



Lutheran Church of the Messiah
407 Nassau Street, Princeton, N.J.



Drawing by Jon Hlafter

The Lutheran Church of the Messiah

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Martin K. Erhardt, *Pastor*

Janice Hofreiter, *Organist*

Paul C. Hofreiter, *Choir Director*

John Mark Goerss, D. Min., *Pastor Emeritus*

Fifth Sunday in Lent (Judica)

March 17, 2024

Prayer upon entering: Almighty God, our redeemer, in our weakness we have failed to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope in the world. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, that we may obey your commands and proclaim your reign of love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Guests, welcome! We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Erhardt, sign our guest book next to the main doors, and join us downstairs for fellowship following the service. Bibles are available on a shelf in the back of the nave. Kneelers and large-print bulletins are available from the ushers upon request. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to join us here at Messiah.

Worship begins with the prelude and continues through the postlude. Once the prelude begins, please refrain from conversation. We use two hymnals: the green *Lutheran Book of Worship* (LBW) and the blue paperback *With One Voice* (wov). Hymn numbers below 600 are generally in LBW; above 600, in wov. The pastor's parts (spoken and sung) are designated "P:." Parts spoken or sung by the congregation are italicized, prefaced by "C:."

Holy Communion: Lutheran Christians celebrate a divine service of Word and sacrament in which God comes to us both in his proclaimed Word and in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We invite to commune at the Lord's table all baptized Christians who with contrite hearts trust God's word of forgiveness for their sins, acknowledge the presence of Jesus Christ both in the communion elements and in this gathered body of believers, and seek, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to follow Jesus and walk in newness of life. If this doesn't describe you, we invite you to come to the altar rail to receive a blessing instead of the communion elements. Indicate this by folding your arms across your chest at the rail. All are invited to bring their children forward for a blessing.

Individual cups are available in addition to the chalice (the common cup). The tray with individual cups includes wine on the outer edge and non-alcoholic grape juice in the center. Gluten-free wafers are also available upon request from the bread server at the communion rail. All are invited to bring their children forward for a blessing.

Families with young children: Welcome! We have children's activity backpacks in the back of the church for use during the service, as well as an unstaffed nursery on the stage downstairs. Feel free to ask an usher for help locating them. The stairs are at the back of the sanctuary.

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand as you are able.

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✙ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *Amen*

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: *who made heaven and earth.*

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: *and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.*

Please kneel or sit for silent reflection and confession.

P: Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: *Most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen*

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal glory. Resting in Christ's righteousness and not on your own confession, receive God's free and full forgiveness, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Please stand as you are able.

Divine Service of Word and Sacrament

Opening Hymn By Gracious Powers WOV 736

Apostolic Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: *And also with you.*

Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

C: *God our Father, your Son Jesus Christ obeyed you even to the point of death. Baptized into his death and resurrection, we receive his righteousness and are freed to walk in newness of life. Write your law on our hearts to convict us of our sin, show us our need for forgiveness, and guide us to obey you. Amen*

Please be seated for the scripture readings, printed on the last two pages of this service folder.

First Lesson

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 119:9-16

pp. 273-274

Second Lesson

Hebrews 5:5-10

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Choir Anthem Prayer of St. Patrick Music: Mark Schweizer
Words: att. Patrick, trans. Cecil Alexander
Setting ©1999 St. James Music Press

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.

Verse (Joel 2:13) (please stand): p. 63

C: *Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.*

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 12th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Lesson *John 12:20-33*

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon Not Afraid to Die

Hymn of the Day Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart LBW 325

Creed (Apostles') Spoken in unison

C: 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

The Prayers of the People

*P: Led by Christ in our journey of repentance and moved by his compassion,
let us pray for the body of Christ throughout the world and for those
known to us in need of prayer.*

After each prayer or petition,

P: Create in us a clean heart, O God,

C: and renew a right spirit within us.

*P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.*

C: Amen

The Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: *And also with you.*

Please exchange a greeting of peace with your neighbors, then be seated.

Gathering of Offerings

As the offering is brought forward, please stand and sing vv. 10–12 of Psalm 51, a psalm of penitence (next page):

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it

from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -

tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

P: Let us pray.

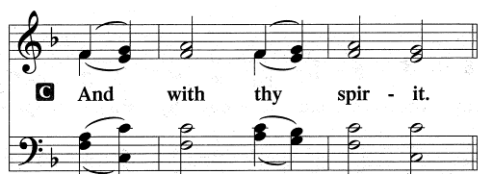
Blessed are you,

C: *O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

The Great Thanksgiving



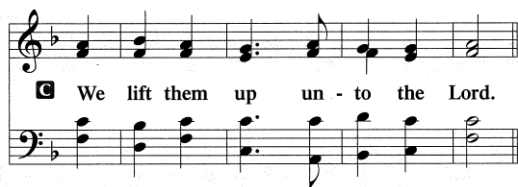
P The Lord be with you.



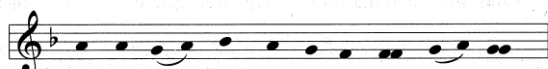
C And with thy spir - it.



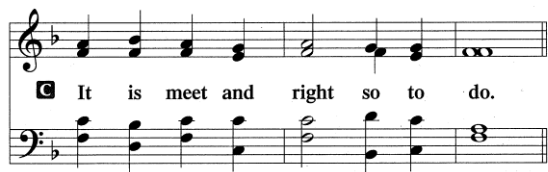
P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

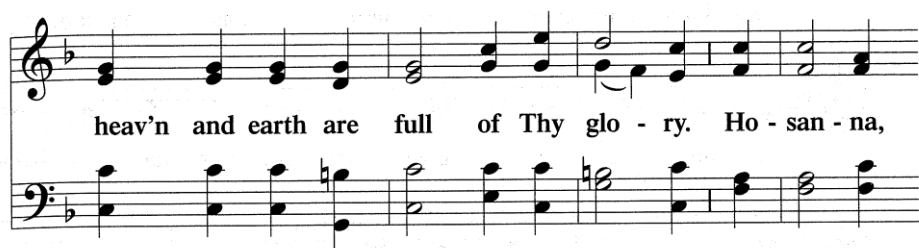
Meet means fitting, proper.

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God: Who on the tree of the cross didst give salvation unto mankind that, whence death arose, thence Life also might rise again; and that he who by a tree once overcame might likewise by a tree be overcome, through Christ, our Lord; through whom with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee and saying:

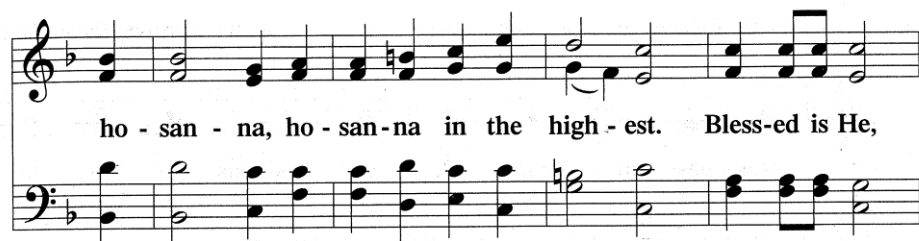
Sanctus



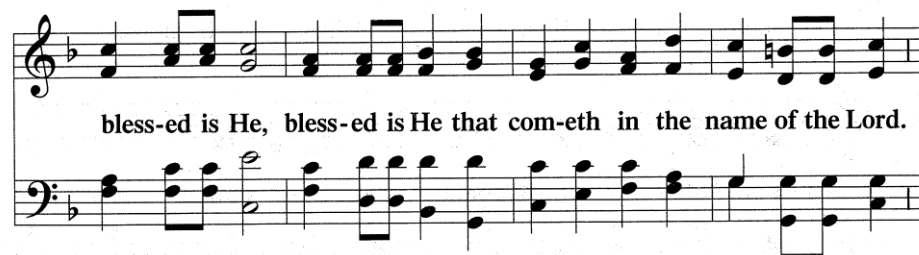
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



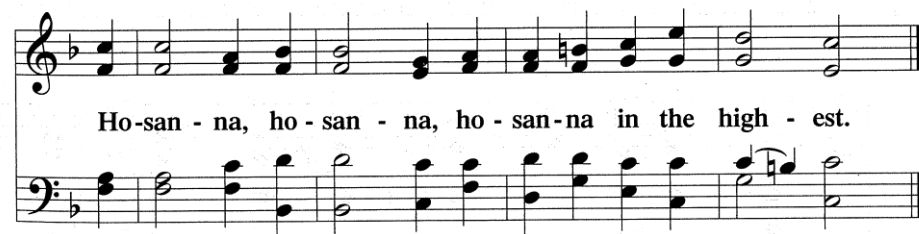
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless-ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Sabaoth (SAH-bay-oath) is Hebrew for "heavenly hosts."
Hosanna is a Hebrew word of praise meaning "save us now."

The Words of Institution

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me.”

In the same way also he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you and for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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

Agnus Dei: Lamb of God

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

This system consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The treble staff features a melody with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. It includes a whole rest in the treble staff at the beginning of the second measure, indicating a breath or a pause in the vocal line.

tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

The third system continues the musical phrase. The treble staff has a whole rest at the end of the system, while the bass staff continues with its accompaniment.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

The fourth system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has a whole rest at the end of the system, while the bass staff continues with its accompaniment.

world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

The fifth system concludes the piece. It features a double bar line followed by a repeat sign. The treble staff has a whole rest at the end of the system, while the bass staff continues with its accompaniment.

Once the pastor says, “Welcome to the table of the Lord,” kneel or sit. Because Communion is important, please read and follow our Communion policy, printed on p. 2 of this service folder. If you are not communing, you are invited to come forward to receive a blessing, but feel no pressure to do so. If you do come forward for a blessing (only), indicate this by folding your arms across your chest when you kneel at the altar rail. When the pastor dismisses you, please return to your seat by the center aisle. If you would like Communion brought to your seat, please raise your hand to alert the pastor.

Communion Hymn Jesus Sinners Will Receive LBW 291

After all have returned to their places, the pastor says: (please stand)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. C: Amen

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -

cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

a light to light - en the Gen - tles and the glo - ry of Thy

peo-ple Is - ra - el.

Post-Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: *Amen*

Closing

Isaiah 40:28b - 31

P: The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

C: *He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable.*

P: He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

C: *Even youths shall faint and be weary, and the young shall fall exhausted;*

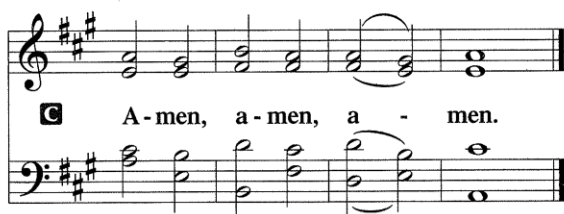
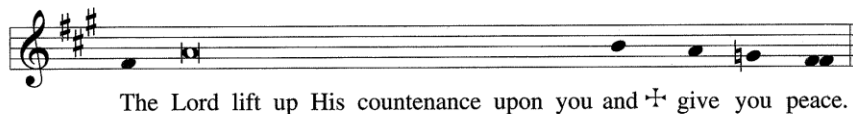
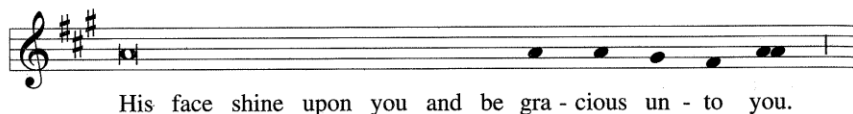
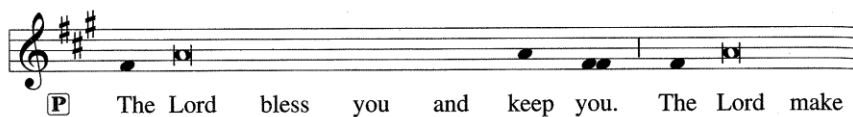
P: But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;

C: *They shall mount up with wings like eagles;*

P: They shall run and not be weary;

C: *They shall walk and not faint.*

Benediction



Postlude

Announcements

P: Go in peace, for God walks with us through the wilderness.

All: Thanks be to God!

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Thank you to today's Temple Servants

Acolyte	Jon Hlafter
Reader	Debbie Baer
Ushers	Hans Henkes and Don Meyer
Fellowship Host	Barbara Rutherford
Chancel	Pastor Erhardt
Offering Counter	Jeff Frole
Livestream	Mark von Bargaen

Thank you to Charles German for serving as our organist this morning.

This coming week

Wed	6:00 PM	Soup & Salad Supper
Wed	7:00 PM	Lenten Evening Prayer (LBW p. 142)
Wed	7:45 PM	Choir
Thu	6:30 PM	Lutheran Campus Ministry Table Talk (see p. 22)
Sat	9:00 AM	Men's Forum
Sun	9:00 AM	Adult Forum
Sun	10:30 AM	Service of Word and Sacrament

Next Sunday (Palm Sunday)

Isaiah 50:4-9a • Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 • Philippians 2:5-11 • Mark 11:1-11

Processional Hymn: All Glory, Laud, and Honor (LBW 108)

Hymn of the Day: At the Name of Jesus (LBW 179)

Communion Hymn: Glory Be to Jesus (LBW 95)

Closing Hymn: Ride On, Ride On, in Majesty (LSB 441)

Adult Forum meets every Sunday at 9am in the parish building conference room. Please join us!

Current series: *A Chaste and Decent Life*

In this series, we are studying *A Chaste and Decent Life* – a 2023 update to the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations’ 1981 report on human sexuality.

Pastor Erhardt leads a monthly community book discussion:

April 25: *Afterlives*, by Abdulrazak Gurnah

May 16: Three stories from *The Adventures of Tintin*, by Hergé

Lenten Wednesdays at Messiah, Feb. 21 – Mar. 20 (not Feb. 14 or Mar. 27)

6:00 PM Soup & Salad Supper

7:00 PM Lenten Evening Prayer (LBW p. 142)

7:45 PM Choir rehearsal (join us for the season or longer!)

Thank you to those who have generously volunteered to host Lenten soup & salad suppers! If you will need to enter the church building before 5 PM on a supper Wednesday and don't have a key, please contact Pastor Erhardt.

Supper Hosts

February 21: Pat Hlafter & Carolyn Gishlick

February 28: Louise Cooper & Miranda Hempel

March 6: Esther Fischer and John Fischer

March 13: Peter Giller & Marion Zukas

March 20: Debbie Baer

Schedule of Services for Passion Week and Easter Sunday:

Palm Sunday (March 24): 10:30am Service of Word and Sacrament

No Lenten Evening Prayer on Wednesday, March 27.

Maundy Thursday (March 28): 8pm Service of Word and Sacrament

Good Friday (March 29): 8pm Tenebrae

Easter Sunday (March 31): 10:00am (not 10:30): Festival Service of Word and Sacrament

On Easter Sunday, March 31, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt at 9AM.

The fun starts at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall, with crafts, gift baskets, and hat decorating as well as tasty breakfast refreshments. Then it's time for the egg hunt, with hundreds of chocolate and candy-filled eggs hidden around Messiah's grounds for the children to find. All are welcome to attend - please invite your friends and family to come for this free, fun event!

Easter Flowers: Members of Messiah's chancel guild are planning a beautiful flower arrangement for Easter Sunday. Contributions toward the flowers are welcome and may be made in memory or in honor of someone you name. Contributions may be put in the offering plate or mailed to the church and should be clearly designated as follows: "For Easter flowers, given by _____ in honor (or in loving memory) of _____." Please write clearly so we spell the names correctly in the Easter bulletin. To ensure inclusion in the Easter bulletin, contributions need to be received by Maundy Thursday (March 28). Donations exceeding the cost of the flowers will be used for general operating expenses.

Service of Healing: Tuesday, March 19, at 7:00pm, St. Peter Lutheran Church (1608 Harbourn Rocktown Road, Lambertville NJ). You are invited to an evening of singing, devotion, and prayer around the theme of healing. This service is an interactive experience that includes opportunity for laying on of hands, anointing with oil, baptismal remembrance, and candle lighting. All are welcome. Fellowship time with refreshments will follow the service.

Lutheran Campus Ministry Table Talk: Thursday, March 21, at 6:30pm
A Sumptuous Meal During Lent, led by Pastor Erhardt. During the academic year, Lutheran Campus Ministry sponsors monthly Table Talks (dinner discussions). Table Talks are held at 6:30 – 8:00 PM in 210 Murray-Dodge Hall, Princeton University. After 4:00 PM on weekdays, free parking is available in the university lot on William St., between Washington Rd. and Charlton St. All are welcome! Please join us and invite friends. If you plan to attend, please inform Pastor Erhardt by noon on Thursday so we have enough food for you.

Messiah's Women's Fellowship will soon begin a new Bible study series on *The Problem of Pain* by C.S. Lewis. A sign-up sheet for study materials is on the back pew. The study will begin on Saturday, March 30, at 10:00am in the fellowship hall. Please sign up by **today** if you'd like to join us!

Spring Work Day at Messiah: Saturday, April 6, 9am – 12:30pm

Come when you can and leave when you must. We'll have plenty of work to go around for people of all ages and abilities. Gardening volunteers, please bring gloves and tools. It's fun, lunch is provided and your help is greatly appreciated!

Curious about the Latin on the dateline on the first page of the service folder? Latin was the primary liturgical language of Western Christianity until quite recently, and is still used today. Lutherans and other Christians in the Western tradition often begin Sunday worship services with an "introit" (entrance) Bible verse, usually from a psalm. Sundays were named for the first word of the introit. Today's word is "Judica, which begins Psalm 43 and means "Judge..." (verb).

Available on the back pew:

- (1) Sign-up sheet for Women's Fellowship Bible study
- (2) March/April 2024 edition of the *Messiah Messenger*
- (3) Portals of Prayer devotion booklets (April-June)
- (4) February - May 2024 Temple Servant schedule

Prayer Corner

We remember in our prayers:

- Lorna-Jane Bremer and her family (grieving the death of her husband John), John Baer (brother of Debbie Baer, recuperating and adjusting to life with a cardiac stent), Barbara Cooper Brennan (friend of Barbara Rutherford, living with heart problems and cancer), Janice Hofreiter (for relief from migraine headaches and healing), Robert Coyner (recovering from flu and pneumonia), Karin Bergesen (for healing and relief from back pain), Bernice Singh (for healing), Micha Livne (friend of the Gishlicks who is ill), Julia Majsztrik (for continued recovery from surgery and healthy growth, Carole Bleicher (friend of Carolyn Gishlick) and her sons-in-law Bob Atwood (diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer) and Mike Macceroni (preparing for heart surgery), Ted Alslev (son of Elda Alslev, to overcome his addiction to smoking), Mary Pickens (friend of Jon and Pat Hlafter, undergoing an experimental medical treatment), Sue Parisi (friend of Pat Hlafter, being treated for breast cancer), Peter Schulze (son of Lydia and Carl Schulze, friends of Miranda Hempel, Brad Bergmann, and Jenny Mills – for comfort, strength, and healing
- The people of Ukraine, Israel, and the Gaza Strip

Prayer requests are generally printed in the Prayer Corner and included in the Sunday intercessory prayers for 4 weeks. If you would like us to keep someone there longer, we are happy to do that. Please call the church office or email lcmaprinceton@gmail.com to let Pastor Erhardt know.

First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Second Lesson: Hebrews 5:5-10

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you”; as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered, and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel Lesson: John 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew, then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.