



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Palm Sunday

April 13, 2025

THE GATHERING

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP



We welcome you to The Gathering this morning

Our Staff

Cindy Anderson, Parish Administrator Email: secretary@messiah-erie.org

Bonnie Stearns, Director of Utilities

Michelle Flaherty, The Gathering Music Minister: mlcmusic@messiah-erie.org

Pastor Tom Glasoe, Email: pastor@messiah-erie.org Cell: 814-460-8529

Our Mission:

*Glorifying God through our worship, our witness, our service,
and our support*

Our Vision:

To build and strengthen the body of Christ

Holy Communion

To help you feel more comfortable please know that all baptized Christians who believe in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament and have already received Holy Communion in your home church, are welcome to come to the altar and receive Holy Communion.

To receive the sacrament:

1. Communicant should receive the consecrated host from the Pastor and then proceed to the Assisting Minister who will be standing near the sanctuary pillar on whichever side of the church is being communed to receive a prefilled communion cup;
2. If the communicant prefers the consecrated grape juice, they shall receive that from the Pastor.
3. If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know and the pastor will bring Holy Communion to you.

Assisting at Worship:

| | Today | Maundy Thursday | Good Friday | April 20 |
|---------------------|---|------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Asst. Min. | Brian Rogala, Jr. | Brad Bresee | | Brad Bresee |
| Lector | Pam Bresee | Laurie Hecht | Ethelynne Cunningham Laurie Hecht Bella Alaniz | Pam Bresee |
| Acolyte | Maddie Bartlett | JJ Conner | Josh Bartlett | Kayla Bresee |
| Usher | Arnold Conner | Brian Rogala | Art Anderson | Brian Rogala |
| Sound System | Tim Smock | TBD | TBD | TBD |
| Video | JJ Conner | Brad Bresee | JJ Conner | Brian Rogala, Jr. |
| Counters | Karen Pistner Tim Smock | | Laurie Hecht Art Anderson | Tim Smock Candy Sprouse |
| Altar Guild | Candy Sprouse, Sandy Hough, Mary Rush, Bonnie Magee | | | |

GATHERING

The congregation faces the front entrance of the church.

P Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C **Hosanna to the Son of David.**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Mercifully assist us, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts whereby you have given us life everlasting; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Processional Gospel

Luke 19:28-40

Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as Jesus had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"

P The Gospel of the Lord

C. **Thanks be to God.**

Thanksgiving

The members of the congregation raise their branches.

P The Lord be with you.

C. **And also with you.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give him thanks & praise.**

P We praise and thank you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was acclaimed Son of David and King of kings by those who scattered their garments and branches of palm in his path. We ask that you bless these branches and those who bear them, and grant that we may ever hail him as our Lord and King and follow him with perfect confidence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

Procession

P Let us go forth in peace, **C** in the name of the Lord.

The procession into the church begins.

Processional Song

Great Are You Lord

You give life. You are love. You bring light to the darkness.

You give hope. You restore ev'ry heart that is broken.

And great are you, Lord.

Refrain: It's your breath in our lungs, so we pour out our praise, we pour out our praise. It's your breath in our lungs, so we pour out our praise to you only. (V, R)

Bridge: And all the earth will shout your praise.
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing,
great are you, Lord! (x3, Rx2)

Greeting

P Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C Hosanna in the highest.

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.

Prayers of the People

Peace

- P** The Peace of the Lord be with you always.
- G** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us offer to one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Song of Offering

Thy Word

Refrain: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

1. When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,
still you're there right beside me,
and nothing will I fear as long as you are near.
Please be near me to the end. *(R)*

Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self

- A** Let us pray. *(brief pause)* Gracious Provider,
- G** **you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Thanksgiving for the Great Meal

- P** Lift up your hearts and give thanks to the Lord our God.
- G** **We gladly lift up our hearts and give God our praise and thanksgiving.**

Consecration

The Lord's Prayer

- G** **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.**

Distribution Song

Reckless Love

1. Before I spoke a word, you were singing over me.
You have been so, so good to me. Before I took a breath,
you breathed your life in me. You have been so, so kind to me.

Refrain: O, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.
O, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found,
leaves the ninety-nine. I couldn't earn it, I don't deserve it,
still you give yourself away. O, the overwhelming,
never-ending, reckless love of God. Yeah.

2. When I was your foe, still your love fought for me.
You have been so, so good to me. When I felt no worth,
you paid it all for me. You have been so, so kind to me. *(R)*

Bridge: There's no shadow you won't light up, mountain you won't
climb up, coming after me. There's no wall you won't kick
down, lie you won't tear down, coming after me. *(Repeat, R)*

Post Communion Blessing

- A** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and
keep us in his grace.
- G** Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

- A** Let us pray. *(brief pause)* Generous Host,
- G** you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us
now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your
liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name
of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Song

What a Beautiful Name

1. You were the word at the beginning,
one with God the Lord most high.
Your hidden glory in creation,
now revealed in you, our Christ.

Refrain: What a beautiful name it is, what a beautiful name it is,
the name of Jesus Christ my king.

What a beautiful name it is, nothing compares to this.

What a beautiful name it is, the name of Jesus.

2. You didn't want heaven without us,
so Jesus, you brought heaven down.
My sin was great, your love was greater;
what could separate us now?

Refrain 2: What a wonderful name it is, what a wonderful name it is,
the name of Jesus Christ my king.

What a wonderful name it is, nothing compares to this.

What a wonderful name it is, the name of Jesus.

What a wonderful name it is, the name of Jesus.

Bridge: Death could not hold you, the veil tore before you.

You silence the boast of sin and grave.

The heavens are roaring the praise of your glory

for you are raised to life again.

You have no rival, you have no equal.

Now and forever God, you reign.

Yours is the kingdom, yours is the glory,

yours is the name above all names.

Refrain 3: What a powerful name it is, what a powerful name it is.

The name of Jesus Christ, my King.

What a powerful name it is, nothing can stand against.

What a powerful name it is, the name of Jesus.

Ending: What a powerful name it is, the name of Jesus.

What a powerful name it is, the name of Jesus.

Lesson

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens - wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put

to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

A The Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson

Luke 22:15-23:56

When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!” Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

“You are those who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

“Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” And he said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to

death!” Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me.”

He said to them, “When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?” They said, “No, not a thing.” He said to them, “But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, ‘And he was counted among the lawless’; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled.” They said, “Lord, look, here are two swords.” He replied, “It is enough.”

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.” Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.” [Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.] When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.”

While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him, “Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?” When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, “Lord, should we strike with the sword?” Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, “Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!”

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest’s house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had

kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man also was with him." But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!" At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and kept asking him, "Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?" They kept heaping many other insults on him.

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us." He replied, "If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." All of them asked, "Are you, then, the Son of God?" He said to them, "You say that I am." Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!"

Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king." ³Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so." Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man." But they were insistent and said, "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place."

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When

Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.”

Then they all shouted out together, “Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!” (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.” But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on

us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a

linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

A The Gospel of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Please leave in silent reflection

The Bulletins are given to the Glory of God and in Celebration of Nate's birthday on April 9 by Candy Sprouse

The Palms are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of the March 25th birthday of Robert "Bud" Bresee and the memory of his March 27th passing by the Bresee and Mills Families

Announcements

Second Mile Giving is that stewardship we offer in addition to our regular giving. For **April the Lutheran Disaster Response** is our Second Mile Giving beneficiary. Contributions may be made throughout the month by using the yellow envelopes found in the pews. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Wesleyville Food Pantry: Please consider a financial gift. Checks should be made payable to Messiah Lutheran Church marking "Food Pantry" in the memo line.

Sound Bath Service: **Today, Sunday, April 13 at 4:00 pm** in Fellowship Hall. Bring a yoga mat or lawn chair if you so desire.

Holy Week Services:

HMeal in the Upper Room: **Monday, April 14 at 6:00 pm.**

Last day to signup in the Narthex.

Maundy Thursday: April 17, 7:00 pm

Good Friday: April 18, 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday: April 20, 8:30 am Traditional, **11:00 am** the Gathering Contemporary.

Wesleyville Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

April 14 at 10:00am to unload food delivery.

April 15 at 10:00-11:00am & 5:00-6:00pm for regular food distribution

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
PRELIMINARY 3-YEAR VISION
PROPOSED - 2025 to 2027**

WORSHIP

Start?

Technology

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Add Screens in sanctuary | (2025) |
| Update website | (2025) |
| Obtain Hearing Assisted Devices | (2025) |

Music Ministry

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| Build out the Band | (2025) |
|--------------------|--------|

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Bubble Church | (2025-2026) |
| School Day Off Camp | (2025) |
| Milestone Ministry | (Sept. 2025) |

PROPERTY

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Fix Front Electronic Sign | (DONE) |
| Repair/Purchase Boiler | (DONE) |
| Plumbing Upgrades/Restrooms | (2027) |
| Buy New Freezer | (ASAP) |

IN-REACH

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Recruit and Train More Volunteer | (2025) |
| Train in-home communion ministry | (2025) |

EDUCATION

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Bible Study (Adult and Children) - have more options | (2025-2027) |
|--|-------------|

OUTREACH

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Maintain Community Garden | (2025-2027) |
| Continue Back to School Bash | (2025-2027) |
| Continue participation in Community National Night Out | (2025-2027) |

FELLOWSHIP

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Explore more group events | (ongoing) |
| Continue to grow OWLs ministry (spiritually and fellowship) | (ongoing) |
| Lutheran Walkers | (2025) |

This Week at the Church

(See Newsletter for More Detail)

**Office Hours :Monday, Closed Tuesday, 10:00am-5:00pm,
Wednesday-Closed, Thursday, 10:00am-5:00pm,
Friday-10:00am-5:00pm**

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sun. 4/13 | <i>Palm Sunday</i> | |
| | 8:30 and 11:00AM | Service of Holy Communion |
| | 9:45AM | Property |
| | 4:00PM | Sound Bath-FH |
| Mon. | 6:00PM | Meal in the Upper Room |
| | 6:30PM | Guided Meditation |
| Tues. | 10:00PM | Sewing Circle |
| Wed. | 6:30PM | It's All Greek to Me Bible Study-SL |
| Thu. | 10:00AM | Grateful Prayer Group-CC |
| | 7:00PM | Maundy Thursday Service |
| | 7:30PM | NA Group |
| Fri. | 7:00PM | Good Friday Tenebrae Service |
| Sun. 4/20 | <i>Easter Sunday</i> | |
| | 8:30 and 11:00AM | Service of Holy Communion |