

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Valdosta, Georgia 31602

Pr. Richard Pieplow, MDiv.

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What will you gain if you
own the whole world
but destroy yourself

M A R K 8 : 3 6

March 8, 2009
Proclaiming GRACE

God's Riches At Christ's Expense

Est. January 3, 1956

Welcome in the Name of our saving Lord, Jesus, the Christ! The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ and TAKE UP THE CROSS!

WELCOME WITH JOY AND A FEW SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELLS AND SILENT MEDITATION

+ Please stand as you are able for these parts of the service

+ **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Let us return to God with all our hearts, confessing our sins and our need for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Gracious God,

C you know the depths of our sins against you, each other, and your whole creation; have mercy on us. We pray for forgiveness we cannot earn and renewal we do not merit, given only through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P God knows and loves us completely, just as we are. Through water and word, Spirit and saving Son, we are cleansed from sin, joined with the communion of saints, and brought to new and abundant life. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Live in newness of life.

C Amen.

+ **GREETING**

P Now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation.
May the grace of God, through Christ our salvation, be
with you all.

C And also with you.

(Greet one another in the pew around with the unity and peace offered through our Lord Jesus Christ.)

+ **SONG OF PRAISE FOR LENT**

CANTICLE #13 LBW

Refrain

**ALL Keep in mind that Jesus Christ has died for us
and is risen from the dead. He is our saving Lord;
he is joy for all ages.**

Cantor If we die with the Lord, we shall live with the Lord.
If we endure with the Lord, we shall live with the Lord. *Refrain*

Cantor In him all our sorrow, in him all our joy.
In him hope of glory, in him all our love. *Refrain*

Cantor In him our redemption, in him all our grace.
In him our salvation, in him all our peace. *Refrain*

+ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an
instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life.

**C Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may
gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

A READING from Genesis 17

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's old womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

L The Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR

“Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery”

Marty Haugen

+ A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF John 18

Response

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Peter's first denial

¹⁵Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, ¹⁶but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high

priest, came back, spoke to the girl on duty there and brought Peter in.

¹⁷"You are not one of his disciples, are you?" the girl at the door asked Peter. He replied, "I am not."

¹⁸It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.

The High Priest Questions Jesus

¹⁹Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

²⁰"I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied. "I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. ²¹Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said."

²²When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby struck him in the face. "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" he demanded.

²³"If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?" ²⁴Then Annas sent him, still bound, to Caiaphas the high priest.

Peter's second and third denial

²⁵As Simon Peter stood warming himself, he was asked, "You are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it, saying, "I am not."

²⁶One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the olive grove?" ²⁷Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF LENTEN REFLECTION

LBW 106

In the hour of trial, Jesus, plead for me,
Lest by base denial I depart from thee.
When thou seest me waver, With a look recall;
Nor from fear or favor Suffer me to fall.

With forbidden pleasures Should this vain world charm,
Or its sordid treasures Spread to work me harm,
Bring to my remembrance Sad Gethsemane,
Or, in darker semblance, Cross-crowned Calvary.

Should thy mercy send me Sorrow, toil, and woe,
Or should pain attend me On my path below,
Grant that I may never Fail thy hand to see;
Grant that I may ever Cast my care on thee.

MESSAGE

“Take Up Your Cross: The Denial”

“Sooner or later everyone hears this rooster telling us that it’s time to wake up to what God is doing in your life. It’s time to stop thinking about your dreams for God, and to start thinking about God’s dreams for you. It’s time to stop trying so hard to make things happen, and to start watching what God is making happen around you. It’s time to stop clinging to old things and open your hands so you can receive the new things. It’s time to make some changes. (And) isn’t it about time for you also to stop lugging around the guilt and to forgive yourself? Because God already has. Now it’s up to you.” - M. Craig Barnes

+ **APOSTLES CREED**

P Renouncing all the forces of evil, we profess our faith:

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.

• original text

+ **PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

Response:

P Lord, in your mercy, C **hear our prayer.**

+ **OFFERING IS GATHERED
OFFERING PRAYER**

P Merciful God, we cry out for the hope and healing you offer.

C **Guide us continually to your service. Make us your hands to feed the hungry and prepare us to receive the bread of life, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.**

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

+ PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and good that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn: LBW 377

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim

Till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

+ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

C Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

+ **LORD'S PRAYER**

+ **THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P Let us lift up the bread of life and cup of salvation
C **and call on the name of the Lord.**

+ **AGNUS DEI "Lamb of God"** **LBW, p. 92**

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace,
grant us peace

DISTRIBUTION

What is this Bread? What is this Wine? At Messiah Lutheran Church, the Holy Supper of our Lord is celebrated in the confession and glad confidence that we receive "the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us Christians to eat and to drink." Our Lord welcomes to His table those who have faith in these words, "given for you" and "shed for you...for the forgiveness of sin." Please extend hand out to receive the bread. Wine is offered from the Chalice or from individual cups. Grape juice (center ring, lighter color) is offered for those who choose not to receive wine. After the Pastor follows with the Chalice, place your empty cup in the rack on the communion rail. Children not yet prepared for the Sacrament may come forward for a blessing "that, living in the covenant of their Baptism and in communion with the Church, they may lead godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ."

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Join in singing the following selections from various resources:

CHOIR SONG "GIVE ME JESUS"

RENEW ME based on Ps. 51
BOB # 189

Lana Gibbons

Refrain

Renew me, repair me, refresh me, restore me.
Renew a right spirit within me
Redeem me, recharge me, revise me, revive me.
Create in me a clean heart

For you alone are my strength, my song.
Your love redeems me, makes right of my wrong.
Savior, and shepherd, my master and king,
Restore my joy, so my spirit can sing. *Refrain*

For you alone can restore my soul,
Your love repairs me, turns broken to whole.
Almighty god, you remove all my sin.
You give me life in your spirit within. *Refrain*

For you alone give me pow'r to start,
Your love is kindling a pureness of heart.
Maker, creator of all that is new,
Help me, revise me, so I'm more like you. *Refrain*

For you alone are a precious gift,
Your love renews me, you give me a lift.
Jesus, forgiver of all ev'rywhere.
Jesus, Lifegiver, I live in your care. *Refrain*

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+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Generous God, you have fed and renewed us in your holy meal.

C **Send us into the world you love. Through our fasting and**

devotion draw us to you and to our neighbors, that we may break bonds of injustice, feed the hungry, and set the oppressed free. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

+ **THE BLESSING**

P As we die and rise with Christ in baptism, may we also live and serve like Christ. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

+ **SENDING**

WOV # 740

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

+ **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C **Thanks be to God.**

WEDNESDAY IN LENT

Supper at 6: pm

Holden Evening Prayer 6:45 pm

“Women of the Promise: Sarah”

MESSIAH MESSENGER

Messiah Lutheran Church, 500 Baytree Road, Valdosta, GA.

Announcements and news for the week of March 15 - March 22, 2009

EVENTS THIS WEEK

TODAY	Sunday Classes	9:15	am
	2nd Sunday in Lent	10:30	am
	Captive Free Planning Session		
MONDAY	Church Council	7:00	pm
TUESDAY	Circuit Pastors conference Tallahassee		
WEDNESDAY	Jr. Confirmation class	5:00	pm
	WEDNESDAY IN LENT		
	Lasagna Supper, LWML Div. 2	6:00	pm
	Worship Holden Evening Prayer	6:45	pm
	“Women of the Promise: Sarah”		
THURSDAY	Choir	7:30	am
	Craft Group	9:00	am
	Lifelifter	11:00	am
SATURDAY	Baytree AA Group	7:30	pm
	Baytree AA Group	7:30	pm
NEXT SUNDAY	Sunday Classes	9:15	am
	3 rd Sunday in Lent	10:30	am

WE ARE DEVOTED TO OFFERING ... “God’s Love, Our Response”

2009 Budget Goal	\$ 134,486.00
Goal per week	\$ 2,586.00
2009 Goal to Date	\$ 23,276.00
Offerings for 2009 Budget – as of 03/01	\$ 24,434.00
Offering Last Sunday 03/01	\$ 3,944.00*
*inc Ash Wednesday \$ 447.00	
Weekly average for 9 week	\$ 2,715.00
Designated Offerings:	
Building Fund	\$ 50.00
Organ Fund	\$ 20.00
Pine Tree House Fund	\$ 550.00

“Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” Matthew 5: 16

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are a gift and a warm reminder of God’s love to bloom where you are planted from Warren Tinney in honor

of Lisa's birthday Mar. 11. *Thanks for the gift of flowers to enhance our worship, and to glorify the Lord our God and Savior. To order flowers, please use the registry located on the stand in the hallway toward the fellowship hall.*

WE ARE DEVOTED TO PRAYER Acts 2: 42

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS March 1 -14: Jennifer Miller, Warren Gee 3/1; Nigel Whitten, Bob Burns 3/3; Anna Patterson 3/5; Conner Adams 3/8; Linda Welch 3/10; Lisa Tinney 3/11. Missed on this list? Please leave a note in the church office with name and birth date.

ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES deployed: Ryan McLean on deployment from MAFB; Brian Sparks (Navy, VA) deployed to the middle east area.

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING PATIENTS/SHUT-INS
 Rusty Hatcher at Heritage House Nursing Home
 Otto Peterson, Advent Village, FL. Nursing Home (Live Oak hospital)
 Mike Lagioia, Friendship Home
 Steve Keller, chronic kidney stones
 Vi & Clarence Heidemann, heart condition

NEW JOYS & ON-GOING CONCERNS:
 Charles Kluball, radiation treatment and relocating to Fellowship Home
 Nikki Williamson, eye surgery on Friday
 Ellen Mitchell, gall bladder surgery on Wednesday
 Mack Sirmas, friend of Bob Hubbard, in coma

LIST OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Name	Concern/joy	Requested by	Relationship
Larry Ballowe	Lou Gehrig's disease	Rae Hubbard	friend's brother
June Orrison	cancer	Gloria Cook	cousin
Nancy Pieper	cancer	Lee & Sunny Schilly	friend
Belinda Judy	brain tumor	Dorothy Hauge	friend
Kaylie Ellis (age4)	leukemia	Ellen Mitchell	friend
Gary Pasquinzo	chemo treatments	Bob Burns	uncle Mina Ark
Virginia Anderson	Alzheimer's	Betty Zipperer	sister
Mary Bennett	kidney removed	Susan Keller	friend
Roy McDanielle	lung disease	Duane Hauge	friend
Ricky Harrell	needs kidney transplant	Erin Jansen	uncle
Elizabeth Rabon	cancer	Erin Jansen	grandmother
Linda Brightwell	cancer	Tina Wright	friend/co-worker
Diane McNamara	breast cancer	Pat Simpson	niece
Maebeth Gerisch	nursing home care	Ed Gerisch	wife
Melanie McDonald	brain seizures	Mary Kichen	cousin
Peter Dotlich	colon cancer	Bo Miller	friend
Suzanne Padgett	chemo pending	Kay Vincent	coworker
Will Parker	stroke, surgery pending	Dorothy Hauge	brother-in-law
Teri Williams,	complications with pregnancy (placenta previa @ 6 th month)		
Vickie Johnson	health issues	Dana Black	mother
Bobby Joe Johnson	health issues	Dana Black	step-father
Berry Shaffii	bone marrow transplant	Linda Welch	co-worker
Alyssia Ventura	problems with MS	Silke/PatrickDeeley	daughter
Donnie Mathis	lung cancer	Kathy Lane	hairdresser's Dad
Karen Turner	broke 10 ribs	Pernell Jones	friend
Marilyn Miller	chronic health issues	Linda Klement	friend
Jake Tillman's grandson	(12) leukemia	Don Sullins	friend
John Harris	multiple health concerns	Jan Bristow	friend
Linda McDonald Irby	ALS	Jan Bristow	friend
Christopher Stone	pt recovery	Pat Simpson	grandson

WE ARE DEVOTED TO WORSHIP Acts 2: 42

Organ/Piano	Kay Vincent
Choir Director	Marjorie Fix
Reader	Ed Sheeley
	Kathy Sheeley
Acolyte	Alina Sweeney
Presenter, Children's message	Cindy Sweeney, Amanda Walker
Greeters	Cindy Sweeney, Joe Mitchell
Nursery	Joanne Hostetler
Ushers	George Vincent, Lisa Vincent
	Nicki Williamson, Corey Christians
Altar preparation/Chancel care	Kathy Sheeley
Sound tech	Volunteer
Custodians	Bob & Valerie Behnke
Altar linen	Fran Sparks
Flower service	Helen Whitten
Flower beds	Whitten family
Grass cutting	Fred Daniels 245-0483
Floor Maintenance Smith's Janitorials	Laverne Smith 229 387-6060
Church Council.....	
Kay Vincent, president	Sandy Adams, v- pres/secretary
Gary Klement, co- financial secretary	Lisa Tinney, co-financial secretary
Kathy Lane, treasurer	Jeff Moxley, stewardship
Cindy Mitchell, Christian E	Bo Miller, worship
Jolleen Christians, evangelism	John Mitchell, property
	Dana Black, youth

WE ARE DEVOTED TO SERVICE

	<i>Mar 15</i>	<i>Mar 22</i>	<i>Mar 29</i>
Reader:	<i>J Mitchell</i>	<i>L Welch</i>	<i>D Beckey</i>
Com Assist:	<i>E Mitchell</i>	<i>L Welch</i>	<i>D Beckey</i>
Acolyte:	<i>C Christians</i>	<i>R Spencer</i>	<i>Z Moxley</i>
Chancel:	<i>N Boyd</i>	<i>L Jansen</i>	<i>P Simpson</i>
Nursery:	<i>J Jansen</i>	<i>P Behnke</i>	<i>K Beles</i>
Greeters:	<i>G Klement</i>	<i>D Willis</i>	<i>J Sparks</i>
	<i>V Benavides</i>	<i>J Willis</i>	<i>P Simpson</i>
Ushers:	<i>D Beckey</i>	<i>M Dauphinais</i>	<i>E Sheeley</i>
	<i>J Willis</i>	<i>T Franco</i>	<i>J Sheeley</i>
	<i>B Beles</i>	<i>B Franco</i>	<i>B Miller</i>
	<i>K Beles</i>	<i>volunteer</i>	<i>J Moxley</i>

Mission Statement

A place of worship for all to know Christ, be energized by the Gospel and share Christ's love.

GRACE AND PEACE BE YOURS from Pr. Richard

Kevin Sparks has returned from deployment. Welcome home! + + + From Kylie Fullner: "Just wanted to let you know we made it to Rockwall, Texas!!! Thank you for emailing the pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church. It means to both of us that you have looked out for us all along our journey. Simply thank you!" + + + Congratulations to the Relay for Life Team who collected \$520 in tips last Friday and Saturday at CiCi's.

MONDAY, MARCH 16, HOST SUPPER FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS ON HABITAT SPRING BREAK BUILD

We will feed about 28 people @ 6: pm.

Thanks to Lisa Vincent who has agreed to be the leader of this event and to many who have signed up to bring food and help.

EQUIPPING TO SHARE SEMINAR, Saturday, March 28

We look forward to hosting this event for our circuit congregations. Details are still being worked out and will keep you posted as plans unfold.



BELLA VOCE, formerly known as the Madrigal Singers from Mary Baldwin College, will be performing at Disney World's Epcot Center on May 26. Katlyn Fix, daughter of our choir director, invites you to attend "the more support we can get, the better." Her group is also accepting tax deductible donations to help pay for their trip. Please make checks payable to "Mary Baldwin College" and in the memo line, put "Madrigal Singers." For more information, contact Katlyn at Fixkm9091@mbc.edu or 229-237-9273. Thanks for your support!

Serve in Jesus' Name

Serve all people, following the example of Jesus. Most of us are far too enthralled by entertainment and consumption. We keep lists of the movies we want to see, the games we want to play, the shows we have to watch, and the sporting events we need to view. Our lives can be consumed by this consumerist mentality, leaving little room for serving the way Jesus served.

Jesus' challenge is clear and unrelenting. If you want to be a follower of Jesus, deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow (Mark 8:34). Find sick people and heal them. Sing to them; hold their hands; spend time with them. Write letters to your political leaders advocating for those who are hungry. Reduce your television consumption by four or six hours per week and instead volunteer at a nursing home, food pantry, or prison. Spend time reading the gospels, and ask yourself, "How can I serve people the way Jesus did?" Pray for God's grace to guide you.

What will it profit you to have a shelf stocked with DVDs, or to claim that you attended every single professional football game of the season, and yet have failed to live a life that took the shape and form of Jesus Christ? There is no room for shame. We cannot consider these the words of an extremist. They are the words from our Lord, who says, "Take up your cross, and follow." The good news is that the one we follow promises that in losing our lives for the sake of others, we find true life.

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For Lenten Devotion: Read Mark **Mark 8:31–38**

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel. What does the expression "Take up your cross and follow me" mean to you? What are the key challenges to serious discipleship today?

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