

# MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



**Good Friday  
March 29, 2024**

228 Ramapo Valley Rd, Oakland NJ 07436  
www.messiahOaklandnj.org | 201-337-4900  
@MessiahOaklandNJ  
Sunday Worship 10:00 am

*The liturgy begins in silence after all have been seated.*

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## **FIRST READING**

**R** A reading from Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

<sup>13</sup>See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. <sup>14</sup>Just as there were many who were astonished at him —so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals— <sup>15</sup>so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate. <sup>53:1</sup>Who has believed what we have heard?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup>For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. <sup>3</sup>He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

<sup>4</sup>Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. <sup>6</sup>All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all

turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

<sup>7</sup>He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. <sup>8</sup>By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. <sup>9</sup>They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

<sup>10</sup>Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

<sup>11</sup>Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup>Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

*Ah, Holy Jesus*

ELW #349



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to  
2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my  
3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath  
4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal  
5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,  
trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,  
sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,  
sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish  
dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.  
I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.  
while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.  
and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.  
and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

## SECOND READING

R A reading from **Hebrews 10:16-25**

<sup>16</sup>“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds,” <sup>17</sup>he also adds,

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

<sup>18</sup>Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup>And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

R The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN

### Stay With Me

ELW #348



*You are invited to join in a meditative worship position during the reading of the Gospel. The lights in the sanctuary will dim as each candle is extinguished until the sanctuary is completely dark. You are invited to join in singing between each of the readings.*

## THE PASSION ACCORDING TO JOHN 18:1-19:42

P The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**READING:** John 18: 1-11

**HYMN**                      *There in God's Garden*                      ELW #342 vs. 1-2

<sup>1</sup>There in God's garden  
stands the Tree of Wisdom,  
whose leaves hold forth  
the healing of the nations:  
Tree of all knowledge,  
Tree of all compassion,  
Tree of all beauty.

<sup>2</sup>Its name is Jesus,  
name that says, "Our Savior!"  
There on its branches  
see the scars of suff'ring;  
see where the tendrils  
of our human selfhood  
feed on its lifeblood.

*First candle is extinguished.*

**READING:** John 18:12-27

**HYMN**                      *There in God's Garden*                      ELW #342 vs. 3-4

<sup>3</sup>Thorns not its own  
are tangled in its foliage;  
our greed has starved it,  
our despite has choked it.  
Yet, look! it lives!  
its grief has not destroyed it  
nor fire consumed it.

<sup>4</sup>See how its branches  
reach to us in welcome;  
hear what the Voice says,  
"Come to me, ye weary!  
Give me your sickness,  
give me all your sorrow,  
I will give blessing."

*Second candle is extinguished.*

**READING:** John 18:28-40

**HYMN**                      *There in God's Garden*                      ELW #342 vs. 5-6

<sup>5</sup>This is my ending,  
this my resurrection;  
into your hands, Lord,  
I commit my spirit.  
This have I searched for;  
now I can possess it.  
This ground is holy.

<sup>6</sup>All heav'n is singing,  
"Thanks to Christ whose  
passion  
offers in mercy  
healing, strength, and pardon.  
Peoples and nations,  
take it, take it freely!"  
Amen! My Master!

*Third candle is extinguished.*

**READING:** John 19:1-7

**HYMN**                      *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*                      ELW #351 vs. 1-2

<sup>1</sup>O sacred head, now  
wounded, with grief and  
shame weighed down,  
now scornfully surrounded  
with thorns, thine only crown;  
O sacred head, what glory,  
what bliss till now was thine!  
Yet, though despised and  
gory, I joy to call thee mine.

<sup>2</sup>How pale thou art with  
anguish, with sore abuse and  
scorn; how does thy face now  
languish, which once was  
bright as morn! Thy grief and  
bitter passion were all for  
sinners' gain; mine, mine was  
the transgression, but thine  
the deadly pain.

*Fourth candle is extinguished.*

**READING:** John 19:8-16a

**HYMN**      *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*      ELW #351 vs. 3-4

<sup>3</sup>What language shall I borrow  
to thank thee, dearest friend,  
for this thy dying sorrow, thy  
pity without end?

Oh, make me thine forever,  
and should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never  
outlive my love to thee.

<sup>4</sup>Lord, be my consolation;  
shield me when I must die;  
remind me of thy passion  
when my last hour draws nigh.  
These eyes, new faith  
receiving, from thee shall  
never move; for all who die  
believing die safely in thy love

*Fifth candle is extinguished.*

**READING:** John 19:16b-22

**HYMN**      *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*      ELW #338 vs 1

<sup>1</sup>Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand;  
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,  
a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
from the burning of the noontide heat  
and burdens of the day.

*Sixth candle is extinguished.*

**READING:** John 19:23-25a

**HYMN**      *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*      ELW #338 vs 2-3

<sup>2</sup>Upon the cross of Jesus,  
my eye at times can see  
the very dying form of one  
who suffered there for me.  
And from my contrite heart,  
with tears, two wonders I  
confess: the wonder of his  
glorious love and my  
unworthiness.

<sup>3</sup>I take, O cross, your shadow  
for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than  
the sunshine of his face;  
content to let the world go by,  
to know no gain nor loss,  
my sinful self my only shame,  
my glory all, the cross.

*Seventh candle is extinguished.*

**READING:** John 19:25b-41

*Paschal candle is removed.*

*The congregation will observe a moment of silence in the darkness of the sanctuary. The Hymn of the Day will begin after the Paschal candle and the lights of the sanctuary return.*

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
 4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

*Refrain*

Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?  
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?  
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

## **BIDDING PRAYER**

*The assembly may kneel or sit.*

A Let us pray, siblings, for the holy church throughout the world.

P Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

A Let us pray for Elizabeth, Yehiel, and Tracie, our bishops, for Courtney, our pastor, for all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

P Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church, and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

A Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

P Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

A Let us pray for our siblings who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

P Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

A Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

P Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

A Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

P Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

A Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

P Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

A Let us pray for God's creation.

P Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

A Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

P Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

A Let us pray for those in need.

P Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

A Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

*All pray the Lord's Prayer in whatever language or translation is most familiar.*



**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.

### **PROCESSION OF THE CROSS**

*A large cross is carried in procession through the church and placed before the assembly. The assembly stands and faces the cross as it is brought forward.*

*The following dialogue is recited as the procession begins*

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

**C** **Oh, come, let us worship him.**

*The dialogue is recited a second time at the midpoint of the procession.*

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

**C** **Oh, come, let us worship him.**

*The dialogue is recited a third time at the end of the procession.*

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

**C** **Oh, come, let us worship him.**

### **THE SOLEMN REPROACHES**

*During the chant, worshipers may come to the cross to make a sign of reverence.*

*Reverencing the cross may include actions such as pausing before the cross, bowing, kneeling before it for prayer, touching it or lighting a taper and placing it in the sand on either side of the cross. If you are worshipping online, we invite you to reverence the cross in whatever way is meaningful to you.*

**P** O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I led you out of slavery into freedom, and delivered you through the waters of rebirth, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**C** **Sung Refrain, See next page**

*Refrain*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y,

ho - ly and im - mor - tal, have mer - cy on us.

P O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. Forty years I led you through the desert, feeding you with manna on the way; I saved you from the time of trial and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**C Sung Refrain**

P O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud and fire, but you led me to the judgment hall of Pilate; I guided you by the light of the Holy Spirit, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**C Sung Refrain**

P O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I planted you as my fairest vineyard, but you brought forth bitter fruit; I made you branches of the vine and never left your side, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**C Sung Refrain**

P O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I poured out saving water from the rock, but you gave me vinegar to drink; I poured out my life and gave you the new covenant in my blood, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**C Sung Refrain**

P O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I gave you a royal scepter, but you gave me a

crown of thorns; I gave you the kingdom and crowned you with eternal life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**C Sung Refrain**

P O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I struck down your enemies, but you struck my head with a reed; I gave you my peace, but you draw the sword in my name, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**C Sung Refrain**

P O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I opened the waters to lead you to the promised land, but you opened my side with a spear; I washed your feet as a sign of my love, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**C Sung Refrain**

P O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I lifted you up to the heights, but you lifted me high on a cross; I raised you from death and prepared for you the tree of life, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**C Sung Refrain**

P O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I grafted you into my people Israel, but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**C Sung Refrain**

P O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me. I came to you in the least of your siblings, but I was hungry and you gave me no food, thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**C Sung Refrain**

*After a brief silence, the presiding minister continues.*

P We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**C By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

P Almighty God, bless you, keep you, and grant you peace

**C Amen**

P You may leave quietly or stay awhile to pray. When you go, go in peace.

*All depart in silence. If they have not done so earlier, worshipers may reverence the cross before they depart.*

*This service concludes on Easter Sunday.*

**Easter Sunday, March 31**

10:00 am Worship Service

**TODAY'S MINISTERS:**

**PASTOR:** Rev. Courtney Smith Westerlund

**ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Bob Luderer

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

**ASSISTING MINISTER/LAY READER:** Valerie Nicolosi

**USHER:** Ron Rubner

**GREETER:** Brigitte Albrecht

**ALTAR GUILD:** *Please volunteer*

**COORDINATING COUNCILLOR:** Ron Rubner

**COUNTERS:** Eleanore Orman and Ron Rubner