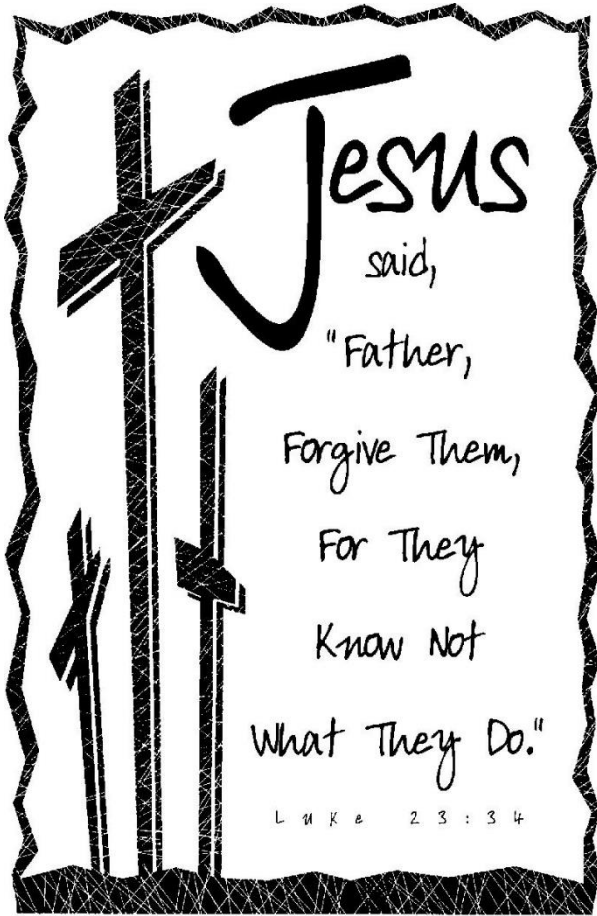


Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✠ Holy Communion ✠

Good Friday

March 29, 2024



Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ's death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the Three Days in the Easter Vigil.

GATHERING

Stand.

HYMN

Beneath the Cross of Jesus..... LBW 107

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C: Amen

Sit.

READING OF THE PASSION ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN

READING: John 18:1-11

ANTHEM

Stay Here..... Jaques Berthier

First candle is extinguished.

Silence for prayer

PRAYER

P: Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, you direct us to put our sword back into its sheath. Give us your strength to shun violence and to minister with you in a life of service and self-giving for the sake of others.

C: Amen

READING: John 18:12-27

HYMN

Ah, Holy Jesus, st. 1&3..... LBW 123

Second candle is extinguished.

Silence for prayer

PRAYER

A: Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, in our fears and hurts and lack of faith, we may deny our love for you. Forgive us our betrayal of you and love us still.

C: Amen.

READING: John 18:28-40

HYMN

***In the Hour of Trial, st. 1-2*..... LBW 106**

Third candle is extinguished.

Silence for prayer

PRAYER

P: Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, you came into the world to witness to God's Word of Truth. Open our ears that we may hear that Word of Truth and know with certainty that you are that Word, the promise of love and peace and life into eternity.

C: Amen.

READING: John 19:1-8

HYMN

***My Song is Love Unknown, st. 3-4*..... LBW 94**

Fourth candle is extinguished.

Silence for prayer

PRAYER

A: Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, when we are afraid, we may turn against others, even those who would love us. Remove our fear, and help us to love rather than crucify one another.

C: Amen.

READING: John 19:9-16a

HYMN

***Ah, Holy Jesus, st. 2* LBW 123**

Fifth candle is extinguished.

Silence for prayer

PRAYER

P: Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, are you truly my King? Don't allow the world and its loyalties to draw me against you, but to love you above all other claims to power.

C: Amen.

READING: John 19:16b-25a

HYMN

***Were You There, st. 1-2* LBW 92**

Sixth candle is extinguished.

Silence for prayer

PRAYER

A: Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, while you hang bleeding and dying on the cross, the soldiers gamble for your clothing. As we see those in the world who suffer because they lack clothing and food and shelter, help us not to take pleasure in our blessings, but to share them that the suffering of others may end.

C: Amen.

READING: John 19:25b-42

ANTHEM

***Scenes from a Solemn Cross*..... Douglas Nolan**

Seventh candle is extinguished.

Silence for prayer

PRAYER

P: Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, your last words spoken with your last breath were "It is finished." When our lives have finished, when we speak our last words, with our last breath, by your mercy receive us into the blessed rest of your eternal kingdom, where you live and reign forevermore as King of kings and Lord of lords.

C: Amen.

Please kneel.

ADORATION OF THE CROSS

(Repeat three times)

P: Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

C: Oh, come, let us worship Him.

THE LITANY

P: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

P: O Christ, have mercy upon us.

C: O Christ, have mercy upon us.

P: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

P: O God, the Father in heaven,

C: have mercy upon us.

P: O God, the Son, Redeemer of the world,

C: have mercy upon us.

P: O God, the Holy Spirit,

C: have mercy upon us.

P: Be gracious unto us,

C: spare us, good Lord.

P: O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C: we beseech you to hear us.

P: O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: grant us your peace.

P: O Christ, hear us.

C: O Christ, hear us.

P: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

P: O Christ, have mercy upon us.

C: O Christ, have mercy upon us.

Stand.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

PRAYER

P: Lord Jesus Christ, you carried our sins in your own body on the cross so that we might have life. May we and all who remember this day find new life in you now and in the world to come, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen

Silence for prayer

We leave in silence, anticipating the joys of Easter while contemplating the solemnity of Good Friday.

Messiah Lutheran Church

March 29, 2024

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

REV. A. BRUCE AMME, PRESIDING AND PREACHING

JARED GIST, ORGANIST

324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702

(570) 326-9171 | www.messiahsouth.org

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Jody Fullmer, Pam Eveleth

Acolyte: Alyx Taylor

The Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunday, March 31, 2024

Festival Service of Holy Communion

9:30 A.M. Festive Music with Easter Choir and Handbells

Easter Story & Easter Egg Hunt

10:30 A.M.

PLEASE NOTE: The Church Office is closed Easter Monday, April 1.

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