.*

KYRIE

(ELW p. 203)



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



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

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

(ELW p.204)



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
 Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
 Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
 on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
 Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
 For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray:

C: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Lector

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.

A reading from 1 Samuel.

¹The said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."

²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the .' "³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the ; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the ." ⁷But the said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the looks on the heart."

⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The has not chosen any of these."

¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

Lector

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

A reading from Ephesians.

⁸ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

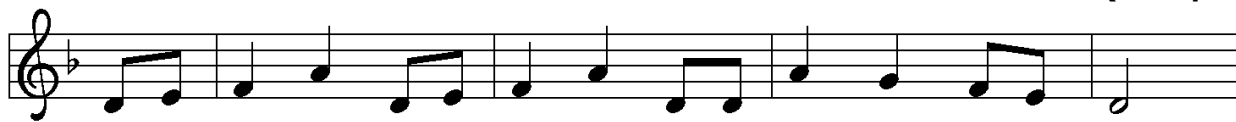
“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

L: The word of the Lord.

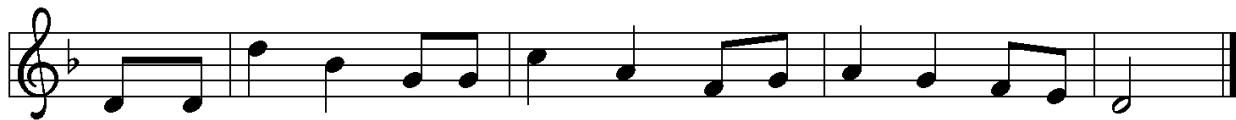
C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

(ELW p. 205)



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



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

***GOSPEL: John 9:1-41**

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone

like him." He kept saying, "I am he." ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?"

41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke

***HYMN OF THE DAY- O God of Mercy, God of Light**

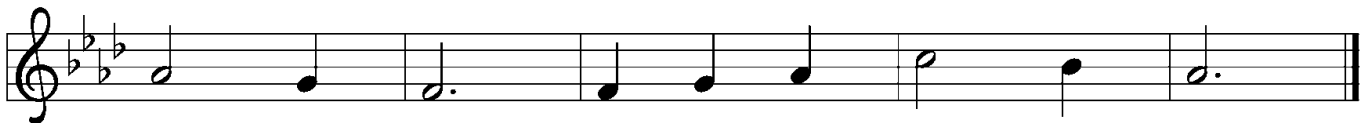
ELW 714



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost
3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for
4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.
stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
word and thought may work a work for you.
grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
may we each other's burdens share;
may we, where help is needed, there
give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move
all those who live to live in love,
till you receive in heav'n above
all those who live in you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.

Music: JUST AS I AM, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

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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 OF INTERCESSION**

A: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A: God, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our community and across the globe in right paths for your name's sake. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence, and raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to feel unimportant, and transform the hearts of all infected by bigotry and prejudice. Care for all in special need this day (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share and receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys. Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of all relationships, bless this branch of the body of Christ that is Messiah Lutheran Church. Strengthen all its relationships and weave your love and grace into each family and household. We especially pray this week for the Rightnour, Schroeder, and Schroeder families. Make us your people. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C: Amen.

***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING – *You may place an "I give online" card in the plate as a physical offering*

***OFFERING SONG – Create in Me a Clean Heart**

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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***OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Let us pray:

C: God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(ELW p. 152)

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 our 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:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

(ELW p. 207)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***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 is 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.

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.

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: 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: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG – Lamb of God

(ELW p. 208)



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

***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



A - ho - ra, Se - ñor, se - gún tu pro - me - sa,
 At last, Lord, your word of prom - ise ful - fill - ing,



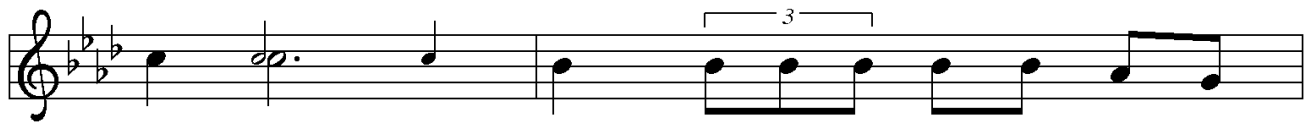
pue - des de - jar a tu sier - vo ir - se en paz.
 you let your ser - vant go forth in free - dom and peace.



Por - que mis o - jos han vis - to a tu Sal - va - dor,
 With my own eyes I have seen the sal - va - tion



a quien has pre - sen - ta - do an - te to - dos los
 you have pre - pared . . . in the sight of all of the



pue - blos: luz pa - ra a - lum - brar a las na -
 peo - ples: a light that will re - veal you to the



cio - nes y glo - ria de tu pue - blo Is - ra - el.
 na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Music: Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
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***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray: Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen**

***BLESSING**

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always.

C: Amen

***SENDING SONG – O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate**

ELW 722



1 O Christ, your heart, com - pas - sion - ate, bore ev - 'ry hu - man pain.
2 As once you wel - comed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,
3 O Christ, cre - ate new hearts in us that beat in time with yours,
4 O Love that made the dis - tant stars, yet marks the spar - row's fall,



Its beat - ing was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast do - main.
so may all bruised and bro - ken lives through us your help still find.
that, joined by faith with your great heart, be - come love's o - pen doors.
whose arms stretched wide up - on a cross em - brace and bear us all:



The heart of God, the heart of Christ com - bined in per - fect rhyme
Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep a - lone,
We are your bod - y, ris - en Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield
come, make your church a ser - vant church that walks your ser - vant ways,



to write God's love in hu - man deeds, e - ter - ni - ty in time.
and help us bear an - oth - er's pain as though it were our own.
that through our life and min - is - try your love may be re - vealed.
whose deeds of love rise up to you, a sac - ri - fice of praise!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007
Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833
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***DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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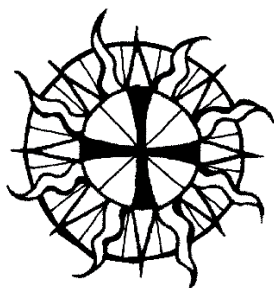
SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – March 15, 2026

Pianist: Debbie Walker
 Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Gladys Hubert (2nd Lay Asst.) Nancy Berg
 Lector: Teresa Gigante
 Acolyte: Dean Anderson
 Greeter: Anita Philp
 Ushers: James Anderson & Allen Anderson
 Altar Guild: Lois Schroeder & Lorrie Albertson
 Counters: Gordon & Marilyn Gunn
 Live Streamer: Heather Williams

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MESSIAH

March 15	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
	Manna Sunday	
March 17	Banner Team	1:00 PM
	AA	5:30 PM
	Messiah Church Council Meeting	6:15 PM
	AA Business Meeting	7:00 PM
March 18	PAL Quilt Group	9:00 AM
	Lenten Soup Supper and Service	6:30 PM
March 19	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM
March 22	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
March 24	Old Ivy Garden Club	9:15 AM
	AA	5:30 PM
	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM
March 25	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
	Lenten Soup Supper and Service	6:30 PM
March 26	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
March 29	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
	Palm Sunday	
March 31	AA	5:30 PM
April 1	PAL Quilt Group	9:00 AM
	Lenten Soup Supper and Service	6:30 PM

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Announcements

PASTOR RYAN'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Ryan will be in and out of the office this week but aims to be in on Wednesday and Thursday. As always, to set up an appointment with Pastor Ryan, please call or email at 507-360-7276 and/or messiahmechpr@gmail.com.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Numbers For the 10th Sunday of 2026:

- Average Contributions to current were \$4,003.20
- Contributions for current March 8th were \$5,069.00
- The YTD total contribution to current is \$40,032.00
- For comparison, current YTD 2025 was \$43,848.00
- Designated giving for the 10th Sunday was \$2,045.55

ALL THINGS LENT

With the season of Lent comes many opportunities for worship, study, prayer, and more.

- Lenten devotions from Luther Seminary are available in the narthex.
- Lenten soup suppers and midweek worship services will begin on February 25th. Look for signup sheets for soup suppers. The meal begins at 6:30 pm; we'll have a time for conversation and discussion around the themes of gratitude and abundance, beginning at around 7:00 pm; and we'll worship together using Holden Evening Prayer, concluding at around 8:00 pm.
- Our Sunday morning adult class during Christian Formation will be called "Sackcloth Talk." Please check out the announcement below for more information.
- Holy Week dates: Palm/Passion Sunday is March 29th; Maundy Thursday is April 2nd; Good Friday is April 3rd; Easter Sunday is April 5th.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study Groups will not meet during the month of March. Meetings will resume in April. If you have questions talk to Nancy Berg, Marilyn Gunn, and Donna Combs.

EASTER LILIES – ORDER BY TODAY

Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex to order a lily for the altar area for Easter. The cost is \$20.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEEDS

Sunday School needs empty paper towel rolls. Please see Wendy DeGraff with questions. Thank you!

SACKCLOTH TALK

We know that the members of Messiah value the sense of family and community we have here. We also know how much we care about serving our neighbors. After our conversation last fall about writing letters to representatives, it's clear that we are hesitant to risk our beloved community by talking about topics where we disagree in terms of how to best serve our neighbors.

Last year a new ELCA Social Statement was released called "Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All." This statement came out after months of deliberation, public comment, and prayer. It is a very careful and deliberate consideration of how we live our faith in the civic sphere. This might not be the most comfortable conversation – thus the biblical idea of repenting in "sackcloth" – but sometimes we accept discomfort to talk about meaningful things, even if it's hard, because we care about each other enough to do so. Please join these conversations as we read through this statement together as a part of our Lenten discipline to examine ourselves and re-turn to God for guidance.

EASTER EGG HUNT IS ON!

As is our tradition, Messiah will hold an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday morning during the Sunday School Hour. Please bring your children, grandchildren, friends, neighbors to join in the fun.

Please consider donating individually wrapped candy, small prizes and/or your time to help assemble. Contact Anita Philp at 804-347-9528 or anitaphilp1961@gmail.com.

Thanks in Advance!

BANNER TEAM

Will meet on Tuesday March 17th at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks for all your hard work, Banner Team! Blessings, Nancy Berg

NEW BANNER!

We are excited to be welcoming a new banner to our sanctuary! The banner we'll be hanging says FAITH. The women who have worked on this project are: Lorrie Albertson, Nancy Berg, Anita Philp, Donna Shaw, and Karen Umberger. This banner will be followed by HOPE and LOVE. Many thanks to everyone who dedicated their time and effort! Please let Nancy Berg know if you'd like to be a part of finishing the set.

MCEF 50th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

We would like to invite any past or present MCEF volunteers to a 50 Year Celebration luncheon on April 18th at 11:00.

Please go to the MCEF website - 4mcef.com - scroll down to the orange box and click to find information and an RSVP for the luncheon. You may also call 804-357-4093 to RSVP. In order to best be prepared for this event, we request your RSVP before March 28th.

THANK YOU

Scott & I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, calls, and cards during my multiple myeloma cancer. Currently, I am in remission and now have another 'speed bump' to hurdle - pancreatic cancer. Please continue praying for us- As James 1:17 says: every good action and perfect gift is from God.

Thank you all and God bless.

Roberta & Scott

