

Worshipping Together In Solidarity Against the Coronavirus



Messiah Lutheran Church
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This worship booklet is intended to be used along with Sunday morning worship services live on Messiah's Facebook Page, www.facebook.com/MessiahLC, Sundays at 10:15am.

From a theological perspective, the idea of having "virtual communion" is complicated and only makes sense during the unique crisis we currently face. Pastorally, especially as we respond to the coronavirus as one human family, we at Messiah believe it is essential.

All hymns will be distributed digitally to your email inbox on Thursdays through Messiah's Weekly Update. If you need assistance in setting up a Facebook Profile, watching live videos on Facebook, using our tithely online giving system, getting on our email list, or using zoom for virtual faith formation experiences, please contact our congregation's emergency technology liaison, Penny Incitti, whose phone number can be found in your church directory (this document will be publicly distributed so we can't include her number here). If additional assistance is needed, please contact our office at 518.355.2311 and Pastor Dustin or Rianne Johnson will answer as soon as possible.

WELCOME

OPENING LITANY FROM THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

P. O God our Healer, show your compassion for the whole human family that is in turmoil and burdened with illness and with fear. Hear our cry, O God,

A. Listen to our prayer.

P. Come to our aid as the coronavirus spreads globally, heal those who are sick, support and protect their families and friends from being infected. Hear our cry, O God,

A. Listen to our prayer.

P. Make us vigilant, attentive, and proactive in the eradication of all diseases, malaria, dengue, HIV & AIDS, and others that create suffering and often result in death for many people. Hear our cry, O God,

A. Listen to our prayer.

P. Heal our self-centeredness and indifference that makes us worry only when the virus threatens us, open ways beyond timidity and fear that too easily ignore our neighbor. Hear our cry, O God,

A. Listen to our prayer.

P. Strengthen and encourage those in public health services and in the medical profession: care-givers, nurses, attendants, doctors, all who commit themselves to caring for the sick and their families. Hear our cry, O God,

A. Listen to our prayer.

P. Inspire, give insight and hope to all researchers focused on developing a vaccine. Hear our cry, O God,

A. Listen to our prayer.

P. Sustain all workers and business owners who suffer loss of livelihood due to shut-downs, quarantines, closed borders, and other restrictions... protect and guard all those who must travel. Hear our cry, O God,

A. Listen to our prayer.

P. Guide the leaders of our nations and our local communities that they speak the truth, halt the spread of misinformation and act with justice so that all your family may know healing. Hear our cry, O God,

A. Listen to our prayer.

P. Heal our world, heal our bodies, strengthen our hearts and our minds, and in the midst of turmoil, give us hope and peace. Hear our cry, O God,

A. Listen to our prayer.

P. Hold in your gentle embrace all who have died and who will die this day. Comfort their loved ones in their despair. Hear our cry, O God,

A. Listen to our prayer.

P. Remember all your family, the entire human race, and all your creation, in your love.

A. Amen!

GATHERING

GATHERING SONG

GREETING

- P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- A. And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WORD

FIRST READING

MUSICAL MEDITATION

GOSPEL

- P. The Gospel According to ____ **A. Glory to you, O Lord.**
- P. The Gospel of our Lord. **A. Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION

*We ask that you lift up your prayers in the comments section of Facebook
Live (or in your hearts) at this time.*

- P. Hear us, O God **A. Your mercy is great.**

PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

OFFERING

At this time, if you'd like to make an online gift using [tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) or via mail to Messiah, feel free to do so.

OFFERING PRAYER

AM. Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us across all time and space. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord.

A. Amen.

DIALOGUE

P. The Lord be with you.

A. And also with you.

P. Lift up your hearts.

A. We lift them to the Lord.

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

A. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. God of infinite mystery, God of everlasting promise, we gather at our common table in sorrow. We have been met with disaster, and we grieve for all who suffer. God our fortress, God our shield, God our healer, receive our lament, and listen to our silent prayers.

Weep with us, merciful god:

A. Weep with us, merciful God.

P. And yet God of endless compassion, God of eternal mercy, always we gather at our common table in thanksgiving. Your majestic creation knew conflict from its very beginnings, yet in all things you overcome death with life. God our homeland, God our guardian, God our nurse, you freed the slaves, you vanquished the enemy, you fed the starving, you cured the sick, and you filled the sky with a rainbow of hope.

Rescue us, mighty God:

A. Rescue us, mighty God.

P. We give you thanks for your Son, who himself knew evil and pain. He wept over the city, he mourned the death of his friend, yet he sought healing for the whole world.

On the night before he died, 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.

We remember his life with the poor and his death with the outcast, and we rejoice in his resurrection, which promises the world release from agony and destruction. Remember us, faithful God:

A. Remember us, faithful God.

P. Make this meal into your body and blood of forgiveness. Strengthen us to wait in faith for your peace and justice, health and joy, until that day when your creation is born anew to live without heartache and affliction. Preserve us, compassionate God:

A. Preserve us, compassionate God.

P. To you, God of ceaseless consolation, God of unending goodness, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we offer here our laments and our thanksgivings, for your hands hold our tears and your ears receive our praises, now and forever. Amen.

A. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P. Let us now pray the words our Father taught us;

**A. Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom com,
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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION*

P. Even when we cannot be physically together, we are one in Christ Jesus united around a common table. Indeed, at this table, Jesus gathers us all together: the humble and the proud, the joyful and the grieving, the pious and the profane, those of strong faith and those who only long for faith, to everyone, without exception. Come siblings in faith, and join in Spirit filled community!

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

At this time, you may share Holy Communion amongst your families.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING*

P. The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and His precious blood strengthen you, and keep you in God's Grace.

A. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION*

AM. Let us pray. O God, you guided the children of Israel in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. We give you thanks for your presence and ask that you might increase our faith and open our eyes that we might recognize Jesus in all whom you call us to love and serve. Lead us as we journey through the wilderness of Lent and help us turn away from ourselves and towards You, until at last with all your saints we dwell in your unfailing light,

A. Amen.

BLESSING

P. Holy God, Blessed Trinity, strengthen your faith, increase your hope, deepen your love, and give you peace this day and always.

A. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

DISMISSAL

AM. Go in peace. Proclaim Christ's Hope to a world in need of hope.

A. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The Opening Litany was adopted from "Intercessory Prayers in the midst of the spread of COVID-19" from the Lutheran World Federation. The Eucharist Prayer was adopted from "Thanksgiving in a Time of Communal Lament" in Pray, Praise and Give Thanks: Litanies, Laments and Thanksgivings at Font and Table by Gail Ramshaw, Augsburg Fortress, 2017. All other aspects of the service were adopted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Augsburg Fortress, 2006.