



March 22nd, 2023

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. Samuel Leister
Andrea Cameron
Bob St. Clair
Slone Smith

Pastor
Choir Director
Organist/Pianist
Organist/Pianist

**FOURTH WEEK OF LENT
EVENING VESPERS**

March 22, 2023 – 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

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

#439 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.

PSALM.....Psalm 84:1-6 (Responsively)

¹How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

²My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord, my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

³Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

⁴Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

⁵Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

⁶As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.

THE GOSPEL.....John 15:1-5

¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

SERMON

“The Vine”

Pastor Crystal Baumgardner

HYMN

“Abide with Me”

#272 Green Hymnal

THE APOSTLE’S CREED (In Unison)

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.

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 of 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 Pastor. 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.

2023 LENTEN SERVICES – 7:00 p.m.

March 29	Aldersgate Methodist Church	“The Light of the World” Matthew 5:14-16 <i>Pastor Nancy McClure, preaching</i>
April 5	St. Stephen's Lutheran Church	“The Good Shepherd” John 10:10-15 <i>Pastor Sam Leister, preaching</i>

Thursday, April 6 – 7:00 a.m.	Maundy Thursday Vesper and Breakfast	Messiah Lutheran Church <i>Pastor Sam Leister</i>
Friday, April 7 – 7:30 p.m.	Good Friday Tenebrae Service	Messiah Lutheran Church <i>Pastor Sam Leister</i>

2023 PORT ROYAL MEN'S LENTEN PRAYER BREAKFASTS

7:00 p.m. at the Port Royal Community Building

March 25	Rodney Pry	Free Spring Church of the Brethren
April 1	Rev. Parrish Munro	McAlisterville Methodist Church
April 8	Rev. Ron Shupe	First Baptist Church

THE FINAL 2023 LADIES COMMUNITY LENTEN TEA

Social time begins at 9:30 a.m. with light refreshments followed by Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.

March 29	St. Jude's Catholic Church	Kathy Fitzgerald (348-9098)
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