

Church of the Messiah

First Sunday in Lent
21 February 2021



Prelude *O Mensch, beweine deine Sünde groß (O man, lament your great sin)* BACH

A Penitential Order

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

***People* His mercy endures forever.**

In this Season of Lent, this season of almsgiving, fasting, and charity,
may the peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

The Collect of the Day *First Sunday in Lent*

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

The First Lesson *Genesis 9:8-17*

After the Lesson, the Reader says: The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-9

<i>Reader</i>	To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; * let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me. Let none who look to you be put to shame; * let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes. Show me your ways, O Lord, * and teach me your paths.
<i>People</i>	To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; * let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.
<i>Reader</i>	Lead me in your truth and teach me, * for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long. Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, * for they are from everlasting. Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; * remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
<i>People</i>	To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; * let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.
<i>Reader</i>	Gracious and upright is the Lord; * therefore he teaches sinners in his way. He guides the humble in doing right * and teaches his way to the lowly. All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness * to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.
<i>People</i>	To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; * let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

Epistle *1 Peter 3:18-22*

After the Lesson, the Reader says: The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn #150 vv. 1-4 *Forty Days and Forty Nights*

1. Forty days and forty nights thou wast fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.
2. Should not we thy sorrow share and from worldly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer, strong with thee to suffer pain?
3. Then if Satan on us press, Jesus, Savior, hear our call!
Victor in the wilderness, grant we may not faint or fall!

4. So shall we have peace divine: holier gladness ours shall be;
round us, too, shall angels shine, such as ministered to thee.

The Gospel opens: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Holy Gospel *Mark 1:9-15*

The Gospel closes: The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gradual Hymn #150 v. 5 *Forty Days and Forty Nights*

5. Keep, O keep us, Savior dear, ever constant by thy side;
that with thee we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.

The Sermon *The Rev. Keith A. Marsh, Rector*

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The congregational response to each petition: **O Lord**, let our cry come to you.

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, let us boldly pray:

**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.

The Seasonal Prayer Over the People

Bow down before the Lord.

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice forever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn #149 *Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church*

- 1 Eternal Lord of love, behold your Church walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire, moved by your love and toward your presence bent:
far off yet here – the goal of all desire.
- 2 So daily dying to the way of self, so daily living to your way of love,
we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod, knowing ourselves baptized into your death:
so we are dead and live with you in God.
- 3 If dead in you, so in you we arise, you the firstborn of all the faithful dead;
and as through stony ground the green shoots break, glorious in springtime dress of leaf and flower,
so in the Father's glory shall we wake.

THIS WEEK'S LESSONS:

Genesis 9:8-17

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' ¹²God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and

the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' ¹⁷God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

1 Peter 3:18-22

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Mark 1:9-15

Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

THIS WEEK'S GIFT TO THE FLOWER FUND

- to the glory of God
- and in memory of Betty and Jack Sheridan, by the Unangst family

BIRTHDAYS IN THE WEEK AHEAD

* Kai Flowers * Jenny Dunlap * Sandy Brady * Mike Oldt * Maddy Butt * Bob Kramer *
 * Kristin Pickell * Tim Lawrence * Connor Gladysz * Tristan Ryan *

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES

CHURCH SCHOOL LESSONS & YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- 10:30am today - "*Virtual*" Church School lesson and activities
- 10:30-12:30 today – YOM *Pancakes-To-Go* pickup - proceeds benefit scholarships for young women studying at Tree for Hope Girls School, Antigua, Guatemala

NEXT WEEK: *Sunday, February 28th* Join us at 10:30 on that Sunday morning as we honor Sue Phillips on her retirement and offer thank her for her 19 years of dedicated service and ministry as Messiah's Parish Administrator. In order to maintain COVID protocols, the vestry is planning a "drive-through" celebration!

- Decorate your car, make signs, etc.

- If you would like to add a personal touch, cards and notes are quite welcome;
- As well as flowers or plants, gift cards, wine, etc.

SEE YOU NEXT SUNDAY!!!!

IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN: RECTOR'S LENTEN BIBLE STUDY - *THE GOSPEL OF MARK*: Mark's Gospel is the shortest of the four Gospels and known for its quick pace. Most scholars consider it to be the earliest written. In this liturgical year we have just entered, most of our Sunday Gospel readings will be drawn from Mark. Join the Rector as we take an in-depth look at this perspective on Jesus' life, teaching, healing, suffering, death, and resurrection.

Many people find that engaging in Bible study provides a good Lenten discipline and prepares them to receive the joy of Easter more fully. The six-week course will meet on six consecutive Wednesday evenings via ZOOM, from 7:00-8:30. (Dates: Feb 24th, March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st.) Our textbook will be the Gospel of Mark; a copy will be provided to ensure that we are all reading the same translation, so no cost is involved. Each week, prior to our meeting, you will receive a short series of reflection questions, along with your ZOOM invitation.

Joining the class is easy! Contact the Rector at rector@messiahgwynedd.org, or 215-699-9204.

ST. GEORGE'S COLLEGE, JERUSALEM, LENTEN STUDY – FOLLOWING JESUS FROM GALILEE TO GOLGOTHA: Begins Wednesday, Feb 17th; ends Saturday, April 3rd – Daily 9:00am-5:30pm – Self-paced, free course in six sessions. Individuals need to register by email: resources@sgcjerusalem.org – Explore the geography of the Holy Land, following Jesus from Galilee to Golgotha. Each session will reflect on the theme with questions for exploration. There are links to short films from the Holy Land. Each week's session includes:

- A five-minute on-site film expanding the theme
- Thought-provoking material on the theme; Questions for reflection
- Two on-line discussions with the Dean, live from Jerusalem

WORK HAS BEGUN! The work to replace the roof on the Parish Hall with a standing seam metal roof has begun and the building is looking quite handsome! Cost for the project totals \$125,000.00. Following advice from the investment committee, the vestry has unanimously endorsed a financial plan consisting of:

- withdrawing \$40,000.00 from the endowment;
 - a \$50,000.00 loan from the diocese at only 2% interest for 5 years;
 - and an appeal to fund the remaining \$35,000.00 from members of the congregation.
- Presently, we have raised \$63,765.20 toward this goal! THANK YOU!!** Funds raised above the stated \$35K goal will ease the needs imposed by the endowment withdrawal and diocesan loan.

WEEKLY PARISH EMAIL MESSAGES & NOTIFICATIONS: Each week, the Rector sends an email to all parishioners with important notifications and information about parish events and other happenings. If you are not currently receiving these messages, please contact the Church Office (215-699-9204; office@messiahgwynedd.org) so we can add you to the database.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE INTERNET ACCESS: Please contact the Church Office (215-699-9204; office@messiahgwynedd.org) so we can add you to the mailing list of those parishioners who receive hard copies of the messages and sermon by mail.

IN CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS: Should you have an urgent need to contact the Rector outside of Church Office hours, please use his cell phone: 215-692-2667.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH: March 1-7

Monday	Church Office Hours: 9:00am-1:00pm 7:00pm – Vestry <i>Zoom</i> meeting
Tuesday	Church Office Hours: 9:00am–1:00pm AA, Alanon, Alateen – 7:30pm
Wednesday	Church Office Hours: 9:00am–1:00pm 7:00-8:30pm – Rector’s Lenten Bible Study via <i>Zoom</i>
Thursday	Church Office Hours: 9:00am–1:00pm
Friday	Church Office CLOSED
Saturday	Church Office CLOSED
Next Sunday	Second Sunday in Lent 10:30am – SUE PHILLIPS <i>drive-through</i> Retirement Reception

CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH STAFF

The Rev. Keith A. Marsh, Rector
 Sarah Patram, Bookkeeper
 Hannah Albrecht, Organist & Choir Director
 Tiffany Reichley, Family Ministries – Children
 David Reichley, Family Ministries – Youth
 Mike Linn, Sexton

CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH VESTRY

David Prezuhy, Sr. Warden
 Barbara Stevenson, Jr. Warden
 Sam Frenkel, Treasurer
 Tina Madison, Clerk
 Class of 2021: Vicky Fogel, Susan Miller, Charles Sudlow
 Class of 2022: Cheryl Berry, Megan Myers, Michael Stinson, Paul Vollmar
 Class of 2023: Tim Beaver, Jennifer Marsh, Jon Marshall, Mercer Sisson

CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

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