

*Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*March 22, 2026
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. 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

5th Sunday in Lent

March 22, 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,

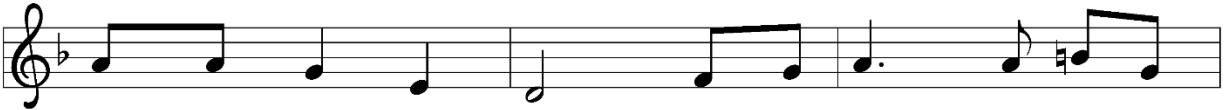
C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, 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

Text and music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

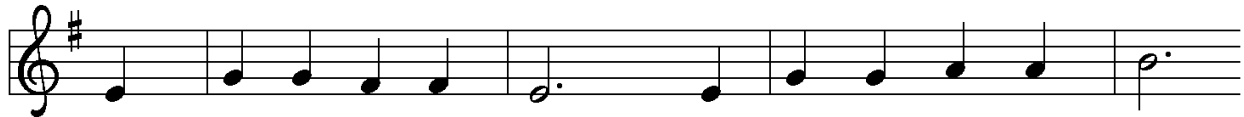
*THE GREETING

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: Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Lector

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the LORD."

A reading from Ezekiel.

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.'

¹²Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:6-11

Lector

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

A reading from Romans.

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

¹⁰But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in 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 11:1-45**

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

P: The holy gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus

looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke

***HYMN OF THE DAY- Restore in Us, O God**

ELW 328



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -
 2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
 4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
 fruit-less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.
 tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
 we, when all our search-ing ends, may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company.

Music © 1985 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

***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: We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many. Console any who weep and heal all who are sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: We pray for this assembly. Ready the hearts and spirits of all preparing to be baptized. Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: We offer our thanksgiving for all people who have died in faith. Give us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save, and bring us up from our graves to life in you. 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 Shaw, Shea, and Sondor 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.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

***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,



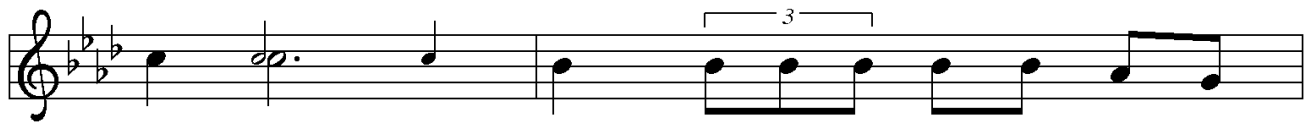
pue - des de - jar a tu sier - vo ir - se en paz.
 you let your ser - vant go forth in free - dom and peace.



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
 Text and music © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

***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 – You Are the Way**

ELW 758



1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;
2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt.
Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

***DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Text used by permission of Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SBT004183
New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of
Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.
Hymns reprinted by permission: OneLicense #A-742533, CCLI #1885060

SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – March 22, 2026

- Pianist: Debbie Walker
- Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Lois Schroeder (2nd Lay Asst.) Kate Radtke
- Lector: Susie Weaver
- Acolyte: Abby Schroeder
- Greeter: Nancy Berg
- Ushers: Bill Weaver & Roger Schroeder
- Altar Guild: Lois Schroeder & Lorrie Albertson
- Counters: Glady Hubert & Donna Combs
- Live Streamer: Donna Shaw

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MESSIAH

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	
	Quilt Sunday	
March 31	AA	5:30 PM
April 1	PAL Quilt Group	9:00 AM
April 2	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
	All Souls Maundy Thursday Service	5:30 PM
	Messiah Maundy Thursday Service	
April 3	All Souls Good Friday Service	5:30 PM
	Messiah Good Friday Service	
April 5	Easter Breakfast	8:45 AM
	Easter Egg Hunt	9:30 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
	First Sunday Fellowship	

.....

Announcements

PASTOR RYAN'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Ryan will be in and out of the office this week but aims to be in on Tuesday and Friday. 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 11th Sunday of 2026:

- Average Contributions to current were \$3,977.45
- Contributions for current March 15th were \$3,720.00
- The YTD total contribution to current is \$43,752.00
- For comparison, current YTD 2025 was \$44,138.00
- Designated giving for the 11th Sunday was \$137.00

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.

PRAYER LIST UPDATES

It's time to update our prayer list. If you have news to share about the individuals we've been praying for, whether for ongoing need of intercession or prayers of thanksgiving for improvement, please let Heather or Pastor Ryan know. We will reset the prayer list on April 1st. Thank you all for your continued compassion and care for each other, for our extended family, and for our neighbors.

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.

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.

CLEANING-SERVICE WEDNESDAY

Spring Cleaning Opportunity for Holy Week, Wednesday, April 1, starting at 1PM. We will concentrate on cleaning and sprucing up the kitchen, fellowship hall and the bathrooms. Bring any cleaning supplies that will help you in the area you choose to work in. Some suggested supplies include Clorox wipes and gloves. Questions? Talk to Cheryl Griffis or Marilyn Gunn.

See you there!

M.O.M.'S BREAKFAST

It's that time of year again, when the Men of Messiah, known affectionately as "M.O.M.," get together to cook for Easter Breakfast. Breakfast will be at 8:45 on Easter Morning. All are invited.

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. There will be a good will offering basket.

If you, Man of Messiah, are willing to lend a hand, contact Bill Weaver at 804-908-3861.

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!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEEDS

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

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.

