

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

April 6, 2025
9:30 a.m.
Fifth Sunday in Lent



Pastor Kurt Hoover
Guest Preacher Kersten Stier
Organist Rose Ann Sochan
Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander
Worship Assistants Herb Alexander, Jane Costello

40 Houbolt Rd.
Joliet, IL 60431

815.741.4488
www.mlcjoliet.org

Welcome To Messiah Lutheran Church

April 6, 2025

9:30 a.m.

Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness," #43 v. 1-3



1. Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther, There is no
2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest, Sun, moon and
3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, Thy own dear

shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee; Thou chang - est not, Thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove Join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; Strength for to - day and bright

pas - sions they fail not; As Thou hast been Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy and love.
hope for to - mor - row, Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain

Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by

morn - ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed Thy

hand hath pro - vid - ed— Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

LITANY ADAPTED FROM PSALM 143 (NIV)

Leader: Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,
for I have put my trust in you.

**All: Show me the way I should go,
for to you I entrust my life.**

Leader: Rescue me from my enemies, Lord,
for I hide myself in you.

**All: Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God;**

Leader: may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

**All: For your name's sake, Lord, preserve my life;
in your righteousness, bring me out of trouble.**

Leader: In your unfailing love, silence my enemies;

All: destroy all my foes, for I am your servant.

Leader: We worship You, Lord, in the name of the Father,
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

All: Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Seek Ye First," #42 v. 1-2

1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God And His righ-teous - ness,
2. Ask and it shall be giv-en un-to you, Seek and ye shall find,

And all these things shall be add-ed un-to you— Al-le - lu, al-le - lu - ia!
Knock and the door shall be o-pened un-to you— Al-le - lu, al-le - lu - ia!

HYMN OF PRAISE

"El Shaddai," #36 (2X)

Unison

*El Shad-dai, El Shad-dai, El El - yon na A - do-nai;

Age to age You're still the same By the pow-er of the name.

El Shad-dai, El Shad-dai, Er-kahm - ka na A - do-nai;

We will praise and lift You high, El Shad - dai.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our
sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Leader: Holy and Gracious God,

All: I confess that I have sinned against you this day and every 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 and live each day for You.

Leader: 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 every morning to serve Him. Amen.

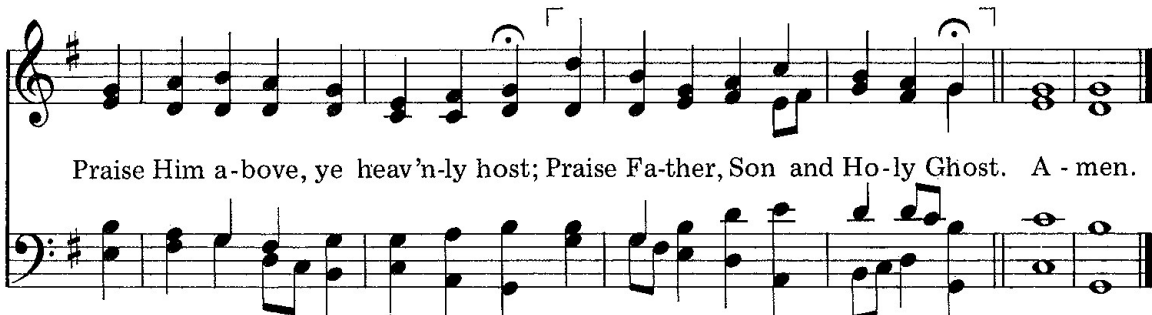
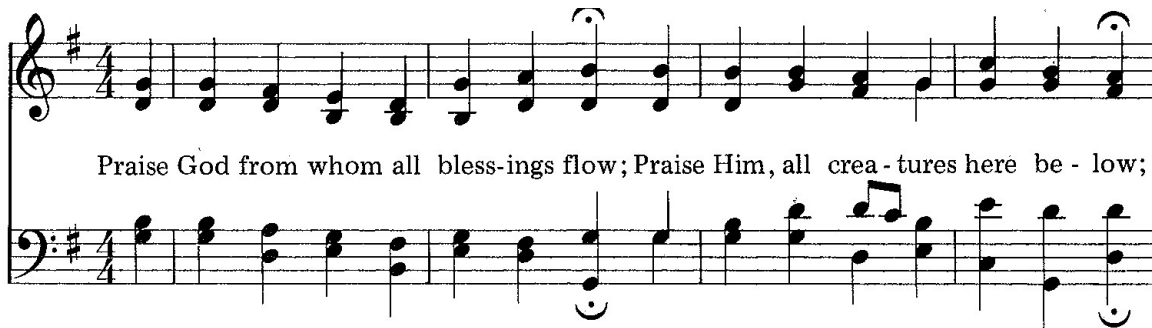
THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Rose Ann Sochan

OUR RESPONSE

Doxology #625



OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 40:25-28 (ESV)

Reader: Angie Mitchka

²⁵ To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. ²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing.

²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

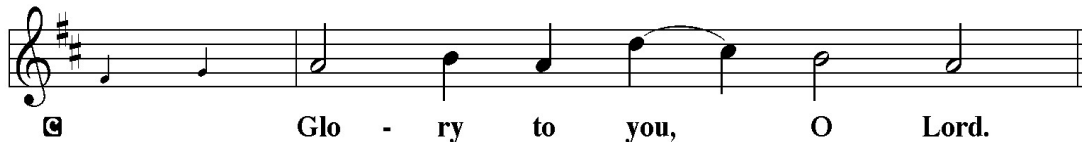
OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Ezekiel 18:25-29 (ESV)

²⁵ "Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶ When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷ Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸ Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?"

GOSPEL LESSON

Romans 5:8 (ESV)

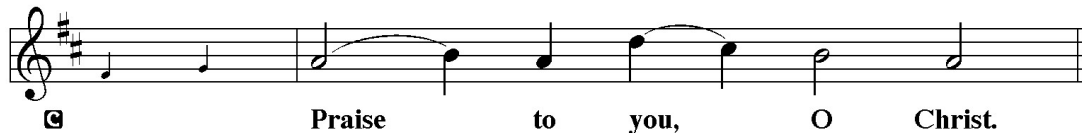


⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 3:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.



MESSAGE

"Revealing God's Character"
Kersten Stier


**John
3:16**

For God so loved the
world that He gave
His one and only Son,
that whoever believes
in Him shall not perish
but have eternal life.

HYMN

"Be Thou My Vision," #382 v. 1, 2, 4

Unison



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 man's emp - ty praise,
4. High King of heav - en, my 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 bright heav'n's Sun!



Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Thou my great Fa - ther, I Thy true son,
Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with Thee one.
High King of heav - en, my Treas - ure Thou art.
Still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all. A - men.

WORDS OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Servers: Rowan & Diane Hedden, Darryl Hoelscher

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

HYMN

"Lamb of God"



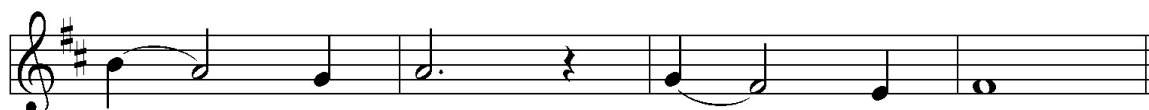
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"It Is Well with My Soul," #493 v. 1-3
"Trust and Obey," #349 v. 1, 4, 5

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Thank you Father for the gift of salvation. Thank you Lord Jesus for this holy meal and the sacrifice of Your life. Thank you Holy Spirit for awakening faith within our hearts. We hear your voice in this meal and celebrate Your holy presence. Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

"How Great Thou Art," #4 v. 1, 3



1. O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der Con - sid - er
2. When thro' the woods and for - est glades I wan - der And hear the
3. And when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



all the ^{*}worlds Thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the ^{*}roll - ing
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees, When I look down from loft - y moun - tain
die, I scarce can take it in, That on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly
home. what iov shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -

Refrain



thun - der, Thy pow'r thro' - out the u - ni - verse dis - played.
gran - deur, And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze. Then sings my
bear - ing, He bled and died to take a - way my sin.
ra - tion, And there pro - claim, my God, how great Thou art.



soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee; How great Thou art, how great Thou art! Then sings my



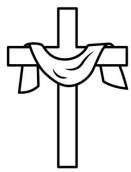
soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee: How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

POSTLUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

*God will never lead you to a place
where His grace cannot keep you.*

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LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS & WORSHIP

Wednesdays during Lent through **April 9th**.

Supper at 5:30 p.m. followed by worship at 7 p.m.

BE SURE TO **SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX** TO BRING SOUP, SALAD, BREAD OR DESSERT.

CELEBRATION SUNDAY AT MESSIAH!

Palm Sunday, April 13th

We'll celebrate with combined worship at 10 a.m. in the FLC
and will include our annual Youth Parade.



CONNECT WITH MESSIAH

You can use this QR code to let us know you're new, tell us that you're interested in next steps at MLC, submit prayer requests, fill out a Connect Card, and give online.

Scan here to connect with MLC:



ONLINE GIVING

Online giving is an easy way to give to MLC, and there are three ways to do it:

- 1) Go to this link: churchcenter.com/giving
- 2) Download the Church Center app on your phone or tablet.
- 3) Text your dollar amount (with a dollar sign in front of it) to 84321.

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

ADULT BIBLE STUDY (Insight)

We meet in Fellowship Hall Sunday mornings at 9:30. Our current series studying Ezekiel will wrap up on April 6th. Insight will not meet on April 13th or 20th and **will resume on April 27th**. More details to follow. We'd love to have you join us!

DAYBREAK SHELTER

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner to needy people at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet. The commitment is from 5:30-7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Food donations are also needed. Please sign up in the Narthex.

Messiah members will be serving at Daybreak on Monday, April 14th.

MESSIAH MEN'S MINISTRY (3M)

Mark your calendar - 3M meets the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. We're currently discussing the book of Exodus. Please join us on **April 8th**. Email Mike Brown at gonzopal2017@cheerful.com for more info.

OWLS (Older Wiser Loving Seniors)

Join us the second Tuesday of every month (September-May) at noon. Our next luncheon on **April 8th** will feature our very own Wayne & Linda Zoellick who will demonstrate Cross painting techniques for beginners. We ask that everyone **SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX** to bring an appetizer, snack, salad, or dessert (light finger foods). Sub sandwiches will be provided.

MESSIAH KIDS (pre-K to 5th grades)

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, **April 12th** from 1-3 p.m. Outdoors, weather permitting. Kids - Don't forget to bring your Easter basket and friends! Free event.

J-CHURCH

Fun for Messiah youth of all ages (kids, tweens & teens)! J-Church is the **third Sunday of each month** at 11:00 in the FLC. We will not meet on Easter Sunday.

MILE MARKER WORKSHOPS for parents and kids

Fourth grade: "First Communion," in the Gathering House

Sessions: March 16th, 23rd, 30th, April 6th & 13th (during Sunday School)

Breaking Bread: Messiah kitchen, Palm Sunday April 13th at 9 a.m.

First Communion: Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m.

Register here:



For more info on ministries for kids pre-K through 5th grade, email Leslie McFarland, Children's Min. Director, at childrensmin@mlcjoliet.org or Kimber Drummond, Christian Ed. Director, at christianed@mlcjoliet.org.

MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES (6th to 12th grades)

MSM PARENTS' NIGHT is Wednesday, **April 23rd**
at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

During this time our 6th-12th graders will be in the FLC assisting with setup for the Stamp Club Show.

HEAD2HEART

H2H (otherwise known as Confirmation) meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. All 6th-8th graders are welcome! **April 16th will be movie night!**

YOUTH MINISTRY: F.A.M.

Students in high school & beyond are invited to be a part of our Wednesday evening student ministry program - Friends and Mentors = **F.A.M.** Students. We meet on Wednesdays from 6:30-8 p.m.

For more info on ministries for students 6th through 12th grade, email Kersten Stier, Youth Director, at stumin@mlcjoliet.org.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers this morning are provided by Arnitta Eldred
in loving memory of loved ones who have passed.

If you would like to sponsor Altar flowers, please sign up in the Narthex
or call the office at 815-741-4488. Arrangements are \$25 each.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

SUNDAY (April 6)

8 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Worship (+online),
Sunday School & Bible Study for All Ages
11 a.m. Family Praise & Worship
1 p.m. Cristo Rey

MONDAY (April 7)

7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Homeschool (full campus)

TUESDAY (April 8)

9:30 a.m. Stay-N-Play
12 p.m. OWLS
6:30 p.m. 3M

WEDNESDAY (April 9)

5:30 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper (last one)
6:30 p.m. H2H, FAM, MKW
7 p.m. Worship

THURSDAY (April 10)

9 a.m. Faith & Body
10:15 a.m. Prayer Team
11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY (April 11)

n/a

SATURDAY (April 12)

9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal
1 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt

PALM SUNDAY (April 13)

10 a.m. Celebration Worship in FLC
1 p.m. Cristo Rey

ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

8:00 am: 63
9:30 am: 62
11:00 am: 46
Online: 35

MSM (6th-12th): 0
Messiah Kids (K-5th): 17
Insight: 12

2025 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$680,068
YTD Operating Budget: \$170,017
YTD Giving Received: \$148,255
Average Weekly Need: \$13,078
Received Last Week: \$9,408

STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

Corinthians 9:6

Or is it only Barnabas and I
who have no right to refrain
from working for a living?

Worship Coordinator Justin Brown
Office Coordinator Vicki Dallmann
Children's Choir Director Season Lawler
Building Liaison Kate Richmond
Youth Director Kersten Stier
Technology Coordinator Nikolai Stier
Bookkeeper Sherri Unyi
Worship Intern Faye Wener