

# The Sunday Messenger

Memorial Lutheran Church, Nevada Iowa ♦ February 14, 2021

## Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
whose voice is upon the waters,  
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,  
whose goodness cascades over all creation.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**you search us and know us.**

**You are acquainted with all our ways.**

**We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—  
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.**

**We turn inward, failing to follow  
your outward way of love.**

**We distrust those who are not like us.**

**We exploit the earth and its resources  
and fail to consider generations to come.**

**Forgive us, gracious God,**

**for all we have done and left undone.**

**Even before the words are on our tongues,  
you know them;**

**receive them in your divine mercy.**

**Amen.**

How vast is God's grace!

Through the power and promise of + Christ Jesus,

our sins are washed away

and we are claimed as God's own beloved.

Indeed, we are forgiven.

In the wake of God's forgiveness,

we are called to be the beloved community

living out Christ's justice

and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

**Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

## First Lesson *2 Kings 2:1-12*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. <sup>3</sup>The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

<sup>4</sup>Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. <sup>5</sup>The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

<sup>6</sup>Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." <sup>10</sup>He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." <sup>11</sup>As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup>Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

## Psalm 50:1-6

<sup>1</sup>The mighty one, God the | LORD, has spoken;  
calling the earth from the rising of the sun | to its  
setting.

<sup>2</sup>Out of Zion, perfect | in its beauty,  
**God shines | forth in glory. R**

<sup>3</sup>Our God will come and will | not keep silence;  
with a consuming flame before, and round about  
a | raging storm.

<sup>4</sup>**God calls the heavens and the earth | from above  
to witness the judgment | of the people.**

<sup>5</sup>"Gather before me my | loyal followers,  
those who have made a covenant with me and  
sealed | it with sacrifice."

<sup>6</sup>**The heavens declare the rightness | of God's cause,  
for it is God | who is judge. R**

## Second Reading *2 Corinthians 4:3-6*

<sup>3</sup>Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

## Gospel *Mark 9:2-9*

<sup>2</sup>Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.



<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

## Sermon

### Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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

### Lord's Prayer

### Blessing

God the creator strengthen you;  
Jesus the beloved fill you;  
and the Holy Spirit the comforter + keep you in peace.  
Amen.

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.  
Thanks be to God.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Be Part of Online Fellowship After Worship Each Sunday.

We will use Zoom as a way to connect with each other after worship. The same link will be used each week:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83367838198> For those interested in the Book of Faith adult study, a break out room will be created after a little time of fellowship.

*Join fellowship this weekend to ask any questions about the Congregational Meeting or Call Process.*

**Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17.** An Ash Wednesday worship service will be posted to Memorial's YouTube channel in the morning of Wednesday, February 17. Pastor Duane offers drive-by imposition of ashes between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm and again between 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm on February 17.

**Find It on the Web!** You can find the Congregational Meeting materials on the web site as well as other congregational information such as the 2021 Spending Plan. Visit [micnevada.org](http://micnevada.org) for this and other items to keep up to date.

Congregational Meeting Announcement  
The Church Council calls  
a congregational meeting  
on Sunday, February, 21, at 10:00 am  
for the purpose of calling a pastor to  
Memorial Lutheran Church, Nevada, Iowa.

The discussion portion of the meeting will take place  
online using Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83670317202>

Or by phone: 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 836 7031 7202

Paper balloting will take place at  
Memorial Lutheran Church.

A mailing with all meeting details has been sent  
to all voting member households.

Use the same links for a practice session:  
Monday, February 15, at 6:30 pm  
Thursday, February 18, at 1:30 pm

## FAITH AND LIFE TOGETHER

### Prayers for Healing

Fred Samuelson, Gary Kluever, Harlen Johnsen, Jim Pappas, Janeen Driscoll, Darren Kluever, Jaylee Bartleson, Larry Christian, Julie Sutherland, Sheila Collingwood *Lyndsey De Vos' mother*, Lynn Harris, George Forsyth, Cassie Harrell, Jeff Sebring *son-in-law of Ernie and Marlene Ruhde*, Norma Gandrup, Linda Horn, Tom Nervig, Glenda Day, Ginny Hausner, Ken Johnson, Camden Kelsey, Cooper Leeman, Jan Cook, Margie Nahnsen

### For Those Who Mourn

+Don Hackbarth died Saturday, February 6, at the Israel Family Hospice House. A service will be held at a later date. We extend Christian sympathy to his siblings, Judy Holmes, Jane Moses, David Hackbarth, and special friend, Johann Theil and all the family.

+Bob Ehrig died Friday, February 12, at the Israel Hospice House. We extend Christian sympathy to his wife, Sandy, and all the family.