

Third Sunday of


April 26, 2020

For video viewing of music and service go to:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEO_pAVddaeV1_dOvvUd5eITX0IJKxqmM

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray together:

C: *O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen*

***THE FIRST LESSON**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]:
³⁶"Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." ³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" ³⁸Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him."
⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

***THE SECOND LESSON**

1 Peter 1:17-23

¹⁷If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake.

²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. ²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

***THE GOSPEL READING**

Luke 24:13-35

¹³Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." ²⁵Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

SERMON: PASTOR RICHARD CARBAUGH

A Sunday school teacher once asked me where she could find Emmaus on the map. Quite honestly, I didn't have a clue. But, being someone who is probably supposed to know that sort of thing, I tried to fake my way through it. I said it was most likely somewhere near Jerusalem, but that I would look into it and let her know. I actually discovered that Biblical scholars can't agree on where Emmaus might have been. And in Israel today, you will not find a place called Emmaus, and therefore no road leading to it. So I guess there was a good reason why I couldn't find it on a map - I just didn't know what that reason was!

And yet, in another sense, there are many Emmaus roads. You see, like it was for the disciples, Emmaus Roads are anywhere we walk in confusion and disappointment. Emmaus Roads are places where Jesus comes and 'He walks with us and He talks with us' in order to help us understand and get to new places in our journeys. All of us walk Emmaus Roads at some point in our lives. If you, like the disciples, have ever said that you do not understand, that you are fearful or confused - then you have walked an Emmaus Road. If you have ever tried to make sense out of a difficult situation, tried to make sense out of a world turned upside down or wrestled with an uncertain future, then you have walked an Emmaus Road. If you have ever faced dashed hopes or serious disappointments - then you have walked an Emmaus Road.

The disciples had seen their master die like a common criminal. They had scattered like frightened sheep. They had hoped that He was the One - but now what? Then they began to hear that their master was not dead at all. In the midst of their feelings of disappointment and dashed hopes, there weren't sure what this news was all going to mean. What were they to believe? So there they are on the Emmaus Road - and what happens to them there is what can happen to us. Jesus comes to them on that road. He doesn't wait to be invited. He just comes, and walks with them. Because He is alive, He can be present with them on the way. The problem, of course, is that, like the disciples, we often do not recognize this presence of Jesus walking with us. Some are not open to Jesus being with them. Some are too absorbed in their emotions or in the problem at hand to see anything else. Or, maybe, we don't really expect Jesus to be there, so we don't look for Him. I know sometimes I will be in some different place, and I will run into someone I have known, but because I hadn't expected to see them there, I may walk right by them and not notice them at all. On the road to Emmaus, Jesus was the last person the disciples expected to see. He was like a stranger to them.

So what does Jesus do to help them become more aware of His presence? He does two things: He proclaims the Word and He breaks bread with them. And notice how both of these actions are connected. It is only when He was at table with them where He took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them, that their eyes were opened and they recognized Him. Having shared the meal,

they were able to say: "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was talking to us on the road, while He was opening the scripture to us?" You see, it was in sharing the meal that they could begin to appreciate the Word that had been proclaimed to them; and it was in appreciating that Word that the meal took on greater significance. That is why Lutheran pastors are ordained into a ministry of Word and Sacrament - not Word or Sacrament, but Word and Sacrament. That connection is vital if we are to recognize the Risen Jesus in our midst. Without the Word, the Meal has no meaning; without the Meal, the Word has no way to become concrete and real for us. It is like the girl who cried out at night. Her mother attempted to comfort her by saying: "Don't be afraid; God is with you!" To which the girl replied: "I know that, mommy; but I want somebody with some skin on!" The gathering of God's people; the meal around the table - that is our Lord with some skin on. That is why we normally celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday we would gather. And that is why this is such a hard time for us spiritually in some ways. We miss gathering with one another; we miss gathering around the table for our meal. We miss, as Luther said, 'believing with our teeth'. We miss eating with Jesus, receiving Jesus Himself, on this Emmaus Road we are on. We will do that again - and a meal will never have tasted so good when we do!

So where are we on our Emmaus Roads? Where are we on this coronavirus journey as we not only live with the challenges of life that are there normally, but also as we live with the uncertainty and confusion of this time on top of all of that? Are we able to see Jesus walking with us? Hopefully, He is not a stranger to us on this road. Hopefully, we know that Jesus is with us, reaching out to us so our eyes can be opened and our hearts enlightened and our spirits enlivened. Hopefully, we will look back on this whole experience and be able to say: "Did not a fire burn within us on that road?!"

I remember the story of the little girl who was selling some newborn kittens. She put out a sign: "Kittens for sale - \$1.00". But all day there were no customers. After a while, she put out a new sign which read: "Christians kittens for sale - \$2.00". A passerby said to the girl: "These are the same kittens you were trying to sell earlier. How can you now call them 'Christian kittens'? The girl replied: "Because, now their eyes are opened!" Thanks be to God that God can open our eyes to see Jesus on this Emmaus Road with us. So, wherever your Emmaus Road is, and whatever you are feeling and experiencing on that road, know that your Lord is with you every step of the way! 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: For those whose hearts are fervent with love for your gospel, that they are empowered to tell the story of your love in their lives and to show hospitality in response to this love. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For the diverse natural world: for jungles, prairies, forests, valleys, mountains, and for all the wild and endangered animals who call these spaces home, that they are nurtured and protected. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For broken systems we have inherited and that we continue to perpetuate, forgive us. Restrain the nations from fighting over limited resources. Redeem us from the cycles of scarcity and violence. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For all who call upon your healing name, give rest. Stay with us, and walk with all those who are hungry, friendless, despairing, and desiring healing in body and spirit (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 Absher, Addair and Albertson 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: May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen**

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.

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 \$2923 through APRIL 19TH (down from \$3348 on April 12th).
- We are \$1854.41 behind of the year-to-date budget needs (down from \$830.41 behind the budget the week prior).

UPDATE ON PASTOR RYAN RADTKE

We are excited to announce that Pastor Ryan Radtke has announced to the congregation of Hope Lutheran his acceptance of call with Messiah. At this point, we can now openly celebrate and share updates regarding our "what's next" with Pastor Ryan and his family. Your patience and understanding are appreciated as they continue to navigate this complex process. Please keep in mind that there is still much work to be done for the Radtke family and the congregation of Hope Lutheran. Please continue to keep them in your prayers and, for now, we can look forward with hope and anticipation for when we ALL will be together again.

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN...

In agreement with Governor Northam's order, Church Council voted for our building to remain closed to the public until June 10, 2020. Davina will continue to hold office hours during the week and we will continue to publish our Mid-Week and Sunday Services on YouTube, the church website, and Facebook. We will keep you updated on future developments when they occur. Stay well and safe until we are physically together again. We remain God's Church even though we are apart. Peace be with you all. - Your Church Council

NEW CHURCH NEXT CLASS

In the wake of the Covid-19 crisis, ChurchNext just launched another new, free course: A Covid-19 Spiritual Survival Kit For Individuals and For Groups featuring 4 outstanding presenters: James Farwell, Stephanie Spellers, Dorothy Linthicum, and Bonnie Perry. This course is designed to give you a boost. This course can help us ponder ways we can tap into our faith as a resource for us and others. You can control/click on the blue link to go directly to the website.

YOU HAVE CHOICES!

You now have 3 ways to participate remotely in the Midweek Message and our Sunday service.

1. Using the link in the E-bulletin or email you receive will automatically take you to Messiah's YouTube channel where you will find the Current Week Service. Clicking 'Play All' will take you through the opening music, sermon, and closing music for that day. There is also the Current Mid-Week Message on the next line of choices. All videos and music will be archived on our channel for you to refer back if you desire to do so.
2. Go to Messiah's website, <https://messiahmech.com/>, click on Messiah Digital and go to the video that you're seeking which will in most cases be the first video listed, be it midweek or Sunday. Sunday services will contain music as well as Pastor's video sermon. For the Sunday bulletin, click on the E-bulletin link.
3. Go to Messiah's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/MessiahMech/>, and find the post for the midweek message or Sunday service that you're looking for. The Sunday post will contain music as well as the video sermon. For the e-bulletin, you would need to access the email containing it or go to the church website where it is posted.

We hope you find these choices helpful in staying connected with our church family! If you have questions or comments, please let Donna Shaw know at dmslaw70@gmail.com.

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.

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