



Easter Sunday

April 12, 2020

HYMN OF THE DAY – “*Christ the Lord is Risen Today*”

<https://youtu.be/9khJXoL9QGk>

(Ctrl and click to follow link)

For video version of the service go to <https://messiahmech.com/messiah-digital/>

(Ctrl and click to follow link)

***THE GREETING**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: ***Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!***

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.***

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray together:

C: ***O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen***

***THE FIRST LESSON**

Jeremiah 31:1-6

At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

Thus says the Lord:

The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to

you. Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall take your tambourines, and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers. Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit. For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: "Come, let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God."

***THE SECOND LESSON**

Acts 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ-- he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

***THE GOSPEL READING**

John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

SERMON: PASTOR RICHARD CARBAUGH

Some years ago, I traveled with congregational members on a cruise to Alaska. We were to be in a town called Sitka on a Sunday, so we arranged to worship in the Lutheran Church there. Before worship began, one of the congregational leaders wanted me to know that when they read various parts of the liturgy, they would always observe the commas as a place to break, to pause, rather than just read full speed ahead. I didn't have time to share that with everyone else, so I'm not sure we did a very good job of observing the commas. In fact, I am sure they probably thought that these people from Virginia talked pretty fast - little did they know!

Being a Christian, especially an Easter Christian, means we can see the commas in our life for what they really are. Life's commas are interruptions, breaks, times when we have to take a breath. Commas are the times when, rather than just rushing through, we need to - sometimes we have to - at least pause and consider what's going on before we can move ahead. More importantly, commas also suggest to us, even hold within themselves, the promise that there is more to come, that there is something more to be said.

Like some experiences our lives, Good Friday must have felt like a stopping point, a period, to the disciples. It was finished - but not in the way Jesus meant those words from the cross. Perhaps it was like the rather distressed lady who stood at the teller's window of her bank. She was asking: "Where will I put my money? What will happen to my mortgage and my money?" It seems she was reacting to the sign on the bank door which read: "We will be closed for GOOD Friday." Surely, the disciples must have felt things had been closed for GOOD that FRIDAY. They struggled with what was going on and what it meant for them.

They were grieving and they were scared and they weren't quite sure what to do next.

One thing they could do was go to the tomb and take care of Jesus' body. But, according to the Gospel of John, when Mary got to the tomb the stone had been rolled away and she found the tomb empty - so she couldn't even do that. She then goes to a couple of the disciples and tells them: "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we do not know where they have laid Him." So they go with Mary and look for themselves - kind of a doubting Thomas thing. And, sure enough, the tomb is empty and they believe Mary was telling the truth. Then, the men go home - to do what, it doesn't say. But Mary wants one more look, and this time she sees two angels in white, sitting where Jesus' body used to be. The angels say to her: "Woman, why are you weeping?" No offense to the angels, but that must have sounded like a pretty ridiculous question. You can almost hear Mary saying: "Why do you think? They have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they have laid Him!" And then she turns around and Jesus was standing there - although she didn't know it was Jesus. - maybe her tears had clouded her eyes. And Jesus asks the same question: "Woman, why are you weeping?"

As readers, we can begin to get a sense that the question is not so much: "Why are you crying?", but more a way of saying 'you don't need to be crying'. But again, Mary says: "They have carried Him away." It is then that Jesus calls her name: "Mary!" And upon hearing her name, she knows who it is. The veil is lifted, the tears are wiped away, and she can see clearly now. And this time, when she goes and delivers a message to the disciples, it is simply and powerfully: "I have seen the Lord!" It took three times of Mary asking where the body of Jesus was. It took one time of the living Jesus calling her name for her to be able to confess: "I have seen the Lord!" Periods make us feel stuck in life; commas get us to a new place.

So here's the thing - if you want to get past what feels like an ending to a new beginning, if you want to move beyond the pause to something more, the way that happens is when we hear the living Jesus call our name. That's what Easter is all about. It's about standing by the tomb of a loved one and hearing Jesus call your name. It's about receiving a difficult health diagnosis and hearing Jesus call your name. It's about losing a job or a relationship, and hearing Jesus call your name. It's about feeling so low you don't think you can get up, so empty you don't think you can be filled, so afraid you don't think you can ever be at peace - and hearing Jesus call your name. God knows you; God loves you; God died for you. God is calling your name so that what seem to be periods in your life can be transformed into commas, that helps us believe there is something more coming.

Pastor Tony Campolo tells a story in a sermon titled: "It's Friday, but Sunday's a-coming!" The story is about a time when he attended his first African American funeral when he was 17. A friend of his, Clarence, had died. According to

Campolo, the preacher spoke about the Resurrection, and he talked about life after death in such glowing terms that, even at 17, Campolo almost wished he could go there too. The preacher then spoke words of comfort to the family and talked about the wonderful things that Clarence had done for people. Finally, he said: "That's it Clarence. When there is nothing more to say, there's only one thing left to say: "Good night!" And then the preacher grabbed the lid of the casket and slammed it shut as he yelled: "Good night, Clarence! Good night, Clarence! And it is a Good Night Clarence, because I know - yes I know - that God is going to give you a Good Morning!"

Easter is the promise of a Good Morning - not just for Jesus, but for all the people of God - for you! I hope that this IS a good morning for you. I hope you can hear Jesus calling your name. If you are weeping beside any tomb today - whether it be the tomb of a loved one, a tomb of a lifelong dream, a tomb of some disappointment, a tomb of some heartache or fear - if you are crying beside any tomb, then hear the Good News! Jesus IS calling your name. Hear the Good News that Jesus lives. Hear the Good News that whenever life puts what seems to be a period, an ending, on your life, with Jesus it is always a comma - and we can always expect something more! Hear the Good News that whenever it is Friday, 'Sunday's a-comin!' With Mary, let us be able to proclaim this day, and every day: "I have seen the Lord!" Amen.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

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;

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

**He 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**

***PRAYERS**

A: Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need. (*A brief silence.*)

A: God of resurrection, from the very beginning you give the church the gift of women as your witnesses: as preachers, teachers, and leaders). Open our ears to their proclamation this day and always. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: All your creation praises you—the earth hums, the seas pulse, the stars shine, and the galaxies whirl in glorious harmonies to honor you. Let us hear and blend our voices in the song. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: The countries of the world experience disunity and conflict; we set our minds on fear and greed rather than on your rule of justice and steadfast love. Build up all countries on your cornerstone of peace. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We still weep with those who weep, and mourn with those who mourn. Cradle the fearful, the suffering, and the dying, assuring them of your loving presence (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God, you are life. We pray for our distraught world facing coronavirus. We pray for countries hardest hit, especially China, Italy, Spain and the United States. We pray for those who grieve their dead, for the sick and their families, for those fearful of an unknown future. We pray for the millions of unemployed, for children and others at home - that they be safe from abuse. We pray for all the hospital and health care workers, and all first responders, that they receive needed supplies and be kept protected in the work they do. Keep us all in your care as we wait for a new day. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of families. For all our Messiah families and especially this week for the Walton, Warmbrod and Weaver 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. Lord, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; 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 blessing of the living God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, surround and sustain you, keep you from harm, and fill you with courage.

C: Amen

***DISMISSAL**

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia

CLOSING HYMN – *“Christ is Risen, He’s Risen Indeed!”* by the Gettys

<https://youtu.be/OX-Xt-vBYPc>
(Ctrl and click to follow link)

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. 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.

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

Devotional booklets are still available on a table outside of the narthex doors. Please pick one up if you happen to be driving by and want one. If you'd like one and can't come by church to pick one up, please let the church office know or contact your Council person. We will come up with a plan to get you one.

WE CONTINUE TO STAY CONNECTED

Please check email for midweek lessons 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/> is also a source of communication and information with videos and bulletins under the Messiah Digital tab. 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!

MESSIAH YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Messiah now has its own YouTube Channel! If you go to YouTube and search for Messiah Mech Digital, you will find all of Pastor Carbaugh's messages and sermons. If you have YouTube on your TV, this would be a great way to watch all past and future videos.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

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

- Contributions to general fund averaged \$3330 through APRIL 5TH (down from \$3447 on March 29TH.)
- We are \$1041.41 behind of the year-to-date budget needs (down from \$567 ahead of the budget the week prior).

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 for more details.

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 or phone 746-7134 with your requests.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Those who would like to place announcements in our Sunday 'ebulletin' please send them to Donna Shaw at 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.
Family and Friends of Dennis Anderson, father of James Anderson.
Joe Griffin, friend of Anne Mason.
Christina Nibali, 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