



**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
RED LODGE, MONTANA**

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

Allen Hansen

Shilo Moncada & Kingston

Emma Balsam

Andrea Holmen

Dick & DJ Rosekelly

Manuel Cabanas

Jim Johnson

Christian Strickland

Lenny Erickson

Rick & Sandy Koski

Al & Dolly Stuber

Brooke Feister

Jim and Linda Lian

Eva Wilker

Jesse Graves

The family of Ray Loyning

Josh Wilker

Bill & Lois Miller



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

PASTOR BEN CHERLAND

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023

GATHERING

INTROIT | TREE OF LIFE AND AWESOME MYSTERY

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

Give us eyes to see you clearly, make us children of your light
Give us hearts to live more nearly, as your gospel shining bright,
As your gospel shining bright.

INVOCATION

Blessed by 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 consists of six staves of music in a 2/2 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are:
*[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.

Christ, the Life of All the Living

1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,

Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;

through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed,
thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,

Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN, *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

A reading from 1 Samuel.

¹The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ²Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.” ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

PSALM 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

EPHESIANS 5:8-14

A reading from Ephesians.

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

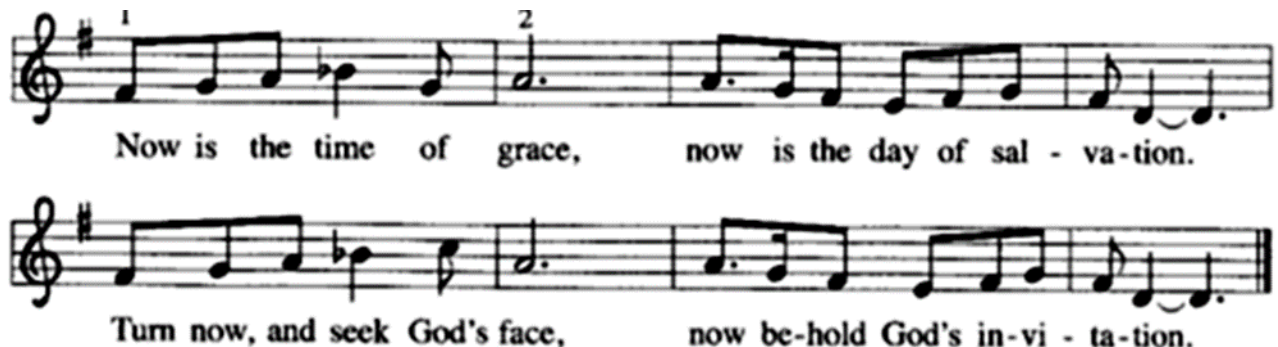
“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

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 9:1-41

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but

he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY (SEE NEXT PAGE)

Lead Me, Guide Me

768

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;

for if you lead me, I can - not stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with thee.

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r

2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,

3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,

to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.

be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.

I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.

Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.

I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.

Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

Refrain

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Text: Doris Akers, 1922-1995
Music: Doris Akers
Text and music © 1953 Doris Akers, admin. Unichappell Music, Inc.

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME
Irregular

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



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.



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.



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 a four-line musical score for the hymn 'The Great Thanksgiving'. Each line consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first line has a double bar line in the middle. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with many slurs and ties.

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 a five-line musical score for the hymn 'Holy, Holy, Holy'. Each line consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with many slurs and ties. The first line has a double bar line in the middle.

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.

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.

PRAYER 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

An Irish Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face;

The rains fall soft upon your fields and until
we meet again,

may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN (*SEE NEXT PAGE*)

Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE TURN IN HYMNAL ORDERS AND CHECKS TODAY.

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

Moving Schedule

1. Sign up to help with the OPEN HOUSE

- Planning Committee to meet on Tuesday, March 21 at 3pm. If interested, please show up or call Linda (406) 426-0841

- Open House on April 22. Sign-up sheet will be available on March 26

- Set up from 12-1

- At event help/greeter from 1-2:30 or 2:30 - 4

- Clean up from 4-5

- Food/Drink Prep

- Activities

2. Moving office, kitchen and other items from Belfry will take place on Friday, April 7th (2-4pm) OR Sat, April 8th (10-1pm). We will need large vehicles and people on both ends (moving and then putting away). If you can help, please call Linda at (406) 426-0841 or email her at lindatodd94@yahoo.com

3. Moving items from Parsonage will take place the week of April 10th. Date/time TBD

Empty Bowls 2023

When: Sunday March 26, 12:00-3:00 pm

Where: Red Lodge Community Church

Tickets: \$35.00 for an artisan bowl and meal of soup, bread and dessert.

\$10.00 for meal without artisan bowl

Tickets are purchased at the door.

Children 5 and under free

Soup is provided by area Red Lodge Restaurants

All proceed benefit BareTooth Cupboards Food Bank

Bowls provided by Red Lodge Clay Center

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.