



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Red Lodge, Montana

Pastor Ben Cherland

Welcome to
Messiah Lutheran Church

Light in the Beartooths

In an effort to make Messiah comfortable and welcoming to everyone, please refrain from using strong personal scents and perfumes. Thank you.

Prayer Requests

For prayer requests, please contact the church office: 406-446-2430 or
redlodgemessiah@gmail.com

Specific information (with the permission of the prayer recipient) helps us in our prayers

Lowell Anderson	The family of Alan Goldin	James "Bud" Ridenauer
Emma Balsam	Jim Johnson	Dick & DJ Rosekelly
Manuel Cabanas	Rick Koski	Christian Strickland
Lenny Erickson	Sandy Koski	Al & Dolly Stuber
Brooke Feister	Jim and Linda Lian	The family of Mitzi Vorachek
Jesse Graves	The family of Ray Loyning	Eva Wilker
Allen Hansen	Bill & Lois Miller	Josh Wilker
Andrea Holmen	Shilo Moncada & Kingston	



Live by faith | Share Christ's Love | Be a Voice of Hope

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church

Second Sunday in Lent

March 5, 2023

GATHERING

INTROIT | TREE OF LIFE AND AWESOME MYSTERY

Cello plays through once, then join with verse of the day

In our call to be a blessing, may we be a blessing true;
May we live and die confessing Christ as Lord of all we do.
Christ as Lord of all we do.

INVOCATION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves over into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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 the + son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

BENEATH THE TREE OF LIFE

Refrain

The musical score is written on six staves in a single system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 2/2. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are: "[Come and gath - er] be - neath the tree of life. [Come and gath - er] be - neath the tree of life; Root of wis - dom, branch of peace, fruit of heal - ing and re - lease. [Come and gath - er] be - neath the tree of life." The lyrics are placed below the notes, with some words spanning across multiple staves. There are repeat signs at the beginning and end of the refrain.

*[Come and gath - er] be - neath the tree of
Lay your burdens...
Grace and pardon...
life. [Come and gath - er] be -
neath the tree of life; Root of
wis - dom, branch of peace, fruit of heal - ing and re -
lease. [Come and gath - er] be -
neath the tree of life.

GREETING

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.

As the Winter Days Grow Longer



1 As the win - ter days grow long - er, draw - ing short the hours of night;
2 As the vines burst in - to blos - som, fra - grant in the morn - ing air,
3 As we jour - ney through this sea - son, pil - grims through a thirst - y land,



as our ea - ger ex - pec - ta - tion waits for Eas - ter's dawn - ing light—
lift - ing spir - its with their sweet - ness, lur - ing hearts to thank - ful prayer—
quench us with your liv - ing pres - ence; guide us with your lov - ing hand.



yearn - ing peo - ple, here we gath - er, turn - ing watch - ful eyes to you:
Lent - en peo - ple, here we gath - er, seek - ing lives re - fresh - ed from sin.
Wan - d'ring peo - ple, here we gath - er, called to rest a - long our way.



God who bless - es earth with spring - time, shine with - in our world a - new!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, bloom with - in our hearts a - gain!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, grant us sab - bath joy this day!



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody; arr. hymnal version
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Arr. © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

GENESIS 12:1-4

A reading from Genesis

¹The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 121

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills;

from where is my help to come?

²**My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

³The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶**the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

⁷The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.

⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

ROMANS 4:1-5, 13-17

A reading from Romans.

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion.

Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in-vi - ta-tion.

JOHN 3:1-17

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

(SILENCE)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Baptized and Set Free



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956
Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner
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APOSTLE'S CREED

**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

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

...Merciful God, receive our prayer.

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.
Amen.

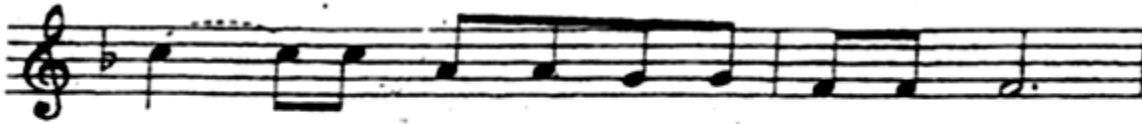
SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

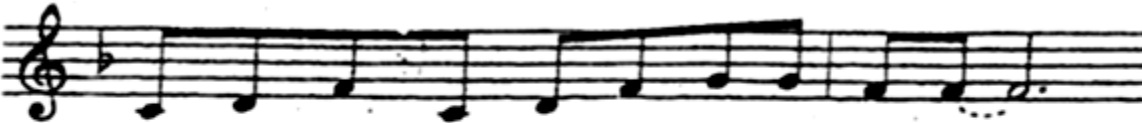
OFFERING HYMN



Come, let us bring the warm and fra-grant bread.
Come, let us bring the sweet a - bun-dant wine.
Praise be to you who set all peo - ple free.



1. Come, let us bring the warm and fra-grant bread.
2. Come, let us bring the sweet a - bun-dant wine.
3. Praise be to you who set all peo - ple free.



Bro - ken here so all God's peo - ple might be fed.
In this cup we taste the joy of grace di-vine.
Blest are they who share the feast of ju - bi-lee.



Bro - ken here so all God's peo - ple might be fed.
In this cup we taste the joy of grace di-vine.
Blest are they who share the feast of ju - bi-lee.

OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

S 144a

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation for the hymn 'THE GREAT THANKSGIVING'. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are connected by slurs, indicating a continuous melodic line. The lyrics are printed below each staff, with hyphens used to indicate syllables that span across multiple notes.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

S 162

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Detailed description: This block contains five staves of musical notation for the hymn 'HOLY, HOLY, HOLY'. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are connected by slurs, indicating a continuous melodic line. The lyrics are printed below each staff, with hyphens used to indicate syllables that span across multiple notes.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER | WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD

S 164

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

PRAAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

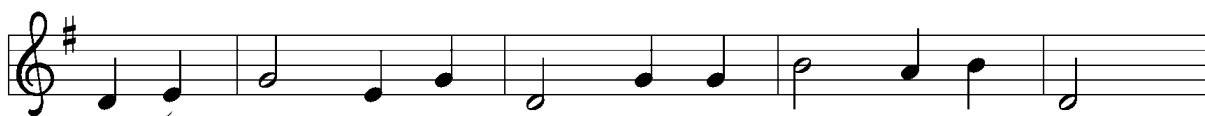
BLESSING

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;
be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
honor all people;
love and serve God,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN (*See next page*)

How Firm a Foundation



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
 Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All mid-week services will be for the community and will be held at Calvary at noon followed by a soup lunch. Please sign up in the Commons room to bring soup or bread.

SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR LENT

- March 1 Wednesday—Service at noon with soup lunch to follow.
- March 5 Sunday—Fellowship at 10:00 am. Worship at 10:30 am
- March 8 Wednesday—Service at noon with soup lunch to follow.
- March 12 Sunday—Fellowship at 10:00 am, Worship at 10:30 am
- March 15 Wednesday—Service at noon with soup lunch to follow.
- March 19 Sunday—Fellowship at 10:00 am. Worship at 10:30 am
- March 22 Wednesday—Service at noon with soup lunch to follow.
- March 26 Sunday—Fellowship at 10:00 am. Worship at 10:30 am
- March 29 Wednesday—Service at noon with soup lunch to follow.

SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK

- April 2 Palm/Passion Sunday Service with Calvary at 9:00 am
Calvary ECW Bake Sale during the 10:00 am fellowship hour.
- April 6 Maundy Thursday Service with Calvary at 6:00 pm
- April 7 Good Friday - Joint Guided Reflection on the Stations of the Cross at
Calvary at noon
- April 8 Easter Vigil Service with Calvary at 6:00 pm followed by a dessert social to
celebrate our time together. Please sign up to bring a dessert.
- April 9 Easter Sunday Service 10:00 am at 912 Lower Continental

MOVE IN MEETING

We will be meeting as a congregation on March 12th immediately following worship in order to discuss plans for moving into the new building! There will be a number of different items on the agenda and we hope all of you can be present - This is “ALL HANDS ON DECK” time!!

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