# "Growing God's Kingdom"



## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

## March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059 (717)-436-6213

**RADIO:** AM 1700

OFFICE EMAIL: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

WEBSITE: mlcmifflintown.org

**TODAY'S INTRODUCTION:** The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

### Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street Mifflintown, PA 17059 Church Office: 717-436-6213

Samuel Leister
Bob St. Clair
Andrea Cameron
Andrea Cameron
Harrison Mummah
Barb Geedey & Jessie Reed
Brea Beward
Julia Martin

Vicar
Organist
Lay Worship Leader
Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild
Acolyte
Offering Presenter

# THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT March 7, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.

\*Please Stand as YOU Are Able

#### **PREPARATION**

CHIMES GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PRELUDE

[Please use the prelude as a quiet time to prepare yourself for worship.]

#### \* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.
- C Amen.
- P God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

### Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Fountain of living water,
- C pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.
- P Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are + forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.
- C Amen.

#### **GATHERING**

\* GATHERING HYMN

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

bulletin, pg. 12

- \* GREETING
  - P The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
  - C And also with you.
- \* KYRIE (Congregation sings responses)
  - P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



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



P 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.



P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



- \* PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)
  - P Let us pray...
  - C Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### **WORD**

After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

FIRST READING.....Exodus 20:1-17

<sup>1</sup>Then God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup>You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. <sup>13</sup>You shall not murder. <sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup>You shall not steal. <sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. <sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 19 (responsively)

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

<sup>2</sup>One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.

<sup>3</sup>Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

<sup>4</sup>their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.

<sup>5</sup>It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

<sup>6</sup>It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

<sup>7</sup>The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

<sup>8</sup>The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous

altogether.

<sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

<sup>11</sup>By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup>Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.

<sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

<sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.

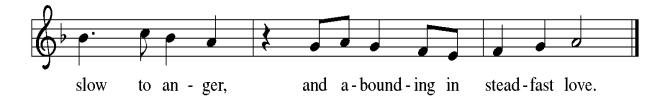
<sup>18</sup>For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

<sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

- L: Here ends the reading.
- C: Thanks be to God.
- \* LENTEN ACCLAMATION (In Unison)





Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

- P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body.

<sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON
HYMN OF THE DAY
"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"
Andrea Cameron
bulletin, pg. 13

\* APOSTLES' CREED (In Unison)

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.

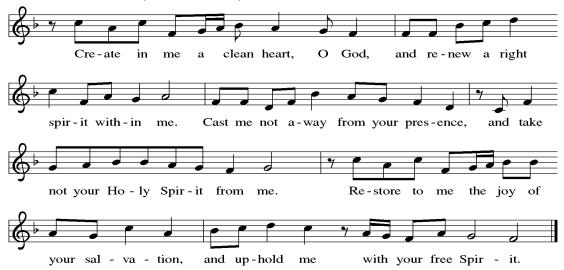
- PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
  - P Hear us, O God.
  - C Your mercy is great.
- \* THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)
  - C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

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.

#### OFFERING PRESENTATION

#### \* SUNG OFFERTORY ('Create in Me')



#### \* OFFERING PRAYER

- P Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen.

#### **SENDING PRAYER**

- \* BLESSING
  - P You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you + that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.
  - C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)

#### \* HOLY COMMUNION

- P Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.
- P 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.
- P 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.
- P The Body of Christ given for you. (Wafer)
- P The Blood of Christ shed for you. (Juice)

P God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

#### C Amen.

- \* DISMISSAL
  - P Go in peace. Share the good news.
  - C Thanks be to God.

**CLOSING CHIMES** 

#### PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN WITH YOU AND DISPOSE OF AT HOME!

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#### WELCOME TO ALL!

JUST A THOUGHT – Harry Lathrop Reed, Christian Thinker: Rightness is not easy of definition, but everybody knows what it is.

THIS MORNING WE ARE LED IN WORSHIP by Andrea Cameron an Authorized Lay Worship Leader of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Authorized Lay Worship Leaders have received extensive training so as to provide worship leadership and preaching, and also have been authorized by the bishop of the synod to preside at the Eucharist in specific situations.

#### **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS <u>THURSDAY NOON.</u>

PRAYER CHAIN – If you wish to be included on the email recipient list for the Messiah Prayer Chain, please send an email to Vicar Leister at <a href="mailto:sleister@gmail.com">sleister@gmail.com</a>.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for <u>one month</u>. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact the church office at 436-6213 or <u>mlchurchoffice@gmail.com</u>. If you have anyone who is a "last minute" addition after the bulletin has been printed on Fridays, please fill out an orange prayer card in the pew and lay it on the stand where the gluten free wafers are placed PRIOR to the morning worship service.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE for any change in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or for any requests for building usage. There are a lot of activities and some coordination is needed so events are not "overbooked" in any specific areas of the church (this also applies to church groups who meet in the church). Please contact the office at 436-6213 or email <a href="mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com">mlchurchoffice@gmail.com</a> for any changes or requests.

IF ANYONE HAS ANY NEEDS OR CONCERNS, please contact Vicar Sam Leister. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please let Vicar Leister know. He can be reached at 717-436-8589 (home), or 717-348-1020 (cell), or email at <a href="mailto:sleister@gmail.com">sleister@gmail.com</a>.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be offered following the sending hymn in order to minimize any contact during the meal. We will be using communion kits that are pre-packaged and sealed that include a wafer and grape juice. Each person desiring to share in the meal will take a packaged kit when you receive a bulletin.

THE MARCH 2021 "MESSIAH HERALD" is now available online. Hard copies are available in the church office, Adult Sunday School Room, Kitchenette, and Fellowship Hall. If you want something placed in the Messiah Herald, please contact BOTH the church office at <a href="mlchurchoffice@gmail.com">mlchurchoffice@gmail.com</a> and Bob St. Clair at <a href="mlchurchoffice@gmail.com">stclairb@embarqmail.com</a> prior to the newsletter deadline, which is listed on the calendar in the newsletter, or online at <a href="mlcmifflintown.org">mlcmifflintown.org</a>. Also, if anyone would like to add or remove names from our email list, please let Bob know as well.

MARCH'S "MISSION OF THE MONTH" at Messiah will be for the "Texas Storm Relief." The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to the ELCA. In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This idea was born when budgeted funds were unused during the 2020 calendar year due to the shutdowns from the Covid-19 Pandemic. This is just one way in which we can extend our mission in Christ's love beyond the walls of our church building.

COPIES OF JANUARY 13, 2021 PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

#### WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT:

<u>February 24, 2021</u> Attendance – 16		<u>Other Funds</u>		
Total Offering Other Funds General Fund	\$ 390.00	Benevolence Building Fund Total	\$ 40.00 <u>80.00</u> 120.00	
February 28,	<u>2021</u> Attendance – 32			
Total Offering Other Funds General Fund	\$3,094.00 <u>638.00</u> \$2,456.00	Benevolence Flowers Building Fund CJEMS Total	\$ 120.00 18.00 450.00 50.00 \$ 638.00	

2021 LENTEN SERVICES – Vicar Leister will be conducting weekly Lenten services at Messiah this year, with the assistance of Lay Leader Andrea Cameron. The services will be held each Wednesday during Lent starting at 7:00 p.m. The sermon topics listed below for the Lenten services are selected from the document from Pope Francis titled, "Do You Want to Fast this Lent?"

March 10 – Fast From Pessimism

March 17 – Fast From Bitterness

March 24 – Fast From Selfishness

As with our Sunday services, masks and social distancing will be required. More information will be forthcoming regarding Holy Week services, so stay tuned!

#### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Friday – 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

CAMP MOUNT LUTHER – Kate Swailes is serving as our congregation's camperson with Camp Mount Luther again this year. She has information on programs for the summer. If you have additional questions, you can contact her or the camp office at 570-922-1587 or <a href="mailto:cml@campmountluther.org">cml@campmountluther.org</a>. Since our congregation has a camperson, each camper from our church will receive Camel Bucks from Kate for use at the camp store this summer! Campers who attended camp at Mount Luther in the past should have already received the camp brochures in the mail (additional brochures are available in the Adult Sunday School Room). For more information on Camp Mount Luther or to print the camp registration form, visit <a href="www.campmountluther.org">www.campmountluther.org</a>. Submit your camp registration form to Kate along with a \$50 payment payable to Messiah Lutheran Church which will go toward the non-refundable deposit. The remaining portion of the cost of camp will be covered by various fundraising events, donations, etc. Kate will submit the registration forms to Mount Luther. We ask that you submit your registration form and payment to Kate prior to April 15th so that we receive the early registration discount. Because Camp Mount Luther is accepting a lower number of campers this summer, Chad Hershberger recommends that families register their campers as soon as possible. Registration will not be accepted within the two weeks prior to each camp week.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF has launched the 75,000 Face Mask Challenge, a request for volunteers to sew cloth masks that will be sent overseas to slow the spread of COVID-19. If you are interested in participating in this challenge, you can make as few or as many as you would like. Please call or email Cynthia Smith for details about this project at 717-994-4999 or <a href="mailto:gramcynthia49@yahoo.com">gramcynthia49@yahoo.com</a>.

MESSIAH NEEDS YOU – We need two voting members to serve at this year's Synod Assembly on Saturday, June 19, 2021 (Assembly will be all digital). You may check for information at <a href="https://www.uss-elca.org/assembly/">https://www.uss-elca.org/assembly/</a>. Two voting members are needed while others may attend as visitors – digitally. Our two voting attendees also need to attend the Juniata Valley Conference Assembly on Sunday, April 25 at 6:00 p.m. At this point, we would attend this meeting digitally also. The intent is to use the conference meeting as a training/dry run for the Synod Assembly voting process. The registration fee of \$65.00 is paid by the church. Please email Vicar Leister at <a href="seleister@gmail.com">seleister@gmail.com</a> or call at 717-436-8589 if you have any questions and would like to attend.

#### WOMEN OF THE ELCA

NEW BATH-SIZE BARS OF SOAP (4 oz. to 5 oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) is continuously collected as an on-going project for Lutheran World Relief. Please place soap in the basket on the blue table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

#### **COMMUNITY**

#### FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR MARCH:

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, OVER-THE-COUNTER COLD AND FLU MEDICINES, PAPER TOWELS, COUGH DROPS, DISH DETERGENT, AND LAUNDRY DETERGENT. DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED!

#### PRAYER LIST

Shirley Aumiller Tyson Aurand Carole Baker Donna Barton Lindsey Barton Donna Bell

Julie Berryman & Gary Bechtold

Nick Beward Roxanne Boyer Charlotte Burd Andrea Cameron Pam Campbell Dan Carlin Ruth Cisney Cade Clark Curtis Clark Kim Clark Randy Clark Terry Coder Jean Compton Leann Crimmel Will DeLancy Guy Dillman

Fred & Dot Dowling

Dixie Dressler

Renee Dzikowski

Neil & Pat Fisher

Janie Fogleman

Jerald (Jerry) Foltz

Bentley Fulkroad

Joan Fulkroad

Michal Gayer
Terri Gayer
Ken Geedey
Eddi Kay Gill
Paul Goss
Amy Hart
Beth Harris
Harry & Jennifer Heikes

Sue Henderson Ken Henry Nox Hepburn

Jason Hockenberry & Family
Curt & Judy Houtz
Dean Hutchinson

Matt & Jennifer Hutchinson

Brenda Imes
Annie Ingle
Doc Johnston
Guy Kerstetter
Denny King
Darvin Krouse
Pam Lawson
Michael Lozano
Carol Lyter
Zaden Mabey

Carlen McClure Alice McClure Isabel Meinsler Messiah Mutual Ministry Cecilia Miller

Anthony Martin

Ellwood Miller
Larry Miller
Shirley Miller
Jim Minick
Claire Mummah
Landon Musser
Carole Nace
Darve Nace
Austin Parker
Noel Peachey
Dave Phelan
Butch & Sandy Pines
Betty Ranck
Keith Ranck

Keith Ranck
Mackenzie Shearer
Ronald Shearer
Bobby & Eva Sieber
Mike Sparks
Donald Speece
Bob & Jeanette St. Clair

Charles Stump
Alice Swartz
Dorothy Towsey
Rich Walters
Dr. Glen Webb
Erma Williamson
Jim Woltman
Mackenzie Wray
George Zimmerman

Linda Zimmerman

#### PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

Ray Bramm Minnie Minick
Ruth Cisney Edith Nipple
Max Ernest Carol Simonton
Margaret Guss Sieber & Ona Stoner

Gail Henderson Ken Stuck Mona Lawson Kitty Walters

Jane Marhefka





Text: John Newton, 1725-1807 Tune: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835 NEW BRITAIN

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### My Faith Looks Up to Thee



# EASTER LILIES ORDER FORM MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH



Easter Sunday is <u>April 4, 2021</u> and in keeping with Messiah Lutheran Church tradition, Lilies you purchase will be "planted" around our altar to help us celebrate the special occasion.

Please complete the order form below and attach <u>a check</u>, made payable to "Messiah Lutheran Church" and print Easter Lilies in the memo line. Then, please attach the check to the order form and place it in the offering plate or return to the church office by <u>March 25, 2021</u>. <u>PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR ORDER!!</u>

FLOWERS MAY BE PICKED UP FOLLOWING THE EASTER MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:30 AM.

Thank you for helping to beautify our space and for supporting our church!				
EASTER LILIES ORDER FORM				
NAME:		PHONE:		
LIST THE DEDICATION AS FOLLO Please check one: In Honor Of		ory Of ( )		
	_			
I would like to order the following: Easter Lilies (4 to 6 blooms)		X \$9.00 = \$		
		X \$9.00 = \$ AL ENCLOSED: \$_		