

**March 7, 2021**

*The Third Sunday of Lent*



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**Messiah Lutheran Church**

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## **SERVICE of WORSHIP**

### *Setting 1 from **Lutheran Book of Worship***

THE PRELUDE: *Mazurka No. 4 Op. 67* by Chopin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

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.

**Amen**

**If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*(silence for reflection and self examination)*

Most merciful God,

**We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

## O Day of Peace

1 O day of peace that dim-ly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb; ne'er shall the fierce de-vour the small;

guide us to jus-tice, truth, and love, de-liv-ered from our self-ish schemes.  
as beasts and cat-tle calm-ly graze, a lit-tle child shall lead them all.

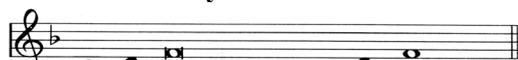
May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en-vy find re-lease,  
Then en-e-mies shall learn to love, all crea-tures find their true ac-cord;

till by God's grace our war-ring world shall see Christ's prom-ised reign of peace.  
the hope of peace shall be ful-filled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

# THE GREETING & KYRIE

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

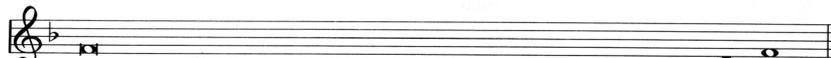
**And also with you.**



**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



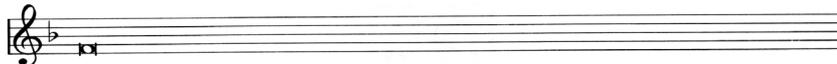
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



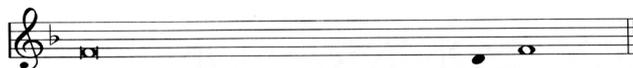
**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



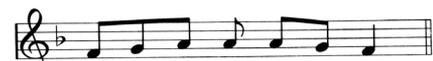
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord.



**C** A - - - men

## THE SALUTATION



☐ The Lord be with you.



☑ And al - so with you.

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...

Eternal Lord, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your Word and obey it, so that we become instruments of your redeeming love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

VIOLIN SOLO: *Be Thou My Vision*

Gretchen Perry

## THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 37:5-22

<sup>5</sup>Once Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. <sup>6</sup>He said to them, “Listen to this dream that I dreamed. <sup>7</sup>There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright; then your sheaves gathered around it, and bowed down to my sheaf.” <sup>8</sup>His brothers said to him, “Are you indeed to reign over us? Are you indeed to have dominion over us?” So they hated him even more because of his dreams and his words.

<sup>9</sup>He had another dream, and told it to his brothers, saying, “Look, I have had another dream: the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.” <sup>10</sup>But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him, and said to him, “What kind of dream is this that you have had? Shall we indeed come, I and your mother and your brothers, and bow to the ground before you?” <sup>11</sup>So his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

<sup>12</sup>Now his brothers went to pasture their father’s flock near Shechem. <sup>13</sup>And Israel said to Joseph, “Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.” He answered, “Here I am.” <sup>14</sup>So he said to him, “Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me.” So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, <sup>15</sup>and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, “What are you seeking?” <sup>16</sup>“I am seeking my

brothers,” he said; “tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock.”<sup>17</sup> The man said, “They have gone away, for I heard them say, ‘Let us go to Dothan.’” So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan.<sup>18</sup> They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him.<sup>19</sup> They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer.<sup>20</sup> Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.”<sup>21</sup> But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, “Let us not take his life.”<sup>22</sup> Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him”—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father.

THE PSALM

*Psalm 126*

<sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup> **Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

<sup>3</sup> Then they said among the nations,  
“The LORD has done great things for them.”

<sup>4</sup> **The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.**

<sup>5</sup> Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses of the Negev.

<sup>6</sup> **Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.**

<sup>7</sup> Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 12:1-3, 9-17

**12** I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup> love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice

in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Return to the Lord"

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

THE GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> chapters.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25; 2:13-15

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

<sup>13</sup> Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



HYMN: “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” vs 1,3,4,6

# O God, Our Help in Ages Past

320

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,  
 2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne Your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived its frame,  
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight Are like an eve - ning gone,

Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:  
 Suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.  
 From ev - er - last - ing you are God, To end - less years the same.  
 Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
 Soon bears us all away;  
 We fly forgotten, as a dream  
 Dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
 Our hope for years to come,  
 Still be our guard while troubles last  
 And our eternal home!

## THE SERMON

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

## THE OFFERTORY: "Create in Me"

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.

## THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
And also with you.

## THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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**

## THE BENEDICTION

# I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

*Here I Am, Lord*

752

1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

Chords: G, C/G, G, C/G, G, D

All who dwell in deep - est sin my hand will save.  
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.  
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

Chords: G, Em, Am, G, C, Am, Am<sup>7</sup>, D

I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.  
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

Chords: G, C/G, G, C/G, G, D

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"  
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"  
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Chords: G, Em, Am<sup>7</sup>, G, C, Am, G, C, D

*Refrain*

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

Chords: D, G, Gsus<sup>4</sup>, G, C, G

call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you

Chords: Am<sup>7</sup>, G, C, D, G, Gsus<sup>4</sup>, G

lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Chords: C, G, Am<sup>7</sup>, D, G, Gsus<sup>4</sup>, G

THE DISMISSAL

THE POSTLUDE: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*  
 (with *March of the Three Kings*)