



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*

Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024

Prayer upon entering: O God, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world, rescuing us from the hopelessness of death. Grant us a share in the joys that are eternal; 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 let us know how we can serve you. 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:." The liturgy text and music are in the LBW on the pages noted in this service folder.

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

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

C: *Amen*

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: *But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

P: Let us, therefore, confess our sins to God.

Please kneel or sit for silent reflection and confession.

C: *Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen*

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake 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 of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *Amen*

Order of Holy Communion

Setting II (LBW p. 78)

Opening Hymn With High Delight Let Us Unite LBW 140

Apostolic Greeting *2 Corinthians 13:14*

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 *pp. 78–79*

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: *Lord have mercy.*

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: *Lord, have mercy.*

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: *Lord, have mercy.*

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: *Lord, have mercy.*

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: *Amen*

Hymn of Praise

pp. 81-82

P: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

C: *Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen*

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

C: *Holy and righteous God, you raised Christ from the dead and glorified him at your right hand. Let the words of scripture, fulfilled in Jesus your Son, burn within our hearts and open our minds to recognize him in the breaking of bread. Amen*

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

First Lesson

Acts 3:12-21

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Choir Anthem

O God, Defender of the Poor

Text: Christopher Idle, from Psalm 4

Composed by J. L. Macbeth Bain

Harmonized by Gordon Jacob

O God, defender of the poor,
have mercy when I pray:
you listened to my prayer before--
LORD, hear my prayer today!
you listened to my prayer before--
LORD, hear my prayer today!

The saints, O LORD, you set apart
by grace to be your own:
let sinners tremble, search their hearts,
and bow before your throne;
let sinners tremble, search their hearts,
and bow before your throne.

Your light, O LORD, let us receive;
your face within us shine,
for richer is the joy you give
than all their grain and wine;
for richer is the joy you give
than all their grain and wine.

And even when I turn to sleep
your blessings still increase,
for you alone, O LORD, will keep
your child in perfect peace;
for you alone, O LORD, will keep
your child in perfect peace.

Second Lesson

1 John 3:1-7

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Verse (please stand):

John 6:68 (p. 83)

C: *Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*

Alleluia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 24th chapter.

C (sung): *Glory to you, O Lord.*

Gospel Lesson

Luke 24:36b - 48

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C (sung): *Praise to you, O Christ.*

Please sit.

Children's Sermon

Sermon Still Disbelieving and Wondering?

Hymn of the Day

The First Day of the Week

LBW 246

Tune: Festal Song

Creed (Nicene) Spoken in unison

C: *We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,*

maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

(continued on the next page)

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, light from light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen*

The Prayers of the People

P: Rejoicing in our Lord's victory over death and the grave, let us call upon God our Father, for his help and deliverance.

After each prayer or petition,

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: *hear our prayer.*

P: All this we ask, Father, in the name of Jesus our risen Savior, who has conquered death and the grave. Because He lives, we also shall live. Fill us with your Holy Spirit to spread this good news abroad as ambassadors of your present and coming kingdom.

C: *Amen*

The Sharing of the Peace

p. 86

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

pp. 86–87

As the offerings are brought forward, please stand and sing:

C: *Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.*

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

P: Let us pray.

Merciful Father,

C: *we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

The Great Thanksgiving

p. 88

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: *We lift them to the Lord.*

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

p. 89

C: *Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

P: Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

C (sung, p.91): Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

P: Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to say:

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

p. 92

*C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.*

Once the pastor says, "Welcome to the table of the Lord," please sit.

Because Communion is important, please read and follow our Communion policy, printed on p. 2 of this service folder. Feel free to bring your hymnal and continue to sing. 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.

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*

Post-Communion Canticle

pp. 92–93

C: *Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell everyone what he has done. Let everyone who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

Post-Communion Prayer

p. 94

P: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: *Amen*

Benediction

p. 94

P: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: *Amen*

Postlude

Fugue in C Major

G. F. Handel

Announcements

P: Christ is risen!

All: *He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

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Thank you to today's Temple Servants

Acolyte	Charles Loughery
Reader	Charles Loughery
Ushers	Don Meyer and Peter Giller
Fellowship Host	Barbara Rutherford
Chancel	Laura Bennett
Offering Counter	Jeff Frole
Livestream	Mark von Bargaen

Thank you to Charles German for serving as our organist this morning, whose prelude and postlude selections are in honor of Georg Friedrich Händel, who died on April 14, 1759, 265 years ago today.

This coming week

Wed	7:30 PM	Choir
Sun	9:00 AM	Christian Education
Sun	10:30 AM	Service of Word and Sacrament

Next Sunday

Acts 4:5-12 • Psalm 23 • 1 John 3:16-24 • John 10:11-18

Opening Hymn: Built on a Rock (LBW 365)

Hymn of the Day: My Song Is Love Unknown (WOV 661)

Communion Hymn: My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less (LBW 294)

Adult Forum meets at 9am each Sunday in the parish building library.

Please join us! Current series: *In the Wilderness: Numbers 9-29*

Voters Meeting: Sunday, May 12, at 12:15 PM

Messiah members, please plan to attend this important meeting, at which we will elect church officers to serve in the following positions in the coming year: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and on the Board of Trustees and the Board of Social Ministry. Several of the incumbents are willing to continue to serve, but Messiah members may nominate a candidate to stand for any elected office described in Messiah's constitution in a letter or email signed by two voting members of the congregation. Each nomination must be accompanied by a letter or email of acceptance by the nominee. **Nominations should be submitted by Sunday, April 21**, via mail or email to the church (use the addresses on p. 1 of this bulletin), via email to the Secretary of the congregation, Miranda Hempel, or by giving the nomination(s) to Miranda in person. If you have questions, contact Miranda or another current Executive Board member.

Spring Work Day: Saturday, April 27, 10am – 1:30pm

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!

Libby and Joseph Luigs welcomed Monica Elsa Luigs on April 3 at 12:33pm.

Monica was born at 6 lbs, 6 oz, 19 inches. Libby writes: "We came home from the hospital on Friday, April 6. We are still recovering, but everyone is happy and healthy. We are praising God for her life and are in awe of her and that God entrusted us with her!"

If you'd like to make them a meal, a friend of theirs at Princeton Seminary has made a meal schedule for them at this link: mealtrain.com/7zdrzn. If you'd prefer to sign up on paper, there's a sign-up sheet on the back pew.

May/June Messenger: Please email news, photos, and announcements to Miranda Hempel at her email address in the church directory by Sunday, April 21, for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Rally

Saturday, May 4, 9:30am – 2pm at Martin Luther Chapel in Pennsauken NJ
Women of Messiah are invited! More details on the flyer on the bulletin board by the Cedar Lane door.

Wondering how to know the Bible better and make scripture reading part of your daily routine? A Bible reading guide and a three-year calendar of daily readings are available at tinyurl.com/3uj9rwk4

Available on the back pew:

- (1) **New:** meal sign-up sheet for the Luigs family
- (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:

- Mario Kurylak (father of Dan Baer, undergoing heart surgery), Riley Samuel Mihulka, (born March 20 to Pastor Erhardt's cousin Abbie and her husband Sam – for successful recovery from heart surgery for Riley and calm nerves for his parents), Janice Hofreiter (for relief from migraine headaches and healing), Karin Bergesen (for relief from back pain and recovery following a recent fall and rehabilitation), 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 Haiti, 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 lcmprinceton@gmail.com to let Pastor Erhardt know.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 14, 2024

Year B, Revised Common Lectionary

First Lesson: Acts 3:12-21

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, “Fellow Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the holy and righteous one and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. “And now, brothers and sisters, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent, therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you, that is, Jesus, who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through his holy prophets.

Second Lesson: 1 John 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 24:36b-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

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