

Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church



Sharing the Love of Christ

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March 2, 2021

7 PM Service of Evening Prayer

Gathering Music: "Christ, mighty savior" (UMH#684)

The Opening Sentences

I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Psalm 51:3

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Psalm 51:9

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Psalm 51:17

Introduction to the Service

The General Confession

Pastor: Therefore, I implore of all of you who are gathered here to join me, with a pure heart and humble voice, to approach the throne of grace as we say together:

People: Almighty and most merciful Father: we have done wrongly, and like lost sheep, we have gone astray from your Way. We have relied upon our own intuition, and have indulged in the desires of our own hearts. We have broken the laws you have revealed to us. We have done things we should not have done, and we have failed to do things we should have done; and we are powerless to save ourselves. Even so, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners. Spare those who confess their faults, and restore those who are penitent, as you have promised to do through the Word of your only son, our Lord Jesus Christ. For the sake of the same Christ Jesus, grant that we may, from now on, lead Godly and righteous lives, that your name might be glorified. Amen.

The Absolution

Pastor: Almighty God, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who does not desire that sinners should die, but instead that they should turn from their wickedness and live; and who has given power to his ministers to declare to penitent hearts the forgiveness of their sins: God pardons and absolves the sins of all who turn to him with true repentance and who truly believe the good news of the Gospel of Christ. Therefore, let us pray to God to grant us true repentance of our sins, and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit, so that our current prayers and supplications may be pleasing to him, and that the remainder of our lives may

be pure and holy, so that we may finally enter into the eternal joy of God's Kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who are in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your 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. Amen.

Pastor: Open our lips, O Lord.;

People: And our mouths shall declare your praise.

Pastor: Speedily save us, O God.

People: Hasten to our aid, O Lord.

Pastor: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

People: As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever, world without end.

Amen. **Pastor:** Praise the Lord.

People: May the Lord's Name be praised.

The Psalm

Psalm 119:1-16

**Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,
who walk according to the law of the LORD.**

**²Blessed are those who keep his statutes
and seek him with all their heart—**

**³they do no wrong
but follow his ways.**

**⁴You have laid down precepts
that are to be fully obeyed.**

**⁵Oh, that my ways were steadfast
in obeying your decrees!**

**⁶Then I would not be put to shame
when I consider all your commands.**

**⁷I will praise you with an upright heart
as I learn your righteous laws.**

**⁸I will obey your decrees;
do not utterly forsake me.**

**⁹How can a young person stay on the path of purity?
By living according to your word.**

¹⁰I seek you with all my heart;

- do not let me stray from your commands.**
- ¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.**
- ¹² Praise be to you, LORD;
teach me your decrees.**
- ¹³ With my lips I recount
all the laws that come from your mouth.**
- ¹⁴ I rejoice in following your statutes
as one rejoices in great riches.**
- ¹⁵ I meditate on your precepts
and consider your ways.**
- ¹⁶ I delight in your decrees;
I will not neglect your word.**

The First Lesson

Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, you islands;
hear this, you distant nations:
Before I was born the LORD called me;
from my mother's womb he has spoken my name.
² He made my mouth like a sharpened sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me into a polished arrow
and concealed me in his quiver.
³ He said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will display my splendor."
⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing at all.
Yet what is due me is in the LORD's hand,
and my reward is with my God."
⁵ And now the LORD says—
he who formed me in the womb to be his servant
to bring Jacob back to him
and gather Israel to himself,
for I am^[a] honored in the eyes of the LORD
and my God has been my strength—
⁶ he says:
"It is too small a thing for you to be my servant
to restore the tribes of Jacob
and bring back those of Israel I have kept.
I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

⁷This is what the LORD says—
the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel—
to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation,
to the servant of rulers:
“Kings will see you and stand up,
princes will see and bow down,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

Pastor: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

The Song of Simeon (Nunc Dimittis)

LAND OF REST

1. Lord, let thy servant now depart
into thy promis'd rest,
Since my expecting eyes have been
with thy salvation blest;

2. Which till this time thy favour'd saints
and prophets only knew;
Long since prepar'd, but now set forth
in all the peoples' view.

3. A light to shew the heathen world
the way to saving grace;
But, O! the light and glory both
of Israel's chosen race.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
the God whom we adore,
Be glory; as it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

The Second Lesson

Mark 4:30-34

³⁰ Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. ³² Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

³³ With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. ³⁴ He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

Pastor: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

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,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
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,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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.**

The Apostles’ Creed (ecumenical version)

The Collect for Lent

**Everlasting God,
because of your tender mercy toward all people,
you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ,
to take upon himself our flesh,
and to suffer death upon the cross,
that all should follow the example of his great humility.
Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of his patience
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Together, let us pray
for the people of this congregation... (**People’s Response: “Lord, receive our prayer.”**)
for those who suffer and those in trouble... (**“Lord, receive our prayer.”**)
for the concerns of this local community... (**“Lord, receive our prayer.”**)
for the world, its peoples, and its leaders... (**“Lord, receive our prayer.”**)

for the earth you have given to our care... (“**Lord, receive our prayer.**”)
for the Church universal—its leaders, its members, and its mission... (“**Lord, receive our prayer.**”)
in communion with the saints... (“**Lord, receive our prayer.**”)

Hymn: “Let us plead for faith alone” (UMH#385)

SAVANNAH

1. Let us plead for faith alone,
faith which by our works is shown;
God it is who justifies,
only faith the grace applies.

3. Let us for this faith contend,
sure salvation is the end;
heaven already is begun,
everlasting life is won.

2. Active faith that lives within,
conquers hell and death and sin,
hallows whom it first made whole,
forms the Savior in the soul.

4. Only let us persevere
till we see our Lord appear,
never from the Rock remove,
saved by faith which works by love.

The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies: we, your unworthy servants give you our most humble and heartfelt thanks for the goodness and steadfast love that you have shown to us and to all humankind. We bless you for having created us, for having preserved us, and for having richly blessed us in this life; but above all else, we bless you for these things: the unfathomable love you show to us in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; the means of your saving grace; and the hope of glory everlasting. And, we beg of you, give us a true understanding of all your mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we might show forth your praise not only with our lips, but by giving up our whole selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives. This we ask through Jesus Christ, to whom, along with you and the Holy Spirit, belongs all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, who has at this time given us the grace to make our common supplications to you with a single accord; and who has promised us that whenever two or three of us gather in your name, you will be among us: fulfill, O Lord, the desires and petitions made by your servants as may best suit them and best fit your will, that in this world we may receive the knowledge of your Truth, and in the world to come, eternal life. Amen.

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. 2 Cor. 13:14

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Rom. 15:13

*Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.
Eph. 3:20-21*

Parting Music: "O Gladsome Light" (UMH#686)

Liturgy of Evening Prayer Services

During this Season of Lent, MLUMC will continue to offer weekly opportunities for God's people to gather for prayer and praise. All are welcome to attend the Liturgy of Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m. either in-person or remotely. It will continue to be offered on the following Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary -- March 9th, 16th, & 23rd. Again, you are welcome to attend either in-person or remotely.

Lent and Easter Services

Maundy Thursday, April 1

7:30 pm Tenebrae Service in Sanctuary

Good Friday, April 2

Individual and Family Communion Appointments 30-minute private appointments are available to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion in a safe, hygienic, and physically-distanced manner. Appointments will begin on the hour, and on the half-hour. Please contact the church office to schedule a time that is convenient for the members in your household. Each appointment will include a brief organ prelude, a prayer of thanksgiving, the receiving of bread and cup, and an organ postlude. If it has been a while since you have felt comfortable to come to the Lord's Table, now could be the perfect opportunity!

Holy Saturday, April 3

6:30 p.m., Outdoor Easter Vigil in upper parking lot.

The traditional Easter Vigil is by far the oldest of all services of worship in the Christian tradition, having been held since the earliest days of our faith. Since the beginning, the service has always begun outdoors, with the lighting of a fire from whose flames the Paschal or Christ Candle is lit.

Traditionally, the vigil would last through the night. We won't go that far! Our abbreviated vigil will be 45 minutes or less in length, rain or shine. In case of rain, the service will be moved indoors, so make your plans accordingly.

Easter Sunday, April 4

7 a.m. Outdoor Sunrise Service in the upper parking lot. As Easter morning moves from darkness into light, we will hope to sense the emotions of the women who first heard news of the resurrection. Our theme will be "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" This service will be 30 minutes or less in length, rain or shine. In case of rain, the service will be moved indoors, so make your plans accordingly. Please park in our lower lot, or in Laughlin's lot, and plan to join us.

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

9:30 a.m. The Gathering in Asbury Center

10:45 a.m. Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

2021 Easter Memorials

Purchase flowers or make a donation to the Family Fund or The Food Pantry in honor or memory of friends or loved ones. The Family Fund supports families in our church in their time of need. The flowers will be on display in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 4. They may be picked up after the 10:45 service or any time after Easter.

It appears that we will be able to deliver flowers to the residential facilities of shut-ins, and so you may request the church to deliver. The deadline for ordering flowers is **Sunday, March 7.**

2021 EASTER MEMORIALS ORDER DEADLINE - March 7

Make check payable to MLUMC with memo line marked "Easter Flowers," "Family Fund," or "Food Pantry."

MLUMC Family Fund \$ _____ Food Pantry \$ _____ Given in (circle) "memory"

or "honor" of (please print): _____

Flower Selection (color cannot be guaranteed)

_____ Lilies (1 stem) @ \$9.00 = _____ _____ Hyacinths (3 plants) @ \$7.00 = _____

_____ Tulips (5 plants) @ \$7.00 = _____ _____ Pansy Basket @ \$10.00 = _____

_____ Mums @ \$9.00 = _____

Total Flower Amount \$ _____

Given in (circle) "memory" or "honor" of (please print): _____

Donor Name (Please Print) _____

Phone _____

I will pick up flowers

Deliver to a shut-in