

The Service of Word and Sacrament

at the Retirement of Pastor Burce
on the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 31st, 2022 at 10 a.m.

Welcome one and all as we gather at Messiah to thank God for the ministry of the Rev. Dr. Jerome Burce, though all the more for the Gospel he has borne witness to through twenty-eight years of service here.

Pr. Burce was ordained on November 23, 1980. His initial call took him to his birthplace, Papua New Guinea, where he served for six and a half years, chiefly in basic pastoral training. He began parish ministry in 1988 at Zion Lutheran Church in Southington, Connecticut. In 1994 he accepted a call to Messiah as Associate Pastor. He started working here on August 1st of that year. He was invited to serve as Senior Associate Pastor in 1999.

Over the years Pr. Burce has also contributed significantly as a writer and speaker to the Crossings Community, an association of Lutherans committed to articulating the promise of Christ crucified for twenty-first century people as they go about their daily lives. Much of this work can be found at *crossings.org*. It includes a few sermons first heard at Messiah.

Among our special guests today are four of the five members of Messiah whom the Holy Spirit led into pastoral ministry during Pr. Burce's tenure here. All are serving as Lutheran pastors today: the Rev. Dr. Stephan Turnbull in Columbus, the Rev. Robert Spicer in Bowling Green, the Rev. Timothy Holt in Jasper, Indiana, and the Rev. Matthew Metevelis in Las Vegas. Each will contribute in one way or another as the day unfolds. The Rev. Robyn Kistemaker of Temperance, Michigan was unable to join us. We will thank God for other special guests at today's luncheon.

For now we thank God for the special guests that you are, each of you drawn here by the grace of God to revel in the bounty of our Lord Jesus Christ. As this service unfolds, may his Word and Spirit refresh you in the glorious calling you were baptized into, as were we all.

A quick note about our worship protocols in this latter stage of the pandemic: wear a mask if you wish. Shake hands—or not—as you feel comfortable. Don't crowd your neighbors. Respect each other as God respects us all.

Thank you for being here today.

Prelude

“Brass Fugue,” Johann Sebastian Bach
“Finale,” Domenico Gabrielli

Confession

P Joined to Christ Jesus in the waters of Holy Baptism, we are clothed with God’s promise of forgiveness and life. Let us put this gift to use and prepare to meet our Lord. We pray.

We give you thanks, O God.

C In the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters.

P By your Word you created the world.

C You called forth life in which you took delight.

P Forgive us, merciful Lord.

C We have failed to delight you. Our sinful habits injure the world. We neglect your Word and dishonor your Spirit. We fail to thank you as we should, with heart, soul, strength, and mind. Forgive us, merciful Lord.

As water is poured into the font –

P We praise you, O God. You delivered Noah and his family through the waters of the flood.

C You led Israel through the sea, from slavery to freedom.

P To redeem the world, your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

C You have made us your children in Christ through Word and water.

P Restore us, gracious Father. Fill us in this hour with the power of your Holy Spirit, so that we will sing your praise, trust your Word, receive our Savior Christ with glad and cheerful hearts, and walk with him by faith through the days which lie ahead.

C Restore us, gracious Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P As a pastor of the church and at Christ’s command, I tell you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Entrance Hymn

“O Day Full of Grace,” #627

1 O day full of grace that now we see
appearing on earth's horizon,
bring light from our God that we may be
abundant in joy this season.
God, shine for us now in this dark place;
your name on our hearts emblazon.

2 O day full of grace, O blessed time,
our Lord on the earth arriving;
then came to the world that light sublime,
great joy for us all retrieving;
for Jesus all mortals did embrace,
all shame and despair removing.

- 3 For Christ bore our sins, and not his own,
when he on the cross was hanging;
and then he arose and moved the stone,
that we, unto him belonging,
might join with angelic hosts to raise
our voices in endless singing.
- 4 God came to us then at Pentecost,
the Spirit new life revealing,
that we might no more in death be lost,
its pow'r over us dispelling.
This flame will the mark of sin efface
and bring to us all true healing.
- 5 When we on that final journey go
that Christ is for us preparing,
we'll gather in song, our hearts aglow,
all joy of the heavens sharing,
and there we will join God's endless praise,
with angels and saints adoring.

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

Hymn of Praise

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. I Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

The Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Direct us, Lord God, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and extend to us your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

You may be seated

+ The Word of God +

First Reading

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23

²Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹²I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, ¹³applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. ¹⁴I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

^{2:18}I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me ¹⁹—and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²²What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 63:1-8



¹O God, you are my God; eager- | ly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land
where there | is no water.

²Therefore I have gazed upon you in your | holy place,
that I might behold your power | and your glory.

³For your steadfast love is better than | life itself;
my lips shall | give you praise.

⁴So will I bless you as long | as I live
and lift up my hands | in your name.

⁵My spirit is content, as with the rich- | est of foods,
and my mouth praises you with | joyful lips,

⁶when I remember you up- | on my bed,
and meditate on you in | the night watches.

⁷For you have | been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I | will rejoice.

⁸My whole being | clings to you;
your right hand | holds me fast.

Second Reading

Colossians 3:1-11

¹So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand as you are able

Gospel

Luke 12:13-21

Gospel hymn --

Word of God, come down on earth,
living rain from heav'n descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you;
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

Word that caused blind eyes to see,
Speak and heal our mortal blindness;
Deaf we are: our healer be;
Loose our tongues to tell your kindness.
Be our Word in pity spoken,
Heal the world, by our sin broken.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 12th chapter.



¹³Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” ¹⁴But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ ¹⁸Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.



Gospel hymn continued --

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
praise to you and adoration!
Grant us what we need the most:
your blest gospel’s consolation,
while we here on earth await you,
till in heav’n with praise we greet you.

You may be seated

Sermon

Stand as you are able

Hymn of the Day

“Messiah Christ, Anointed One,” Jerome Burce and David Gooding



1. Mes-si - ah, Christ, a - noin - ted_ one, of God con - ceived and_ Ma - ry
2. We thank you, Christ, for saints of_ old in you re deemed, re - fined as
3. Build us in truth, your peace to_ find, your word to trust with heart and
4. Mes - si - ah Je - sus, ut - most joy, fill all our dreams, our hopes em -

5
born, who from a cross, that won - drous throne for - ev - er
gold, who spent them - selves, not fear - ing loss, to_ tell the
mind, that stub - born sin may not dis - may, your great - er
ploy, that we on earth will serve you well and in your

8
reigns, his_ name we own. As once in flesh and blood his tent, so now in
glo - ry_ of your cross. Breathe in - to us your Spi - rit, Lord, that we with
grace our_ life, our stay. Then send us forth in wit - ness bold, to warm those
Fa - ther's man - sions dwell 'Mid ev - er - last - ing ju - bi - lee, as all cre -

12
word and sac - ra - ment, he dwells with us, through us to raise to God on
them in one ac - cord will beam your love a - gainst the night and draw our
pla - ces hard and cold where peo - ple caught in Sa - tan's lie des - pair of
a - tion bends the knee en - joy - ing God: Christ Je - sus, Son, with Fa - ther,

16 1,2,3 4

high, glad songs of praise.
 neigh - bors to your light.
 God and ail - ing die.

4. Ho - ly Spi - rit

20

One. A - - - men.

Apostles Creed

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

Prayer of the Church

At the end of each portion of the prayers:

A Lord, in your mercy. . .

C Hear our prayer

The Sharing of Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Greet those around you with these or similar words.

You may be seated

Offering

“In the Night a Baby’s Cry,” Jerome Burce and David Gooding

*In the night a baby’s cry
Pleads with God to tell us why
Infants shiver, children die,
Come, O God, and save us.*

*God, who cried a sinner’s “why?”
God, who stretched His arms to die:
Hold us close, make terrors fly,
Come, dear Christ, and save us.*

*Mother’s arms the Babe enfold,
On her heart His cheek they hold.
Gone the bleakness, gone the cold,
Come, O God, and save us.*

*Sing the praise of God above,
Father, source of light and love;
Spirit sent as fire and dove,
Christ, who reigns and saves us.*

*When this age of dread is done,
We’ll still sing of Father, Son,
Holy Spirit, Three-in-One,
God, the Love that saved us.*

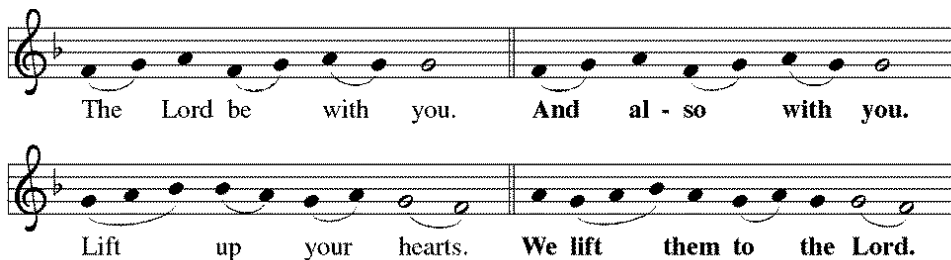
Offertory Prayer

- A Let us pray. Merciful Father,
C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

+ Holy Communion +

We confess at Messiah that Holy Communion is Christ’s gift to his Church, his true body and blood given with bread and wine for us to eat and drink. Here Christ confirms in us the benefits of his death and resurrection. He forgives our sins, refreshes our lives, and promises our salvation. We welcome to the Lord’s table all baptized and communing Christians who share this faith.

The Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, Lord God of

pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P Holy God, mighty Lord, Gracious Father...

In the night in which he was betrayed...the Lord's death until he comes.

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P Therefore...to share with us the great and promised feast.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

P Send now, we pray...our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P Join our prayers...as victorious Lord of all.

C Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

You may be seated

Distribution Instructions: Come forward, following the people in the pew in front of you, keeping a respectful distance as you do. To receive the host, hold out your cupped hands so the pastor can drop it there. Take a cup from the white stand as you proceed to the chalice. Hold it out so the assisting minister can fill it. Deposit the cup in the corner basket as you return to your pew.

Agnus Dei

☩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Anthem

“Blessed Are Those, II,” David Gooding

*Blessed are those, are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.
Blessed are those, are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.
Praise the Lord, all you nations, laud him all you peoples,
For his lovingkindness toward us is great,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.
Blessed are those, are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.*

Distribution Hymns

“Now Thank We All Our God,” #839

- 1 Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms,
has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.
- 2 Oh, may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all in grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.

- 3 All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

“The Church's One Foundation,” #654

- 1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.
- 2 Elect from ev'ry nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev'ry grace endued.
- 3 Though with a scornful wonder
this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.
- 4 Through toil and tribulation
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.

- 5 Yet she on earth has union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us,
may see you face to face.

Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

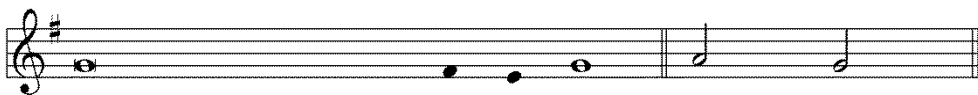
P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in body and soul to life everlasting

C **Amen.**

A Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Benediction



Almighty God, Father, † Son,
and Holy Spirit, bless you now and for - ever. A - men

Farewell and Godspeed

P We thank you, gracious God, for the work and witness among us of your servant, Jerome. As he now retires from this call, sustain him in the promises he proclaimed here. Open his eyes to fresh ways of serving you. Keep him as a joy to his family and a blessing to his neighbors, and let his days overflow with good cheer in the Gospel of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Jerome, brother in Christ: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

Luncheon Announcements and Table Prayer

Recessional Hymn

“Rise, Shine, You People!” #665

- 1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
our human story; God in him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,
with grace unbounded.
- 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
he brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,
now are forgiven.
- 3 Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling,
your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the story
of Jesus' glory.
- 4 Tell how the Father sent the Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation
God's new creation.

Dismissal

- A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

“Musique Royale,” Michel-Richard Delalaude

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Serving Today

Preacher – The Rev. Dr. Jerome E. Burce

Presiding Ministers – The Rev. Seth C. Bridger, The Rev. Dr. Jerome E. Burce

Gospeler – The Rev. Matthew Metevelis

Serving at Communion – The Rev. Robert Spicer, The Rev. Timothy Holt

Assisting Ministers – Paula Mickan, Chris Neumann

Lectors – Mike Snyder, Helen Casselberry

Crucifer – Gavin Waugaman

Torch Bearers – Leroy Russ, Hayden Wolf

Book Bearer – Kaitlyn Carlin

Messiah Choir – Directed by David Gooding

Brass Quartet – Adam Warnke, trumpet; Tim Shaffer, trumpet;
Beth Jokhio, horn; David Betts, trombone

Timpanist – Katy La Favre

Organist – David Gooding

Deacons – Amy & Mark Hunger, Bob Trapp

Ushers – Michael Eckert, Cathie Janke, Joe King, Ed Kus

Altar Guild – Diane Paton, Maria Geier