



# Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024 8:00 & 9:30 am

Pastor Kurt Hoover Pastor David Stier Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander Organist Rose Ann Sochan

40 Houbolt Rd. Joliet, IL 60431 815.741.4488 www.mlcjoliet.org

## **Welcome To Messiah Lutheran Church**

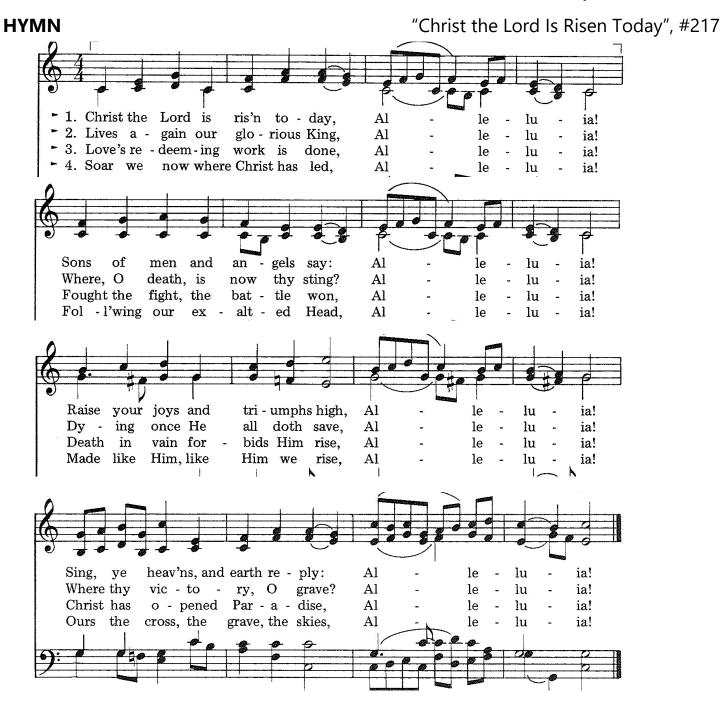
Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024 8:00 & 9:30 am

Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE Rose Ann Sochan

#### **CHOIR INTROIT**

"He Is Alive!", arr. Jay Althouse Directed by Herb Alexander



#### **LITANY**

Leader: He is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

Leader: He is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

Leader: They went to the tomb early Sunday morning to grieve the death of Jesus.

All: They wondered who would roll away the stone but the tomb was empty.

The grave could not hold Jesus.

Leader: He appeared first to the women and then to the disciples.

All: Over five hundred people saw him. They touched his hands and heard

his sermons.

Leader: Because he lives we will live also.

All: Our God is an awesome God. We praise his name forever.

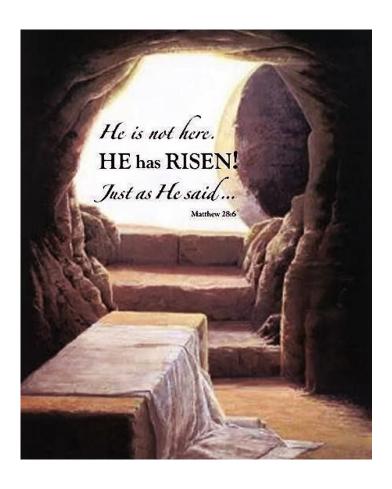
Leader: He is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

#### **WELCOME**

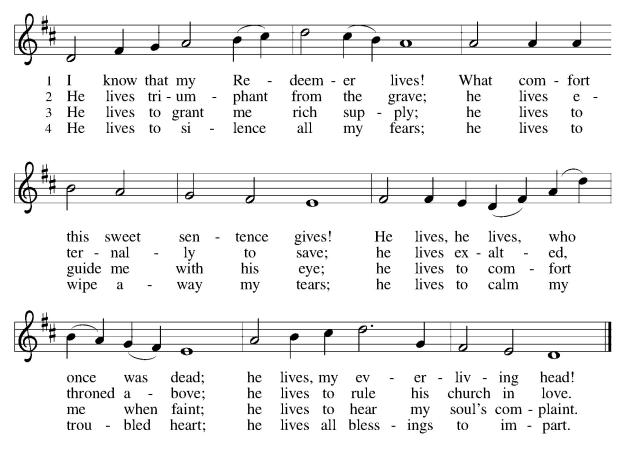
#### **CHOIR ANTHEM**

"Day of All Days", arr. Russell Nagy Led by Herb Alexander



#### **HYMNS OF PRAISE**

"I Know that My Redeemer Lives", LCMS #264 v. 1-4, 7-8



- 5 He lives to bless me with his love; he lives to plead for me above; he lives my hungry soul to feed; he lives to help in time of need.
- 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; he lives and loves me to the end; he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing; he lives, my prophet, priest, and king!
- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath; he lives, and I shall conquer death; he lives my mansion to prepare; he lives to bring me safely there.
- 8 He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Savior, still the same; what joy this blest assurance gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!





#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Leader: If we say 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.

#### A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Leader: Holy and Gracious God,

All: I confess that I have sinned against You this day and every day. Some of my sin I know - the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed - but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me, that I may rest in peace and live each day for You.

Leader: By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, and in Him we are

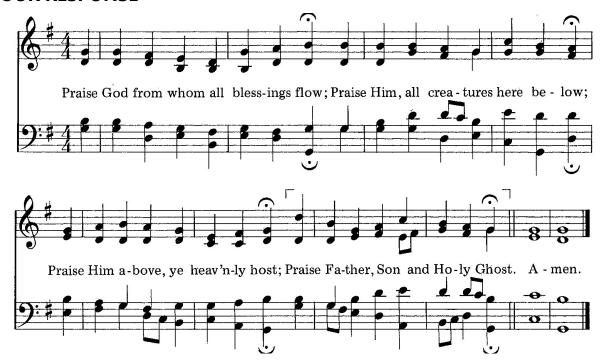
forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise every morning to serve Him.

Amen.

#### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (8:00)**

THE OFFERING Rose Ann Sochan

#### **OUR RESPONSE**

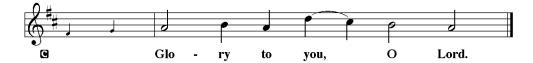


#### OUR EPISTLE LESSON

**Hebrews 12:1-2 (ESV)** 

Readers: Paul Allen (8:00), Doug Potts (9:30)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.



<sup>1</sup> Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." <sup>3</sup> So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, <sup>7</sup> and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup> for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went back to their homes.

<sup>11</sup> But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. <sup>12</sup> And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. <sup>13</sup> They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." <sup>14</sup> Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.



**MESSAGE** 

"Focus - In a Distracting Land" by Pastor Kurt Hoover

(Copies of this sermon and others can be found in the Narthex.)



#### **WORDS OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed

Servers: Greg & Deb Dole

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 into hell. 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 INTERCESSION

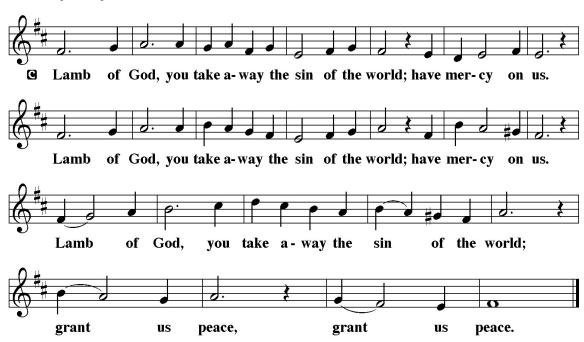
**HOLY COMMUNION (8:00)** 

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION (8:00)** 

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

## **HYMN (8:00)**



**COMMUNION HYMNS (8:00)** 

"He Is Lord", Maranatha #126 "Crown Him with Many Crowns", #234

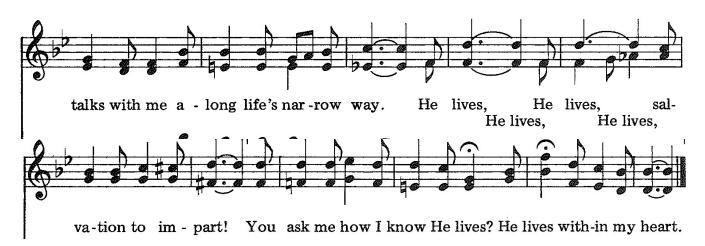
**COMMUNION BLESSING (8:00)** 

#### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (8:00)**

Thank you Father for the gift of salvation. Thank you Lord Jesus for this holy meal and the sacrifice of Your life. Thank you Holy Spirit for awakening faith within our hearts. We hear your voice in this meal and celebrate Your holy presence. Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

#### BENEDICTION





**POSTLUDE** Rose Ann Sochan

# God will never lead you to a place where His grace cannot keep you.

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## Easter Breakfast is served from 7:30-11 am

Scrambled eggs Omelets (made to order!)

French toast Waffles

Biscuits & gravy Sausage links Irish potatoes Pastries/donuts Fresh fruit Coffee/decaf

Milk Orange, apple & grape juice

Served by: Messiah Student Ministry
Cost: Your donation - All proceeds support Student Ministry.

No Sunday school this morning. The church office will be closed on Monday, April 1.

#### **CONNECT WITH MESSIAH**

You can use this QR code to let us know you're new, tell us that you're interested in next steps at MLC, submit prayer requests, fill out a Connect Card, and give online.

Scan here to connect with MLC:



#### **ONLINE GIVING**

Online giving is an easy way to give to MLC, and there are three ways to do it:

- 1) Go to this link: churchcenter.com/giving
- 2) Download the Church Center app on your phone or tablet.
- 3) Text your dollar amount (with a dollar sign in front of it) to 84321.

## **OPPORTUNITIES - Get Involved**

## **ALTAR FLOWERS - SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX**

Our altar flowers sign up chart is on the Connect Wall in the Narthex (outside the Fireside Room). If you'd like to help beautify our Sanctuary and sponsor altar flowers in honor of a special occasion or to memorialize someone important in your life, please sign up. Arrangements are \$25 each.

#### **BLOOD DRIVE AT MESSIAH**

We will have a Blood Drive on **April 21** from 9 am - 1 pm, in the FLC. Register here:



#### **DAYBREAK SHELTER VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner at Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Joliet. The commitment is from 5 - 7 pm on the second Monday of each month. A team of Messiah members & friends meets at the shelter to set up and serve dinner. Sign up in the Narthex.

#### WOMEN'S MINISTRY LIFE GROUP

Ladies - Have you heard what a blessing our new Women's Ministry Life Group has been? We'd love to have you join us for fun & fellowship! Please contact Sherri Unyi in the church office if you would like more information.

## **OWLS (Older, Wiser, Loving Seniors)**

Our OWLS group is for active retirees who enjoy participating in activities such as crafts, listening to speakers, food, fellowship, and more! We hold a monthly luncheon on the second Tuesday in Fellowship Hall, from noon to 2 pm. Our next one is **April 9**! The menu will consist of chicken chunks (donated by Chicken-N-Spice). Please sign up in the Narthex.

#### NAPERVOICE SPRING CONCERT

Napervoice will present "Wonderful World: Music from Six Continents" on Sunday, **April 21** at 4 pm, at Grace Methodist Church in Naperville. Go to napervoice.org to order tickets, or scan the QR code on the Community Board in the Narthex. Please be sure to use Herb Alexander's name so he receives credit for your ticket sale!

#### **MEMORY BEARS**

Messiah's Memory Bears Group meets here at the church from 9 am-noon once a month (sometimes twice!) to make stuffed teddy bears out of the clothing of people who have passed away, to comfort the grieving. We would love to have you join us! We have jobs that do not require sewing, as well as jobs that do. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, **April 23**. Contact Cindi Souza at (815) 931-8478 or by email to regency118@comcast.net.

#### **PRAYER CHAIN**

Messiah uses an email-based (not in-person) Prayer Chain made up of people willing to pray for our members, community, and nation in times of crisis. Prayers are shared amongst the group via email, and are confidential and anonymous as much as possible. You can make a difference through the gift of your prayers. Contact Cindi Souza at regency118@comcast.net or Pastor Dave Stier at pastor.stier@mlcjoliet.org to become a partner.

## **FAITH & BODY CHALLENGE GROUP (Thursdays 9 - 10 am)**

The Faith & Body Group meets on Thursdays mornings, September through May, in the Family Life Center (FLC) from 9 – 10 am for walking, stretching and faith-building time. There is no cost, and you are welcome to bring friends! Please register on the Messiah website under Faith & Body. Contact Sherri at (815) 741-4488 or email bookkeeper@mlcjoliet.org for more information.

## **MESSIAH QUILTERS**

The Messiah Quilters meet next on Tuesday, **April 16**. Please note that our "bonus day" has been rescheduled (from April 2) to May 7. We will be working from 9 am -2 pm. We have a lot of quilts ready to complete and if you can tie a knot, you can help us out. We even have jobs you can do sitting down. Think about stopping in and see what we do. If you are unable to join us and would like to sew at home, we have kits available and can show you how easy it is to put a quilt top together.

Contact Kathy Mueller (815) 953-6601 at scpbklane@aol.com for more information or any questions you may have. Hope to see you on **April 16**!

## **POW! (PRAYER OUTREACH WARRIORS)**

Join us for a time of silent or spoken prayer (as you are lead.) We spend time in adoration and thanksgiving to our Lord, and then pray specifically for our church and the leading of the Holy Spirit. You'll be amazed at how quickly this time goes by! If you've never joined a prayer group, this is the one to start with. We meet monthly and have two options. We hope you will join us.

When: April 3 - the 1st Wednesday at 6:15 pm in the Sanctuary, or

April 6 - the following Saturday at 10:00 am in the Gathering House

Questions may be directed to Beth Hohisel 815-735-7897 or Cindi Souza 815-931-8478.

#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT FAMILY DINNERS

Wednesday Night Family Dinners will resume this week, April 3, at 5:30.

#### **INSIGHT**" ADULT BIBLE STUDY (Sundays at 9:30 am)

Tom Bond and Kenyon Gjerde are currently leading the group in a new study series from "Sermon on the Mount." Please note that Insight will not meet on Easter Sunday.

#### SING PRAISE LIFE GROUP

Messiah's newest Life Group, Sing Praise, will meet every-other Saturday, beginning **April 13**, at 6:30 pm in the FLC. Are you passionate about worship and prayer? Are you seeking a community where you can dive deeper into your faith through blended worship experiences? Look no further!

Sing Praise is dedicated to creating a space where individuals can come together to worship in a blended style, combining contemporary and traditional elements to create a dynamic and uplifting atmosphere. Whether you love to sing, play an instrument, or simply want to soak in the presence of God, you'll find a home here. All are welcome, regardless of background or experience level. For more info, reach out to Justin Brown at worship@mlcjoliet.org.

## **MESSIAH KIDS**

## PRE-K THROUGH 5th GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL (Sundays at 9:30 am)

Make sure to bring your children to Sunday school, upstairs in our youth classrooms, on Sunday mornings.

#### **MESSIAH KIDS SUNDAYS AT 11**

We encourage all kids pre-k thru 5th grade to be a part of Messiah Kids' at 11 am after the children's message, in the Family Life Center (FLC). Kids will experience God during this time with weekly themes, songs, short movie clips, games and prizes. All are encouraged to attend.

## STAY N PLAY (Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30)

Stay N Play is a weekly playgroup for children five and younger that meets in the Family Life Center (FLC) on Tuesday mornings from 9:30-11:30. This group is open to church members and to the community. Coffee is provided (for the adults, of course!). Parents/caregivers must stay and keep an eye on their children. No registration is needed - We'd love to have you join us!

## MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (Wednesdays at 6:30 pm)

Have your K-5th grader join us for a great time on Wednesday evenings. It's a fun night of worship, lessons, games, crafts, and connection with the Bible and friends! **Our last night is April 17.** Watch for info on our new Summer MKW! Questions? Contact Beth Hohisel bhohisel@hotmail.com or (815) 735-7897.

#### **HEAD TO HEART WORKSHOP FOR 5th GRADE+**

Owning my Faith (5th grade +) Parent(s)/guardian(s) who attend this evening workshop will receive an introduction to MLC's Confirmation Program. The objective of this time is to outline expectations of participation for both parents and students as well as create a parents' network of support by sharing experiences of raising pre-teens in today's world. The workshop will take place on Wednesday, **April 24. Join us for pizza at 6 pm, and the workshop starts at 6:30.** While parents and pastors meet, students get to have fun with the current H2H group as they transition from the H2H program to our awesome summer youth ministry.

More info on our website:

## **MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES**

S.A.L.T. (Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8 pm)

S.A.L.T. is a time for high school students to interact with their faith.

## **HEAD2HEART (Wednesdays from 6:15 to 8 pm)**

HEY MIDDLE SCHOOLERS! Come join us for nights of instruction and fun as we teach Luther's catechism and play games! Please note that we will be on break for summer - our **final meeting is April 24**.

## **HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY (Sundays at 9:30 am)**

HEY HIGH SCHOOLERS! Perhaps you are old enough to start reading fairy tales again? Join us for Sunday Bible Time at 9:30 in classroom 204 upstairs. We will journey into Narnia, get to know the fictional characters, and connect them with the truth of Jesus.

#### **SUMMER CAMP AT LITTLE GALILEE**

Summer Camp for high schoolers is June 23-28, and July 7-12 for students entering 6-9th grades this fall. Registration is open, and the cost will increase after June 1.

Register at https://littlegalilee.org/registration
or reach out to Kate Richmond for more info at stumin@mlcjoliet.org.

#### **GAME NIGHT!**

Join us on Saturday, **April 6**, from 3-8 pm for all ages Game Night! Bring a snack and beverages to share, along with your favorite game.

VBS AT MESSIAH: JULY 15-19, 2024! Mark your calendar for Mystery Island VBS!

## THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

#### **EASTER SUNDAY (March 31)**

7:30-11 Easter Breakfast 8 am Worship 9:30 am Worship+Online Worship, 1 pm Cristo Rey Bilingual Worship

#### MONDAY (April 1) n/a

## **TUESDAY (April 2)**

9:30 am Stay-N-Play 10 am Lauralee Williams Visitation 11 am Celebration of Life

## **WEDNESDAY (April 3)**

5:30 pm Family Dinner 6:15 pm H2H, POW! 6:30 pm SALT, Messiah Kids

## **THURSDAY (April 4)**

9 am Faith & Body 10:15 am Prayer Group 11:30 am Staff Meeting

#### FRIDAY (April 5) n/a

## **SATURDAY (April 6)**

9 am Worship Team Rehéarsal 10 am POW! 3 pm Game Night

## **SUNDAY (April 7)**

8 am Worship
9:30 am Worship+Online Worship,
Sunday School for All Ages
11 am Family Praise & Worship,
Women's Ministry Meeting,
Messiah Kids
1 pm Cristo Rey Bilingual Worship

## STEWARDSHIP & ATTENDANCE

#### **LAST WEEK:**

8:00 am: 74 9:30 am: 100 11:00 am: 67

Online: 154 MSM (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>): 13 Messiah Kids (K-5<sup>th</sup>): 13 Insight: 13

Online counts are estimates only.

## **2024 GIVING**

Operating Budget: \$763,541 YTD Operating Budget: \$176,201 YTD Received: \$139,553 Average Weekly Need: \$14,683 Received last week: \$10,158

## STEWARDSHIP VERSE OF THE WEEK

**Psalm 95:2** 

"Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise."

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

If you would like to give the gift of Altar flowers, please call the office at 815-741-4488. Arrangements are \$25 each.

Interim Worship Coordinator Justin Brown
Interim Technology Coordinator Nikolai Stier
Interim Student Ministry Administrator Kate Richmond
Children's Ministry Director Leslie McFarland
Children's Choir Director Season Lawler
Bookkeeper Sherri Unyi
Interim Office Coordinator Vicki Dallmann