

Messiah Lutheran Church
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ZOOM ID # 94203026508 passcode - church

We are glad you are worshipping with us! If you are looking for a church home or if you would like a pastoral visit, let us know by giving your contact info to an usher or the Minister. **Our mission** *Living in God's grace, we reach out to invite & welcome all with God's Love.* **Our welcoming statement** *We welcome people of every age, color, culture and political persuasion, every sexual orientation and gender identity, socio-economic status and ability as we celebrate together our unity in Christ. Messiah is a Reconciling in Christ congregation.*

*According to our Mission Action Plan:
"In all we say and do we ask for God's guidance."*

Fifth Sunday of Easter **April 28, 2024**

Call to Worship, inspired by Psalm 22:25-31

Here in this great gathering for worship, we find a life of praise.

**And God will do what God promised,
right here in this God worshipping community.**

Everyone is welcome here. The Good News is for all people. Everyone is welcome to sit at God's table and eat their fill.

Everyone on the hunt for God is welcome here! Come and praise God.

"Praise God with your whole being. Don't ever quit!"

From the four corners of the earth people are running to God.

God has taken charge; from now on God has the last word.

All those with power on this earth are before him —worshipping!

All those who are poor and without earthly power, too —worshipping!

Along with those who have never "gotten it together in this life" —worshipping!

Our children and their children will know this good news.

As the word is passed along from parent to child.

All the generations yet to come will hear the good news—

God keeps God's promises!

Prayer of Confession

Creator of Heaven and Earth, You brought forth a beautiful and fruitful world, teeming with abundant life and infused with your goodness and mercy.

But we, your people, have done great harm to this world. We have used its abundant resources greedily and have not tended your garden with care. We have poisoned the atmosphere that sustains us and scarred the ground that nourishes us. And we continue in our destructive ways.

Help us learn to become healers in your world.

Lead us in the ways that can restore health to a wounded creation. Empower us to leave a thriving world for our grandchildren and for all good creatures that on earth will dwell. May we sing a new song to praise your Holy name.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **Amen.**

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Look, here is the water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Gathering Hymn: "Canticle of the Sun" Hymnal Supp. # 829 (vs 1, 2, & 5)

Prayer of the day (From Archbishop Desmond Tutu)

Creator God, you have called us to be keepers of your earth. Through greed we have established an economy that destroys the web of life. We have changed our climate and we drown in despair. Let oceans of justice flow. May we learn to sustain and renew the life of our Mother Earth. We stand with indigenous people worldwide who are demanding restoration of their ancestral lands. We pray for our leaders, custodians of Mother Earth, that they may negotiate with wisdom and fairness. May they act with compassion and courage; and lead us into the path of justice for the sake of our children and our children's children. Amen.

Choir

Children's Sermon

Readings

Acts 4:5-12 (printed on the back of the bulletin)

Reflection by Jared Myers

1 John 4:7-21

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reflection by Pastor Ron.

John 15:1-8 (printed on the back of the bulletin)

Reflection by Bob Leis

Hymn of the Day: "Earth is Full of Wit and Wisdom" ACS # 1064 (insert)

Earth is full of wit and wisdom, sounding God's delighted laugh, from the tiny roly-poly to the treetop tall giraffe.

All creation sings in wonder; even rocks and trees rejoice as they join the ringing chorus: echoes of our Maker's voice.

Earth is full of wit and wisdom, woven into harmony.

Every Creature has a purpose, every flower and bumblebee.

Spider, human, redwood, gecko, monkey, chicken, mouse and snake, live within a single fabric: cloth that only God could make.

Earth is full of wit and wisdom: penguin, platypus and snail, cactus, sea slug, oak and algae, from the microbe to the whale.

In this great and strange creation, with a breath God gives us birth: born of soil to live as stewards, called to love and serve the earth.

Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve, and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

Prayers of Intercession, the response is: You are the God of all creation, **and it is very good.**

Sharing of the Peace

Offering and Offertory Hymn: "We Are an Offering" ELW # 692

We lift our voices

All that we are

We lift our hands

All that we hope to be

We lift our lives up to You

We give to You

We are an offering

We give to You

Lord use our voices

Lord use our hands

We lift our voices

Lord use our lives they are Yours

We lift our hands

We are an offering

We lift our lives up to You

We are an offering

All that we have

We are an offering

Offertory Prayer: Loving Creator, **you brought us forth from the very earth itself. We share with others what you have entrusted to us. Bless these offerings, and guide us to use them not only to serve our human neighbors, but also to care for our mother earth, and for all the living animals, plants, and life forms with whom we share life on this planet Earth. We pray this in the name of the Word who dwells among us. Amen.**

Holy Communion

Benediction

The God of all creation: of oceans and lakes, of prairie dogs and moose, of spring rains and winter squall, of Pluto and Mars, bless, keep, and strengthen you and all creation, today, tomorrow, and always. In the name of the + Triune God. Amen.

Sending Hymn: "Let All Things Now Living" ELW # 881

1 Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God the Creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
Who guideth us on to the end of our days.
His banners are o'er us,
His light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
'Til shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

2 His law He enforces: the stars in their courses,
The sun in His orbit, obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
The deeps of the ocean proclaim Him divine,
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing,
With glad adoration a song let us raise,
'Til all things now living unite in thanksgiving
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

Go in peace, care for all of God's creation. **Thanks be to God**

Today's Worship Leaders

Ministers and Stewards: Everyone

SAM: Kristin Boland

Altar Guild: Kelly Beirl, Gloria Danula

Parish Assistant: Tracy Martinez

Council President: Tom Mitchell

Usher: Matt Dawson

Liturgist: Cindi Orley

Choir Director: Tom Yost, Pianist: Owen Polifka

Zoom Asst: Michelle Lampson

Thanks for faithful attendance. April 21, 70 in-house, 8 on Zoom

Prayers for Healing

Karen Bayliss

Sarah Garrison

Merrill Miranowski

Ken Belanger

Duane Dehn

Dave Cook

Rob Gwinn

Nancy Jonsson

Washburn United Methodist Church

Requested by

Darlene Anderson

Mary Cook

Bev Dehn

Marne Belanger

Bev Dehn

Lorraine Young

Ruth Carlson

Diane Tetzner

Jessica Mitchell

Daniel Saari
Barb
Judy Zovac
Greg and Allison Gillespie
Karen Novachek
Dona Copperud
Bill Maki
Northland College Community
Toni Pedersen
Mindy Ray
Mary McCord
Barbara Swenson

Bill Luckenbill
Mary Cook
Cindi Orley
Julie Vadnais
Friends
Gail Ballinger
Karen Maki
Minister Kristin
Karen Novachek
Margie Motiff
Margie Motiff
Keith Holm

Prayers for Comfort in grief

Carol Root
Terry Nichols
Joyce Oberdeck
Leslie

Requested by

Kelly Beirl
Carol Salminen
Bob & Linda Leis
Dick & Sandy Olson

Prayers

- Comfort and love to all affected by violence
- Peaceful resolution to the wars in Ukraine and Israel
- Wilma Lamken is at The Oaks, Virginia Heglund is at Northern Lights

On May 11th, Marlyce Olson will turn 89 years old. Please think about sending her a card! Her address is:
Marlyce Olson

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