

March 17, 2021

Lent Mid-Week Worship



If you are an online guest today, please leave a record of your visit, below. Thank you!

Online Guest Form

Our Lenten Series:

Running Away from God?

- February 17 – Adam and Eve
- February 24 – Jacob
- March 3 – Moses
- March 10 – Jonah
- March 17 – Nicodemus
- March 24 – Rich Young Man
- Maundy Thursday, April 1 – The Good Samaritan
- Good Friday, April 2 – Jesus' First Disciples

Messiah Lutheran Church

7740 Hwy 72 West, Madison, AL 35758
 (256)721-0041 / www.mlutheran.org

SERVICE OF WORSHIP *Holden Evening Prayer*

THE PRELUDE: *The Old Castle*
 THE INVOCATION
 THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

Leader:

Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

All:

the light no darkness can o - ver - come;

Leader:

Stay with us now, for it is evening,

All:

and the day is al - most over.

Leader:

Let your light scat - ter the darkness,

All:

and shine within your peo-ple here. —

EVENING HYMN: "Joyous Light of Heav'nly Glory"

All: a tempo

1. Joy-ous light of heav-'nly glo - ry, lov - ing
2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the
3. You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry

glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's
blaz - ing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and
danc - ing star of night, make us shine with gen - tle

sto - ry, shine on ev 'ry land and race. Now as
wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that
jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y

eve - ning falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to
fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry
God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our

you, God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and
soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us
way, Lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us

light our hearts a - new. _____
free and make us whole. _____
on to end - less day. _____

EVENING THANKSGIVING

Leader: *All:*

May God be with you all, and al - so with you;

Leader: *All:*

Let us sing our thanks to — God,

All: *All:*

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: Blessed are you, Creator of the universe—from old you have led
your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make
our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light
of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

All: *All:*

A - - - men.

PSALM 141: "Let My Prayer Rise Up as Incense"

All: *All:*

Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

fore you, the lift - ing up of my

hands as an of - fer - ing to you.

Leader or Group One:

— O God, I call to you, come to me

All or Group Two:

O God, I

now; O hear my voice when I
call to you, come to me now; O

cry* to you. Let my prayer rise
hear my voice when I cry to you.

up like in cense be - fore you, the
Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to
fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an

you. Keep watch with - in me, God;
of-fer-ing to you. Keep

deep in my heart may the light of your love be
watch with - in me, God; deep in my heart may the

burn - ing bright. Let my prayer rise
light of your love be burn - ing bright.

up like in - cense be - fore you, the
Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to
fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an

you. All praise to the God of all- Cre-
of-fer-ing to you. All

a - tor of life; all praise be to Christ and the

praise to the God of all— Cre - a - tor of life; all

Spir - it of love. ——— Let my prayer rise

praise be to Christ and the Spir - it of love.

up like in - cense be - fore you, the

Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to

fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an

you. ——— of - fer - ing to you.

PRAYER

(silence for meditation)

May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.

Amen

READING

John 3:1-21

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

482 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1 When I sur-vey the won-drous cross On which the the
 2 For-bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, Sor-row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na-ture mine, That were a a

prince of glo-ry died, My rich-est gain I that
 death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
 love flow min-gled down. Did e'er such love and
 trib-ute far too small; Love so a-maz-ing,

count but loss And pour con-tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac-ri-fice them to his blood.
 sor-row meet, Or thorns com-pose so rich a crown?
 so di-vine, De-mands my soul, my life, my all!

MEDITATION: *Running Away from God?*: Nicodemus

THE OFFERING

(Offerings designated as Lent offerings benefit Davidson Farms Cottage Homes)

406 Take My Life, that I May Be

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

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

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 At thy feet its treasure store;
 Take myself, and I will be
 Ever, only, all for thee.

The light shines in the darkness

And the darkness has not overcome it.

THE ANNUNCIATION & THE MAGNIFICAT

An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."

THE MAGNIFICAT

All:

- 1.3. My soul pro-claims your
- 2. You have cast the might-ny

great-ness, O God, and my spir-it re-joic-es in
 down from their thrones, and up lift-ed the hum-ble of

you,
heart,
You have looked with love on your
filled the hun - gry with

ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.

fine last time

Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,

strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,

How you fa - vor the weak — and low - ly one,
As you prom - ised to Sar - ah — and A - bra - ham,

hum - bling the proud of heart.
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

THE LITANY

All: Repeat continuously

(Hmmm)

God — of mer - cy, hold us in love.

Leader: [A] [B]

1. In peace, in peace, we pray_ to you:

Leader: [A] [B]

2. For peace and sal - va - tion, we pray to you:

Leader: [A] [B]

3. For peace be - tween na - tions, for peace be - tween peo - ples:
4. For us who are gath - ered to wor - ship and praise you:
5. For all of your ser - vants who live out your gos - pel:
6. For all those who gov - ern, that jus - tice might guide them:
7. For all those who la - bor in ser - vice to oth - ers:
8. Grant weath - er that nour - ish - es all of cre - a - tion:
9. Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from dan - ger:
10. For all the be - lov - ed who rest in your mer - cy:

Leader:

Help us, com - fort us, all of our days:

All:

Keep — us, hold — us, gra - cious God.

PRAYERS

Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live your Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
 and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen

FINAL BLESSING

Leader:

All:

Let us bless our God: praise and thanks to you.

Presider:

May God, Cre - a - tor bless us and keep us, may

Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the

Spir - it of Love be our guide and path, for

all of our days. _____

All:

A - men.

THE POSTLUDE: *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIVESTREAM LENTEN WORSHIP at 7:00 p.m.

Worship online following link provided at <https://mlutheran.org>. The livestream will be available as a recording also.

LENT OFFERINGS

Lent midweek offerings will go to Davidson Farms Cottage Homes project, unless otherwise designated:

<https://www.kidstolove.org/davidson-farms>

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER BOOKLETS

to borrow are available on MLC's Give and Take Cart on Sunday morning or call the church office to pick one up during office hours.