



# Palm Sunday

April 5, 2020

## HYMN OF THE DAY – “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3a8fTTrAdE&feature=youtu.be>

(press CTRL and left click your mouse, view full screen)

## PALM SUNDAY SERVICE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AbpniKXYCL8>

(press CTRL and left click your mouse, view full screen)

then come back to bulletin and follow along while Pastor Carbaugh speaks)

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together:

**C: Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

## \*THE FIRST LESSON

### **Isaiah 50:4-9a**

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens-- wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. 5The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. 6I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. 7The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; 8he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. 9It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

## **\*THE SECOND LESSON**

### **Philippians 2:5-11**

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## **\*THE GOSPEL READING**

### **Matthew 27:11-54**

Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

## **SERMON: PASTOR RICHARD CARBAUGH**

On Palm Sunday, or the Sunday of the Passion as it is also called, we witness Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem followed by His passionate suffering. As we reflect on what this week holds for us, I would like to bring to mind the first part of Jesus' great commandment: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind and with all your soul." The passion of Jesus has all of these. Jesus showed us His heart filled with compassion. His heart would burst with joy and break with sorrow as he looked upon His followers. His mind was filled with the wisdom that would guide Him in what he needed to do and in understanding what His life was all about. His soul, or spirit, was filled with courage and determination as He faced the struggles of Holy Week. As He walked toward the cross, Jesus loved with His whole self - heart, mind and soul.

We are called to live and love in the same way. To follow Christ, there is really no other way. For without heart, we will have no passion for life and risk becoming cold and indifferent. Without mind, we are left without clear direction, and can't understand why we feel the way we do and what we can do about it. And neither heart nor mind helps if we do not have a spirit that moves us forward, that gives us a purpose and a determination to all we do.

So heart, mind and soul must work together. If even one is missing, the results could either be disastrous or meaningless. For example, brilliant leaders with great minds have proved dangerous or ineffective because they could not feel for their people. Well-meaning people, with hearts of love, have often hurt more than helped because they have not understood what the needs of others really were. And people with great minds and big hearts have wasted their lives because they did not have the spirit with which to act and do something.

To illustrate all of this, I would like to invite you into a story that I suspect many of us know - the Wizard of Oz. In this story, there are a number of characters. There is the Tin Man who wanted a heart. Pounding on his chest produced a very empty sound. Our lives can be very empty without the feeling that comes from the heart. The Scarecrow wanted a mind, a brain. He didn't even know how to scare crows. He wanted to be able to think and to understand. Dorothy asked him: "How can you talk without a brain?" He answered: "Some people say an awful lot without using their brains." Being able to think before we act can be a real gift. Then there is the Lion. He wanted courage - a spirit and a will that would help him stand up for what he believed. Without that spirit, he would hide behind a tree all of his life, never becoming the king of the forest he was meant to be. And, of course, there is Dorothy. She wanted to go

home, to be at the place where she belonged. All of us want to be at the place where we are wanted, loved and cared for. Indeed, there is no place like home. So, there it is - heart, mind and soul - and a place where we can be at home. It was for these things that Dorothy, the Tin Man, the Scarecrow and the Lion set out on the yellow brick road to Oz. And it seemed like such a nice road. They were off to see the Wizard who would surely give them what they needed. But like Christ's road, and like our road sometimes, it became a very difficult journey. In truth, it can be a terrifying journey at times. On this journey we see the great struggle between good and evil, between what is joyous and what is fearful. The wicked witch is always after them - pulling them off their path, disrupting their lives. The forest through which they had to walk was filled with scary noises and darkness; and they rightly observed that it could get darker before it gets lighter. The forest, like our journey sometimes, was not like the city of Oz, where everybody is happy all the time. There, everybody gets up at 12, goes to work at 1, takes an hour off for lunch, and stops work at 2. Our life is not like that. Our life is sometimes light and sometimes dark. We are often pulled between the good and the evil of life. And it is on that kind of journey that we discover the importance of traveling with other people, of having a loving heart, a thinking mind and a moving spirit.

What Dorothy and her companions discover, of course, is that the things they were searching for had really been their's all along - they just didn't realize it, didn't claim it. The Tin Man had a heart with which to feel, the Scarecrow had a brain with which to think, the Lion had courage with which to act, and Dorothy had the ruby slippers that always held the promise of home. As the song goes: "Oz never did give the Tin Man what he didn't already have". All the time, they had within themselves the heart and the wisdom and the spirit to travel that dangerous road and to overcome any evil they encountered along the way. But it wasn't until evil was defeated that they could believe that and see that. It wasn't until water was thrown on the wicked witch that they could see that what they wanted and needed was already there. The water freed them from the power of evil and helped them discover a different power in their lives.

The same is true of our life in Christ. As Jesus entered Jerusalem, instead of a yellow brick road there were green palms; instead of leading to beautiful Oz, it led to a terrible cross. But because Christ's heart was filled with compassion, because Christ knew in His mind what His life was all about, because there was a driving spirit and purpose in what He was doing, He was able to overcome the darkness off the cross; He was able to defeat evil at its very worst.

Heart, mind and soul - they are part of our journey as well: a heart that knows God's love and feels the presence of God in our midst; a mind that knows the message of Christ's redeeming love; a spirit which draws us ever forward to use God's gifts and experience God's grace in every corner of our lives. Just as the wicked witch was destroyed by the water, in our Baptism, the water of God destroyed the power of evil over our lives. We have been freed to live and to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, all our minds and all our souls. We have been freed to travel our roads, where evil still lurks, but where we are not alone. Our road does not lead to some magical, enchanted Oz, but does lead to God's heavenly kingdom, where indeed there is no place like that home for us. So, to change the words of the song, we are not off to see the wizard. As people of God, with heart, mind and spirit, we are off to see the cross and the empty tomb - because, because, because - because of the wonderful things it does - for you and for me, and for all the world. Amen.

### **\*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 to the dead.***

***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**

A: Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *(A brief silence.)*

A: God of mercy, awaken your church to new proclamations of your faithfulness. By your Spirit, give us bold and joyful words to speak, that we sustain the weary with the message of your redemption. Hear us, O God.

**C: *Your mercy is great.***

A: God of mercy, quiet the earth where it trembles and shakes. Protect vulnerable ecosystems, threatened habitats, and endangered species. Prosper the work of scientists, engineers, and researchers who find ways to restore creation to health and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

**C: *Your mercy is great.***

A: God of mercy, drive away fear and anger that cause us to turn against one another. Give courage to leaders who seek liberation for the oppressed. Bring peace and hope to those who are in prison and those who face execution. Hear us, O God.

**C: *Your mercy is great.***

A: God of mercy, send your saving help to all who suffer abuse, insult, discrimination, or contempt. Heal the wounded. Comfort the dying. Bring peace to those suffering chronic or terminal illness. Tend to all who cry out for relief (especially). Hear us, O God.

**C: *Your mercy is great.***

A: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of families. For all our Messiah families and especially this week for the Umberger and Walker families. For the talents and good things You have given each of them. Keep them united and faithful to You and each other. Guide them, protect them and equip them to do Your will. Hear us, O God.

**C: *Your mercy is great.***

A: Lord of the Church, we give you thanks for Pastor Ryan and family as together we look to the future ministry of this congregation. Bless all of us as we await and anticipate a new day in our journey here at Messiah Lutheran. Fill Pastor Ryan and his family, and this congregation, with hopefulness, excitement and your reassuring presence in the midst of endings and new beginnings. Hear us, O God.

**C: *Your mercy is great.***

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we

commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold 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.***

### **\*BENEDICTION**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

**C: Amen**

**CLOSING HYMN – “Go to Dark Gethsemane”**

**<https://youtu.be/vD6tcMroY0A>**

(Ctrl and left click with your mouse).



# Announcements

## **PASTOR CARBAUGH'S OFFICE HOURS**

For the time being Pastor Carbaugh will be working from home. If you need to reach him, his email address is: [messiahmechpr@gmail.com](mailto:messiahmechpr@gmail.com). In the event of a pastoral emergency, he can be reached at 540-760-4089. Please be safe and take care during this challenging time for us.

## **WE STAY CONNECTED**

While our building is closed following guidelines from the state until at least May 1, 2020, we strive to stay connected. Please check email for midweek devotions and Sunday sermons from Pastor Carbaugh. Look for daily readings and other information for Messiah on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MessiahMech/>. Liking the page will help you receive posts when they are made. Our website at <https://messiahmech.com/> will also be a source of communication and information. Other information will continue to be sent through email blasts to those with email addresses on file. Hard copies will be mailed to those who do not have email. Please let Council know if you have a need that we can help you with. All of us can rest assured that God is with us even though we are apart. Stay healthy and safe until we see each other again!

## **CHECK THE WEBSITE!**

A new tab, Messiah Digital, has been added to our website. Under this tab you will find all of Pastor Carbaugh's messages and sermons that have been done on video. We hope you find this helpful as we continue through the coming weeks.

## **PRAYER LIST RESET**

The prayer list has been reset to begin the second quarter. Please contact Davina with names that need to be put on the list. Email her at [MessiahMech@gmail.com](mailto:MessiahMech@gmail.com) or phone 746-7134 with your requests.

## **WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Beginning March 8<sup>th</sup>, we began providing a summary of the financial well-being of our congregation. Here is this week's information:

Contributions to general fund averaged \$3447 through March 31<sup>st</sup> (down from \$3704 on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.)

We are \$567 ahead of the year-to-date budget needs (down from \$3601 ahead of the budget the week prior).

## **WE CONTINUE TO NEED FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Don't forget that the congregation's expenses continue every week. Please try to mail in your offering to the church office, 8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111, or use on-line giving through Vanco which is available on the church website. See [messiahmech.com](http://messiahmech.com) for more details.

## **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Those who would like to place announcements in our Sunday 'ebulletin' please send them to Donna Shaw at [dmslaw70@gmail.com](mailto:dmslaw70@gmail.com) by Wednesday for inclusion.

# *Prayer List*

## WE PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

|                   |                                 |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Kenneth Deere     | "Doc" Kondaki                   |
| Adam Sworak, Sr.  | Linda Krupa                     |
| JoAn Firebaugh    | Mac McAllister                  |
| Bill Fulop        | Roberta McMillen                |
| Elisabeth Gardner | Pat Motley                      |
| Werner Gardner    | Nathan, Ruth Schroeder & family |
| Steve Gilnett     | Judy Schwerdfeger               |
| Geoffrey Honan    |                                 |

## WE PRAY FOR OUR EXTENDED FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS

**Boyd Allison**, friend of Jean Wightman.  
**Dennis Anderson**, father of James Anderson.  
**Joe Griffin**, friend of Anne Mason.  
**Christina Nlbali**, sister of Anita Philip.  
**Dee Schroeder**, sister-in-law of Roger.  
**Tim Schroeder**, nephew of Roger.  
**Family and friends of Wanda Umlauf**, Vicar Ginny Banister's mother  
**T.J.**, grandson of the Whirleys.

**Pastor Carbaugh, as he walks with us in this interim time**  
**Our veterans, their fellow soldiers & their waiting families**  
**All law enforcement, firefighters & first responders**  
**The people and pastor, Rev. Katherine, of All Souls Episcopal & our shared ministry**

**Hospitals, nursing homes, other health care facilities**  
**The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
**The World Health Organization Medical researchers and scientists**  
**Schools, workplaces, government institutions and municipal agencies**  
**For all who travel**