

# MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A faithful, serving community, joyfully sharing Christ's love.*



**The Resurrection of Our Lord  
March 31, 2024**

228 Ramapo Valley Rd, Oakland NJ 07436  
www.messiahoklandnj.org | 201-337-4900

@MessiahOaklandNJ  
Sunday Worship 10:00 am

## **WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP**

### **SILENT MEDITATION DURING PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME FROM THE PASTOR**

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the pastor begins. During this prayer, the pastor will pour water into the font and sprinkle it into the congregation as a reminder of God's promises in baptism.*

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter, and our joy.

**C** **Amen**

**P** Look, here is water!

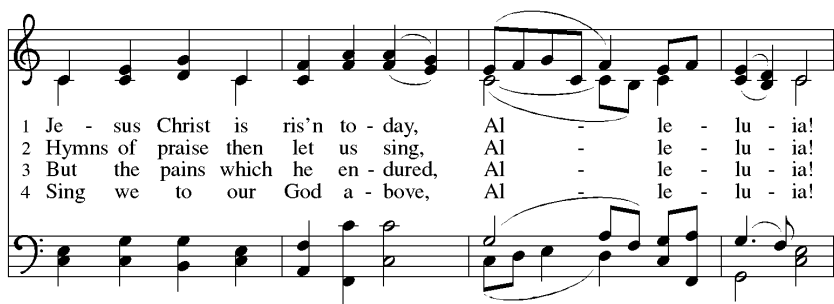
**C** **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

**P** Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life. Look, here is water!

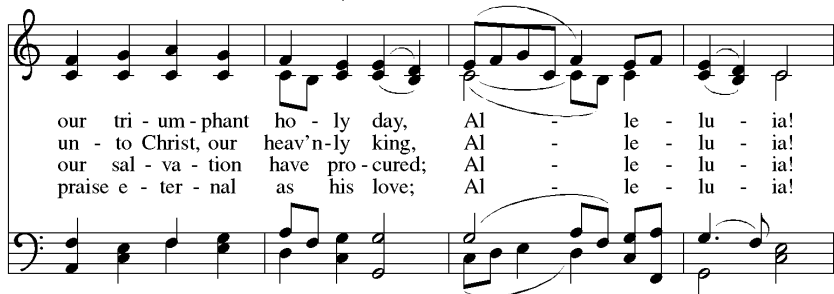
**C** **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

**P** At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

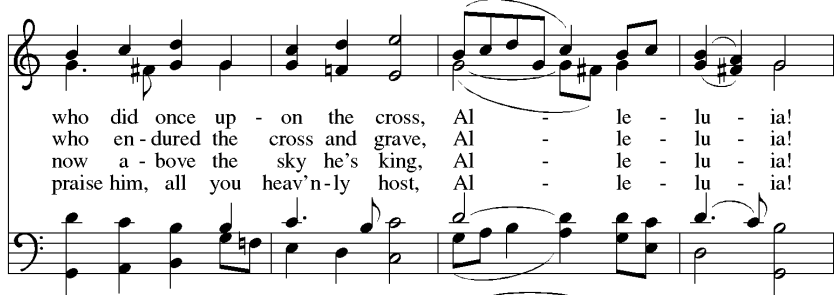
**C** **Amen.**



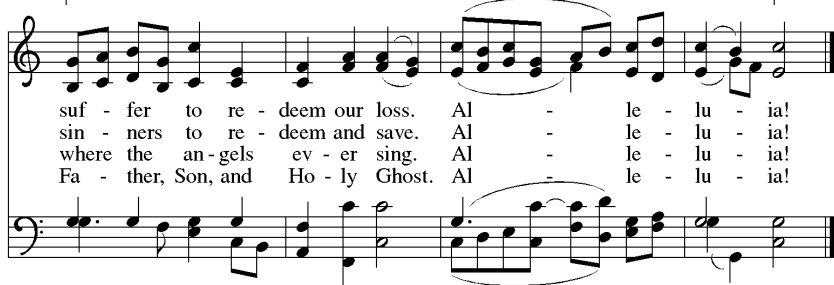
1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - ners to re - deem and save, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 where the an - gels ev - er sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, Al - le - lu - ia!

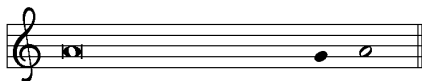
## GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

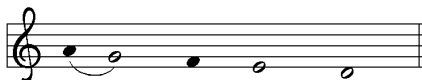
C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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.**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



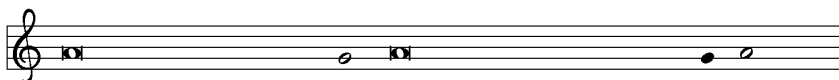
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



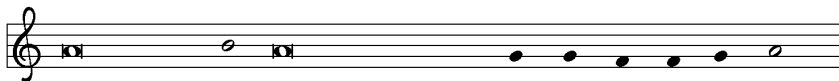
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### FIRST READING:

R A reading from **Acts 10:34-43**

<sup>34</sup>Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>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. <sup>39</sup>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; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>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. <sup>42</sup>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. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

R The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**THE PSALM: Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24** shall be read responsively.

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good; God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."**

<sup>14</sup>The Lord is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup>**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!**

<sup>16</sup>The right hand of the Lord is exalted! The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!"

<sup>17</sup>**I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>The Lord indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

<sup>19</sup>**Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.**

<sup>20</sup>“This is the gate of the Lord; here the righteous may enter.”

<sup>21</sup>**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become <sup>1</sup> my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup>**By the Lord has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

## **SECOND READING:**

R        A reading from **1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

R        The Word of the Lord.

C        **Thanks be to God.**

**THE GOSPEL**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to **Mark 16:1-8**

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. <sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" <sup>4</sup>When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." <sup>8</sup>So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON****SERMON**

# WE RESPOND TO GOD

HYMN OF THE DAY *The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done*

ELW #366

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; now is the vic - tor's  
 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst; Je - sus their le - gions  
 3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es glo - rious  
 4 Christ closed the yawn - ing gates of hell; the bars from heav'n's high  
 5 Lord, by the stripes which wound-ed you, from death's sting free your

tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 has dis - persed. Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 por - tals fell. Let hymns of praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ser - vants too, that we may live and sing to you. Al - le - lu - ia!

*After the final stanza*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



## **THE 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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who 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 OF INTERCESSION**

**A** Merciful God,

**C** Receive our prayer.

## **PEACE**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say,  
"Peace be with you," or similar words.*

## **OFFERING**

*Offering can be left in the plates at the back of the sanctuary or  
given online by scanning the QR code.*



## OFFERTORY

ELW #184



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING PRAYER AND PIGGY BANK BLESSING

*Piggy Banks today are blessed and donated to God's Global Barnyard.*

*Donations can be given online or left in the offering plate marked as "God's Global Barnyard" or "March BOM."*

**P** Let us bless our offerings and these Piggy Banks for God's Global Barnyard. God of all creation, we give you thanks for the abundance of blessings in our lives. Thank you for butterflies and daffodils, for music and pastries, and for the time we share together here today. Creator God, today we bless these piggy banks to benefit of your children around the world who are in need. God, we thank you for the ways you bless us with time, talents, and treasures to use as we do your work in the world.

**C** May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## DIALOGUE

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.


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

**C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW pg. 153



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

**C** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### COMMUNION

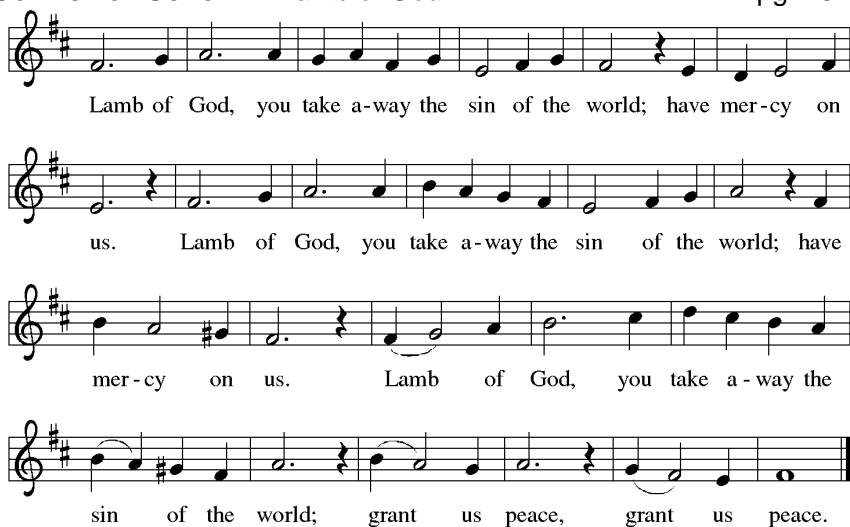
*You are invited to commune in your seats or at the altar rail using the prepackaged elements with a wafer and grape juice. The pastor will commune those at home and from their seats first and when the music begins, those wishing to come forward for communion at the rail may do so. You may commune after the pastor says:*

**P** The body and blood of Christ, given for you.

**C** Amen

**COMMUNION SONG**      *Lamb of God*

ELW pg. 154



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**COMMUNION HYMN**      *Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia*

ELW #364

**TABLE BLESSING**

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**C** Amen

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**A** Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

**C** Amen.

**BLESSING**

**P** Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**C** Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

**P** The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ☩ bless you now and always.

**C** Amen

# SENDING HYMN *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* ELW #367



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds  
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,  
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;  
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has  
there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has  
set heart and will on things a - bove that we  
and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of  
tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he  
con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -  
tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry  
comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all  
fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly  
Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## DISMISSAL

**P** Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**C** Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

## POSTLUDE

### **TODAY'S MINISTERS**

**PASTOR:** Rev. Courtney Smith Westerlund

**ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Bob Luderer

**LAY READER:** Susanne Herbst

**VIDEO TECH:** Alex Boyce/Nick DeRoda

**USHER:** Don Brown

**GREETER:** Megan Rotella

**ALTAR GUILD:** Brigitte Albrecht & Susanne Herbst

**COFFEE HOUR, 9:15 AM:** Valerie and Len Nicolosi

**COORDINATING COUNCILOR:** Sue Boyce

**COUNTERS:** Alex Boyce & Brigitte Albrecht

### **THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH**

**MONDAY:** Office Closed for Easter Sabbath

**TUESDAY:** 7:30 pm AA Meeting

**THURSDAY:** 12:00 pm Bible Study  
7:30 pm Band Practice

**SATURDAY:** 9:00 am Property Work Day

**SUNDAY:** 9:00 am Messiah Singers Practice  
11:15 am Finance Committee Meeting

### **WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES NEXT SUNDAY**

The Second Sunday of Easter, April 7, 2023

10:00am Worship Service

Join us for a festive worship service of songs and scripture in celebration of Easter!

### **MARCH BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH**

God's Global Barnyard / ELCA World Hunger

We are collecting money in support of God's Global Barnyard. An animal can make a world of difference for a family in need. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops, and offspring to sell at the market. With one gift, you can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.

While we blessed piggy banks in worship today, you can continue to donate by marking donations as "March BOM" or "God's Global Barnyard."

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Baby Shower Collection: Bring in donations all month long to be blessed on April 28<sup>th</sup> during worship. We are looking for donations of: clothing size 0 to 18 months, diapers, toys, homemade baby items: blankets, hats, booties, etc. (supplies are available at church!)

Finance Committee Meeting: April 7<sup>th</sup> following worship  
Join the Finance Committee for an opportunity to talk about investing and planning for our congregations' finances over the next year.

Anniversary Luncheon: September 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm  
Come celebrate Messiah's 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a Luncheon at Portobello's Banquet Hall on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for more details and ticket sales!

## EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

Thank you to all who helped beautify our nave with the gift of Easter flowers. Plants may be taken after the worship service this morning.

Given By:

Brigitte Albrecht	In memory of John Albrecht
Brigitte Albrecht	In memory of Loved Ones
Angermueller Family	Loved family
Victory Boyce & Rob Fuduli	In memory of Fjorn Fuduli
Boyce Family	In memory of Loved Ones
Boyce Family	Celebration of Joy
Susanne Herbst	In memory of Loved Ones
Nancy Krause	In memory of Loved Ones
Tracie Lindstrom	In memory of Loved Ones
Ludke Family	In memory of Loved Ones
Valerie & Len Nicolosi	In memory of Loved Ones
Eleanore Orman	In memory of Loved Ones
Kristen Rios	In memory of Loved Ones
Marilyn & Ron Rubner	In memory of Beloved Parents
Grace Slingerland	In memory of Paul Slingerland
Pastor Courtney	In honor of Loved Ones
Elizabeth Tirone	In memory of Loved Ones
Terry Vollmin	In memory of Mom and Dad

Children are invited to take one of the small hyacinth plants after the worship service.

# THE **POWER** OF PRAYER

**Please keep in prayer the following  
people in our Messiah family: Helen, Len,  
Karl and Lori  
and the following friends and family:**

All affected by Covid19: those recovering, healthcare workers, all  
essential workers and the unemployed.

Mike, recovering from a stroke  
Yoko and Bill, friends of Joan and Arnold  
Naomi, friend of Terry  
Maia, former student of Tony  
Mark and Keith, Susanne's friends  
Gayle, friend of Joan and Eleanore  
Kevin, Karen's brother  
Camille, Marilyn's friend  
Dan, Nancy's uncle  
June, Lee's mother  
Miro, Vesna's father  
Nicky, friend of Evan  
Erika, Kristen's sister  
Ken, friend of Tony and Edie  
Patty, friend of Ludkes  
Dawn, Sarah, Rafael and Massimo, Violette's mother, daughter and  
grandsons  
John, Joan, Herb, Mike and Andy, Ron and Marilyn's friends  
Ashton, Jacqui's grandson  
Kim, friend of Sue  
Autumn and Angelina, Lori's niece and granddaughter  
Karen, Cheryl's sister  
Greta, Tom's sister  
Marilyn and Vincent, Lisa's parents  
Gloria, Tammy, Heather, Jayme, Allison and her sister, Lou and  
family, Alison, Josh, Jen, Laura and Chelsea, Michele's mother-  
in-law and friends  
Fred and Barbara Brigitte's brother and friend  
Ron and June, Karen's parents  
Melinda, Brian and Lenny, Eleanore's sister and friends  
Glenda and Julie, friends of Nancy