

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



Messiah Lutheran Church
February 2, 2020

(440) 331-2405
MessiahChurchFairview.org

To our Guests: Welcome!

May the God who led you here today refresh you with his grace and peace in Christ Jesus as you spend this hour with us. We're glad you're here.

Some helpful things to know

- **Let us know that you were here.** You'll find a visitor's card in the pew rack that you can fill out and either hand to an usher or drop in the offering plate.



- **Restless children?** Nursery care is available during the late Sunday morning services. We also have a room where parents can tend to little ones while watching and listening to the service. Ask an usher for directions.

- **Large print bulletins and personal audio receivers** are available at Sunday services for any who may find them helpful. Don't hesitate to ask an usher.

- **May you commune at Messiah?** Yes, if you're a baptized communicant elsewhere and are able to respond with joyful confidence when Christ invites you to meet him in the sacrament here. As he says of the bread, "This is my body," and of the cup, "This is my blood"; and of both he says, "given and shed *for you.*"

- **Our communion procedures:** the sacrament is distributed at the head of the aisle. Come forward as the usher directs. For receiving the wine, two cups are available, one to drink from and a second to dip the host in. Follow your preference. If you choose not to commune but would like even so to receive a blessing, approach the pastor or assisting minister with your arms crossed. For a gluten-free host, quietly ask the pastor.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 2, 8:30 & 11 am

*The congregation is invited to participate at the places marked with **bold** type*

Prelude

“Let Streams of Living Justice,” Robert Buckley Farlee

Confession and Forgiveness

Stand as you are able

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for self-examination.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gathering Song

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,” #858

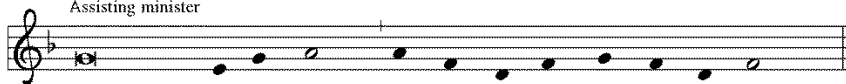
Greeting

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

And also with you.

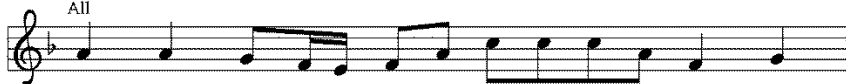
Gloria

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



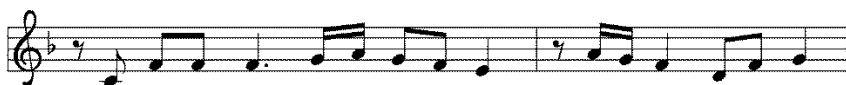
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

You may be seated

The Word of God

First Reading

Micah 6:1-8

¹Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

³“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand as you are able

Gospel Acclamation

“Celtic Alleluia”

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

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

At the announcement of the Gospel:

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: ³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be seated

Sermon

Pastor Burce

Stand as you are able

Song of the Day

“Blest Are They,” #728

At 11:00 Choir sings stanzas; Congregation sings refrain

Confession of 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

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayers:

Lord in your mercy. . .
. . . **Hear our prayer.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Greet those around you with these or similar words

You may be seated

Mission Moment

“Souper Bowl of Giving”

Offering

“O Lord, Now Let Your Servant,” Anne Organ

Stand as you are able

Presentation of the Gifts

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright,”

#308 Stanza 1

O Morning Star, how fair and bright!
You shine with God's own truth and light,
Aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob's line, King David's son,
Our Lord and Savior, you have won
Our hearts to serve you only!
Lowly, holy!
Great and glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing!
Rule and might o'er all possessing!

Let us pray. God of Light,

You brighten our days with the grace of Christ. Fill us with the Spirit that rested on him, and use what we offer to ease the darkness of the world you cherish. Amen.

The Lord's Supper

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

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

Holy, mighty and merciful Lord. . .now and forever. **Amen.**

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

To learn how we distribute communion, see the inside front cover.

Communion

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, grant us peace.

“In Christ Alone”

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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“Thee, We Adore, O Savior”

#476

Stand as you are able

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray. We thank you, Almighty God, that, true to your promise, you have nourished us again with the food and drink of eternal life. Send us now in peace and joy to testify to your goodness, and to share your hope for all people in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sending

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song

“We Are Called,” #720

Go in peace. Serve the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“In Peace and Joy I Now Depart,” Healy Willan

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Serving Today

Preaching Minister -- Pastor Burce

Presiding Minister – Pastor Bridger

Assisting Ministers – Carl Herhuth (8:30); Janice Snyder (11)

Lectors – Marty Uhle (8:30); Dana Quayle (11)

Communion Assistants – Ron Coulter, Kate Durban, Scott Straffen (8:30);
Ray Ling, Wendy Ling, James Quayle (11)

Acolytes – Gavin Jennings (8:30);
Grace Kandrach, Antonio Medina (11)

Instrumentalist – Dale Mortenson

Organist – Connie Triplett

Messiah Choir (11) – Directed by Connie Triplett

Deacons – Ray Durban (8:30);
Carolyn Flanagan, Bob Trapp (11)

Greeters – Ellen & Frank Petak (8:30)
Tom Chalfant (11)

Ushers – Joe King (8:30);
Julia Ellerbruch, Dana Quayle, Craig Stinard (11)

Trustee – Craig Stinard

Altar Guild – Tiffany Advani, Debbie Luekens

Nursery – Alex Rendziak, Carrie Rendziak (11)

In our Prayers

- ❖ People who need to hear that God treasures them
- ❖ The Church's readiness to serve God's saving agenda
- ❖ People suffering for their faith in Christ
- ❖ Our nation's conversation about what is right and true and good
- ❖ All who respond on behalf of others to perils and dangers, especially those addressing the new virus threat
- ❖ Athletes, and those who cheer them on
- ❖ The family of Carol Quinn who died this past week
- ❖ Seeking care and healing: Joyce Budaker, Emerson Buskirk, Nigel Copeland, David Price, Phil Neumann, Robert Russ

This Week's Commemorations

Feb. 2—THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD, a day remembering how Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple forty days after his birth. The day is also known as Candlemas.

Feb 3—ANSGAR, d. 865, a monk who led a mission to Sweden and founded the first church there. He is sometimes called the Apostle to the Swedes.

God's Word for Next Week Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 112:1-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20
We encourage you to read the lessons as part of your preparation for divine services.

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Servants and Missionaries – All MLC members

Senior Pastor – Jerome Burce

Associate Pastor – Seth Bridger

Pastoral Assistant – Ruth Mortensen

Music Director – Connie Triplett

Minister of Youth – Adonai Henderson

Messiah School Principal – Helen Casselberry

Administrator & Pierstorf Memorial Fund Director – Darlene Waugh



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Drawing in to Christ. Building up in Christ. Sending out for Christ.

To the glory of God, through the strength of the Spirit.