



March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

## MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Vicar  
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Organist/Pianist

**THIRD WEEK OF LENT  
EVENING VESPERS**

**March 23, 2022 – 7:00 p.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.]

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

C: **Amen**

P: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

C: **to sing praise to your name, O Most High;**

P: to herald your love in the morning,

C: **your truth at the close of the day.**

OPENING HYMN

“In the Hour of Trial”

#106 Green Hymnal

**CONFESSION**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy and gracious God,

C: **I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of Heaven, and to you my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned against you this day. Some of my sin I know-- the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed-- but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me, that I may rest in peace.**

P: By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven. We rest now in his peace and rise in the morning to serve him.

C: **Amen.**

FIRST READING.....Numbers13:17-27

<sup>17</sup> Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said to them, "Go up there into the Negeb, and go up into the hill country, <sup>18</sup> and see what the land is like, and whether the people who live in it are strong or weak, whether they are few or many, <sup>19</sup> and whether the land they live in is good or bad, and whether the towns that they live in are unwalled or fortified, <sup>20</sup> and whether the land is rich or poor, and whether there are trees in it or not. Be bold, and bring some of the fruit of the land." Now it was the season of the first ripe grapes.

<sup>21</sup> So they went up and spied out the land from the wilderness of Zin to Rehob, near Lebo-hamath. <sup>22</sup> They went up into the Negeb, and came to Hebron; and Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi, the Anakites, were there. (Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) <sup>23</sup> And they came to the Wadi Eshcol, and cut down from there a branch with a single cluster of grapes, and they carried it on a pole between two of them. They also brought some pomegranates and figs. <sup>24</sup> That place was called the Wadi Eshcol, because of the cluster that the Israelites cut down from there.

<sup>25</sup> At the end of forty days they returned from spying out the land. <sup>26</sup> And they came to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the Israelites in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. <sup>27</sup> And they told him, "We came to the land to which you sent us; it flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit.

PSALM.....Psalm 39 (Responsively)

<sup>1</sup> I said, "I will guard my ways that I may not sin with my tongue; I will keep a muzzle on my mouth as long as the wicked are in my presence."

**<sup>2</sup> I was silent and still; I held my peace to no avail; my distress grew worse,**

<sup>3</sup> my heart became hot within me. While I mused, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue:

**<sup>4</sup> Lord, let me know my end, and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is.**

<sup>5</sup> You have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing in your sight. Surely everyone stands as a mere breath.

**<sup>6</sup> Surely everyone goes about like a shadow. Surely for nothing they are in turmoil; they heap up, and do not know who will gather.**

<sup>7</sup> And now, O Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in you.

**<sup>8</sup> Deliver me from all my transgressions. Do not make me the scorn of the fool.**

<sup>9</sup> I am silent; I do not open my mouth, for it is you who have done it.

**<sup>10</sup> Remove your stroke from me; I am worn down by the blows of your hand.**

<sup>11</sup> You chastise mortals in punishment for sin, consuming like a moth what is dear to them; surely everyone is a mere breath.

**<sup>12</sup> Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; do not hold your peace at my tears. For I am your passing guest, an alien, like all my forebears.**

<sup>13</sup> Turn your gaze away from me, that I may smile again, before I depart and am no more."

THE GOSPEL.....Luke 13:18-21

<sup>18</sup> He said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? <sup>19</sup> It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches."

<sup>20</sup>And again he said, “To what should I compare the kingdom of God? <sup>21</sup>It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

### **John 1:1-5**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

SERMON

“Fast From Darkness; Feast on Light”

Vicar Sam Leister

### THE APOSTLE’S 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.**

### RESPONSORY

P: Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

**C: Into your hands I commend my spirit.**

P: You have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

**C: Into your hands I commend my spirit.**

P: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**C: Into your hands I commend my spirit.**

SENDING HYMN

“Now the Day Is Over”

#280 Green Hymnal

### CLOSING PRAYER

P: Eternal God, the hours both of day and night are yours, and to you the darkness is no threat. Be present, we pray, with those who labor in these hours off night, especially those who watch and work on behalf of others. Grant them diligence in their watching, faithfulness in their service, courage in danger, and competence in emergencies. Help them meet the needs of others with confidence and compassion; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who taught us to pray.

### THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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.**

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

**All: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray You to forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

CLOSING CHIMES

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**WELCOME TO ALL!**

WITH CHRIST'S LOVE AND GOD'S GRACE, we welcome all who worship at Messiah this evening. If you are a VISITOR or GUEST, we invite you to record your visit in the guest book provided in the Narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the Vicar. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Young children are also encouraged to join us in our worship experience! We are so thankful that you joined us for worship today!

WE WELCOME OUR NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS AND CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS from other churches of our community and appreciate the opportunity that is ours as fellow Christians to worship together. Messiah is glad to have you as our guests this evening and we pray that the service will be a rich blessing to you.

2022 LENTEN SERVICES AT MESSIAH

- Wednesday, March 30 – 7:00 p.m.....“Fast from Despair; Feast on Hope”
- Wednesday, April 6 – 7:00 p.m.....“Fast from Hatred; Sow Love”
- Thursday, April 14 – 7:00 a.m.....Maundy Thursday Vesper and Breakfast
- Friday, April 15 – 7:30 p.m.....Good Friday Tenebrae Service