“As Surely as I live,” God said,
“I would not see the sinner dead.
I want him turned from error’s ways,
Repentant, living endless days.”

And so our Lord gave this command:
“Go forth and preach in ev’ry land;
Bestow on all My pard’ning grace
Who will repent and mend their ways.

“All those whose sins you thus remit
I truly pardon and acquit,
And those whose sins you will retain
Condemned and guilty shall remain.

“What you will bind, that bound shall be;
What you will loose, that shall be free;
To My dear Church the keys are giv’n
To open, close the gates of heav’n.”

The words which absolution give
Are His who died that we might live;
The minister whom Christ has sent
Is but His humble instrument.
C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.

For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Lent Anthem “On My Heart Imprint Your Image” LSB 422

On my heart im-print Your im-age,
    Bless-ed Je-sus, King of grace,
That life’s rich-es, cares, and plea-sures
    Nev-er may Your work e-race;
Let the clear in-scrip-tion be:
    Je-sus, cru-ci-fied for me,
Is my life, my hope’s foun-da-tion,
    And my glo-ry and sal-va-tion!
† WORD †

THE SALUTATION AND THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

ECCELESIAS 4:7-12

7 Again, I saw vanity under the sun: 8 one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, “For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?” This also is vanity and an unhappy business.
9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! 11 Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? 12 And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

C Thanks be to God.

EPistle READING

1 TIMOTHY 1:12-17

12 I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, 13 though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, 14 and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the
world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. 16But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. 17To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

P  This is the Word of the Lord.

C  Thanks be to God.

**LENTEN VERSE**  
**All**  
Re-turn to the Lord, your God,  
for He is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,  
slow to an-ger, and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love,  
and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love.

**GOSPEL READING**  
MATTHEW 9:35-38

P  The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 5th chapter.

C  Glo-ry to You, O Lord.

35And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. 36When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

P  This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C  Praise to You, O Christ.

**APOSTLE’S CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.  

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

SERMON HYMN “CHIEF OF SINNERS THOUGH I BE” LSB 611
v.1-3

1 Chief of sinners though I be,  
Jesus shed His blood for me,  
Died that I might live on high,  
Lives that I might never die.  
As the branch is to the vine,  
I am His, and He is mine.

2 Oh, the height of Jesus’ love,  
Higher than the heav’ns above,  
Deeper than the depths of sea,  
Lasting as eternity!  
Love that found me—wondrous thought!  
Found me when I sought Him not.

3 Only Jesus can impart  
Balm to heal the wounded heart,  
Peace that flows from sin forgiv’n,  
Joy that lifts the soul to heav’n,  
Faith and hope to walk with God  
In the way that Enoch trod.

SERMON “HEAL TOGETHER” PASTOR SCHMIDT
ANTHEM
“Create In Me”  p 192
Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God,  
and re-new a right spir-it with-in me.  
Cast me not a-way from Thy pres-ence,  
And take not Thy ho-ly Spir-it from me.  
Re-store un-to me the joy of Thy Sal-va-tion,  
and up-hold me with Thy free spir-it. A-men.

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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 forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION
P  The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be  
gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give  
you peace.  
C  Amen, amen, amen.

CLOSING HYMN “BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS”  LSB 649
1 Blest be the tie that binds  
   Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
   Is like to that above.
2 Before our Father’s throne
   We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
   Our comforts and our cares.

3 We share our mutual woes,
   Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows
   The sympathizing tear.

4 When here our pathways part,
   We suffer bitter pain;
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart,
   We hope to meet again.

5 From sorrow, toil, and pain,
   And sin we shall be free
And perfect love and friendship reign
   Through all eternity.
The Worship Service Lent
March 10th, 2021

Preacher        Rev. Joshua Schmidt
Liturgist       Rev. Michael Redeker
Organist        Richard Scott
Acolyte         Brielle Krizman
Videographer    Jeremy Skoog
Solo            James VanFossan, Kianna Manzanares, & Fritz Nuffer
Heal Together

Discussion Notes:

God Loves:

In the message we learned that God calls Christians to help others heal together.

We are the laborers in God’s harvest that Jesus is praying will make a difference in the world. When we live in spiritual community, we discover that healing happens because life is better together.

That’s why at Messiah we emphasize the need to gather in groups so people can know others and be known. They are the best ministry vehicle for Bible Study, community, and personalized prayer.

1. Who is someone that has brought you healing when you’ve been isolated, depressed, jobless, afraid, or broken?

2. Which of the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5) were they exhibiting?

3. How will you be a laborer in God’s harvest, discipling others with the fruits of the Spirit?

Love Others:

1. What is your happiest memory from your life? Who were you with and what were you doing?

2. What is something you look forward to doing in the future and who will you do it with?

3. As you think about your future, do you goals to work on? What is something you can do right now?
Serve World:

1. What area of your life needs some healing right now?

2. Which of the Fruit of the Spirit would be most helpful to apply in the healing process (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, or self-control)?

3. As we’ve journeyed through this series, what is God calling you to do?

Let’s demonstrate the fruits of the Spirit in our community!

Challenge yourself to do two random acts of kindness for strangers and consider supporting local businesses in your neighborhood (suggestions below).

1. Leave your extra change at the cash register.
2. Send a thank-you note to one of the following: the staff at your local police or fire station, teachers and school administration, grocery store workers, pharmacy workers, hospitals, care facilities, servers, etc.

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