

SERVICE of WORD and PRAYER
from With One Voice

THE PRELUDE: *O Love that Will Not Let Me Go*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

HYMN: "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" vs 1,3,4

March 21, 2021

The Fifth Sunday in Lent



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

[Online Guest Form](#)

Messiah Lutheran Church

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O Love That Will Not Let Me Go 324

1 O Love that will not let me go, I rest my
2 O Light that fol - lowest all my way, I yield my
3 O Joy that seek - est me through pain, I can not
4 O Cross that lift - est up my head, I dare not

wea - ry soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, That
flick - ring torch to thee; My heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray, That
close my heart to thee; I trace the rain - bow through the rain And
ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, And

in thine o - cean depths its flow May rich - er, full - er be.
in thy sun - shine's blaze its day May bright - er, fair - er be.
feel the prom - ise is not vain That morn shall tear - er less be.
from the ground there blossoms red Life that shall end - less be.

THE GREETING & DIALOG

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

The word is near you,

on your lips and in your heart.

If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Faith comes from what is heard,

and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

SCRIPTURE SONG

Refrain

Sal - va - tion be - longs to our God and to
Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

Great and won - der - ful are your deeds, O God of the u - ni - verse;
just and true are your ways, O Rul - er of all the na - tions.

Who can fail to hon - or you, Lord, and sing the glo - ry of your name?

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One. All
na - tions will draw near and wor - ship be - fore you,
for your just and ho - ly works have been re - vealed.

Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our redeemer, in our weakness we have failed to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope in the world. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, that we may follow your commands and proclaim your reign of love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

HAND BELL SOLO: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* Rebecca Alferink

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 11:1-18

11 Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. 2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, 3 saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" 4 Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 5 "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. 6 As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. 7 I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' 8 But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' 9 But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' 10 This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. 11 At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. 12 The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. 13 He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; 14 he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' 15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. 16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' 17 If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" 18 When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

¹⁷ The righteous cry,
and the LORD hears them
and delivers them
from all their troubles.

¹⁸ **The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
and will save those
whose spirits are crushed.**

¹⁹ Many are the troubles of the righteous,
but the LORD will deliver him
out of them all.

²⁰ **He will keep safe all his bones;
not one of them shall be broken.**

²¹ Evil shall slay the wicked,
and those who hate the righteous
will be punished.

²² **The LORD ransoms
the life of his servants,
and none will be punished
who trust in him.**

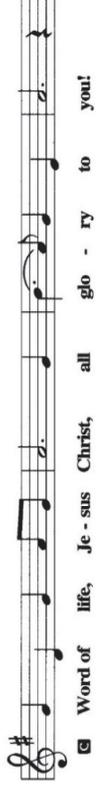
THE SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 4:1-8

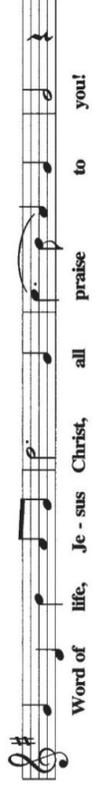
⁴ Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. ³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷ But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair;

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Word of Life"



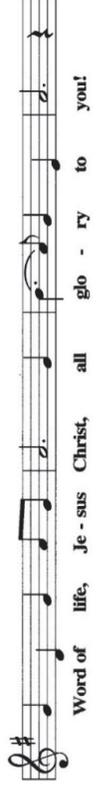
Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



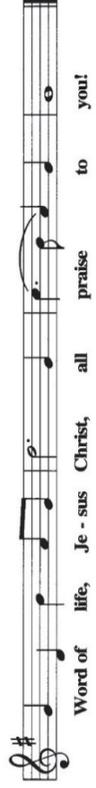
Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all praise to you!



Our hearts burn with - in us while you o - pen to us the Scrip - tures.



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all praise to you!

THE GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 15:11-32

¹¹ Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and

put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ ‘Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN: “Our Father, We Have Wandered” *all verses*

Our Father, We Have Wandered 733

1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

in fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing and ev - er - car - ing Lord,

But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
in glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

THE SERMON

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,

and born of the virgin Mary,

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father,

He will come again 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

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

pray in the Holy Spirit.

Keep yourselves in the love of God;

look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

Everything old has passed away;

behold, everything has become new!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

(silence for reflection and self examination.)

Gracious God,

Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins,

known and unknown, things done and left undone.

Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and

serve you in newness of life,

To the honor and glory of your holy name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, Agree with one another, live in peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

THE OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY: "Glory to You, God" vs. 2

(Advent to Transfiguration)
(Lent to Pentecost)
(Season after Pentecost)

Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.
Gracious God,

In the abundance of your steadfast love, you call us from death to life, from silence to speech, from idleness to action. With these gifts we offer ourselves to you, and with the Church through all the ages we give thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

As God's people called to love one another,
let us pray for the needs of the Church, the human family, and all the world.

God of mercy,
Hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of Christ who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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**

THE BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen

HYMN: "I Love to Tell the Story" *all verses*

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I Love to Tell the Story

1 I love to tell the sto - ry Of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: How pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, For those who know it best

Of Je - sus and his glo - ry, Of Je - sus and his love,
What seems, each time I tell it, More won - der - ful - ly sweet!
Seem hum - ger - ing and thirst - ing To hear it like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, Be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, For some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

It sat - is - fies my long - ings As noth - ing else would do,
The mes - sage of sal - va - tion From God's own ho - ly Word.
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry That I have loved so long.

Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry; I'll sing this theme in glo - ry

And tell the old, old sto - ry Of Je - sus and his love.

THE DISMISSAL

THE POSTLUDE: *Bouree and Finale*