

First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 8:30 & 11:00 am

Messiah Lutheran Church

MessiahFairview.org

(440) 331-2405

Welcome to worship! We are delighted you are here and have chosen to worship today. We believe the Holy Spirit of God gathers us together as one. May you be strengthened through his word and the promise in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The mission statement of Messiah Church is: ***Drawing in to Christ, Building up in Christ, Sending out for Christ.*** Our aim is to love each other as Christ has loved us all. We continue to encourage sensible social distancing. If you wish to wear a mask, please do so. If you are feeling ill, please take precautions and consider worshipping via the livestream ministry of Messiah. Online services can be found at ***MessiahFairview.org***; click "***watch services***" ***online.***

Holy Communion is shared at every worship service. The sacrament of holy communion is central to our worship life. If you are a first-time worshipper here, know that you are invited to receive and partake in the sharing of holy communion.

Introduction to The Day

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

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

Prelude

My Song is Love Unknown

setting by John Leavitt

O Bless the Lord, My Soul

setting by Jan Bender

Gathering

Confession and Forgiveness

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

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.

C Amen.

P Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and
of one another.

Silence is kept for self-examination.

P Holy God,
we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.
We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold.
We speak in ways that silence others.
We are silent when we should speak up.
We keep score in our hearts.
We let hurts grow into hatred.
For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.

C Amen.

P Here is a flood of grace: out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our
wrongs, and restores the promise of life through ✠ Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Oh, Love, How Deep

ELW 322
Stanzas 1-4, 7

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.



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



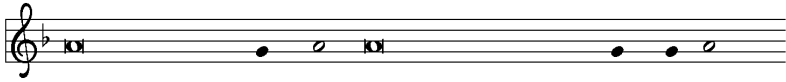
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



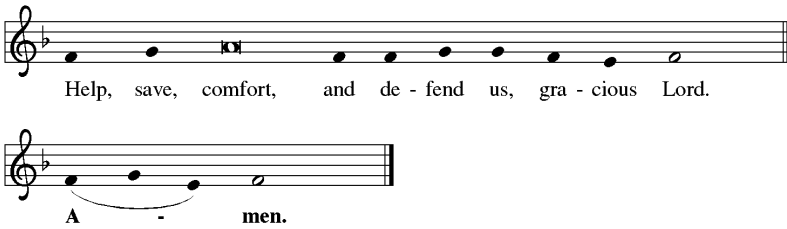
For this ho-ly house, and for all who of-fer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray,

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Word

First Reading

Genesis 9:8-17

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-10

Cantor/Choir sings refrain; All sing refrain; Cantor/Choir sings verses in alternation with Assembly; Refrain sung by all



Psalm 25:1-10

¹To | you, O LORD, I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD, and teach | me your
paths.**

Refrain

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love, for they are
from | everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your
good- | ness, O LORD.

**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

Refrain

You lead the low- | ly in justice and teach the low- | ly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness to
those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.**

Refrain

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation



Cantor/Choir: One does not live by / bread alone, but by every word that comes from the / mouth of God. (Matthew 4:4)*

Gospel

Mark 1:9-15

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon

Rev. Seth Bridger

Silence for Reflection; Stand



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
 2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
 3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
 4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
 plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
 trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
 sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
 lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
 teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
 Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
 trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
 seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
 an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

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

After each portion of the prayers:

A Lord in your mercy.

C Hear our prayer.

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.

Sit

The Lord's Supper

If the Lord so moves you, you can make an offering in support of the mission and ministry of Messiah by text to 855-913-1744 or by visiting our online giving portal at tinyurl.com/giveMLC

Offering is Received

Music at the Offering

Joy Ringers (8:30) *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* arr. Sandra Eithun

(11:00)

Seed That in Earth Is Dying

ELW 330

Cantor Stanza 1; Assembly 2-3

Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW 188

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 your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Stand as the Offerings are brought forward

A Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.
Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.
Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.
We pray this in your name.
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

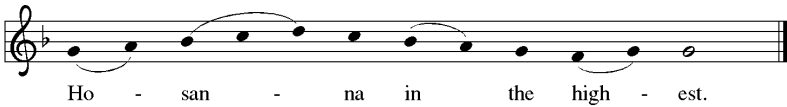
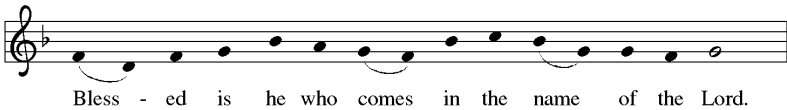
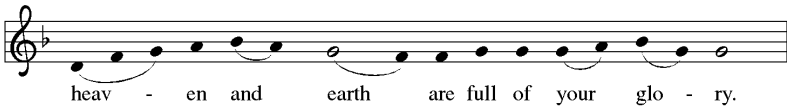
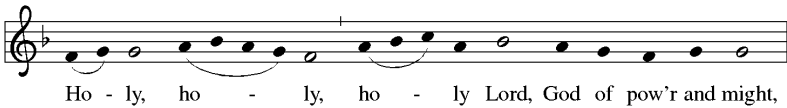
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW page 162



P Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age...With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

...Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

...Send us forth,

burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

...We praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
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.**

Concerning the sacrament — 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.

In receiving, please follow the lead of the people around you. Gluten-free hosts are available for those who need them. Quietly ask the pastor for the Gluten-free host. If coming forward not to commune but to receive a blessing, approach the pastor with your arms crossed. If you are physically unable to come forward, simply let an usher or deacon know you would like to receive communion at your seat.

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. A - men.

Sit

Communion

Distribution Hymns	<i>I Want Jesus to Walk with Me</i>	ELW 325
	<i>We Who Once Were Dead</i>	ELW 495

Stand after all have communed

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

A Generous God,
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
now make us one loaf to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C Amen.

Sending

P Beloved,
we are God's own people,
holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

ELW 326

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

May God Bestow on Us His Grace Johann Gottfried Walther

Serving Today

Preaching & Presiding Today – Rev. Seth Bridger

Assisting Minister – Linda & Carl Herhuth (8:30)

Acolyte –Nigel Copeland (8:30)

Communion Server – Nigel Copeland (8:30)

Cantor – Nigel Copeland (11:00)

Deacon –Terrie Leske (8:30) Amy & Mark Hunger (11:00)

Interim Music Director – Deborah Zudell-Dickey

Altar Guild –Elenor Davis, Martha Trapp

In Our Prayers

- For faith to deepen during the 40 days of Lent, and blessings upon the weekly Wednesday evening soup suppers, confirmation classes, and evening prayer worship.
- For our immediate neighbors and neighborhood, and in thanksgiving for the Shrovetest leadership team, volunteers, sponsors, and the support of many.
- For all in harms way due to violence and warfare, those experiencing economic hardships, and all who serve in areas of public safety.
- For the Senior Pastor Call process, that the Holy Spirit guide the discernment of candidates and those serving on the Pastoral Call Committee: Sam Gmetro, John Hayduk, Jay Machado, Kathy Neumann, Allison Younger-Waugaman, and Karen Wolf.
- For those with health concerns: Maddie Polenz, Rev. Daniel Benuska, Marilyn Sheerer, George Quinn, Leo McDonald (grandson of Dianne), Priscilla Hinsch, Kristy Younger, Jodi Hoffman, Cliff Preuss, Sue Nerlinger, Terri Civittolo, Liz Dimmock, Nina Long, Evelyn and Churchill Ward, Andrew Boraggina, Marc Heidmann, Officer Nickolas, Baby Miles, Carla (friend of Rita-Ann Shaffer), those quietly receiving medical treatments, and those experiencing mental health concerns.

This Week's Commemorations

Feb. 18—MARTIN LUTHER, d. 1546. Luther was 62 when he died. It is said that his last words were “It’s true. We’re all beggars.” In other words, the glory is Christ’s, and in him alone is our hope.

Feb. 20—RASMUS JENSEN, d. 1620, the first Lutheran pastor in North America. He arrived in Hudson Bay in 1619 as a member of a Danish colonial expedition which quickly failed.

Feb. 23—POLYCARP, d. 156, a great bishop who was martyred at age 86. BARTHOLOMAEUS ZIEGENBALG, d. 1719, a Lutheran missionary to India.

Feb. 24—ST. MATTHIAS, the apostle who replaced Judas.

God’s Word for Next Week Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22:23-31, Romans 4:13-25,
Mark 8:31-38

We encourage you to read the lessons as part of your preparation for worship next week.

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Messiah Lutheran Church

21485 Lorain Road, Fairview Park, OH 44126

(440) 331-2405

E-mail – church@messiahfp.org

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Messiah Lutheran School

4401 W. 215th St., Fairview Park, OH 44126

(440) 331-6553

Email – school@messiahfp.org

www.messiahfairview.org

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Servants and Missionaries – All MLC members

Pastor – The Rev. Seth C. Bridger

Pastoral Assistant – Deaconess Ruth Mortensen

Interim Music Director – Deborah Zudell-Dickey

Minister of Youth – Adonai Henderson

Technology Manager – Jared Waugaman

Building Manager – Jason Reynolds

Messiah School Principal – Helen Casselberry

Administrator & Pierstorf College Fund Director – Darlene Waugh

Communications Coordinator – Sarah Heinsbergen

Bookkeeper & Pierstorf College Fund Business Manager – Lisa Daley

Administrative Assistant – Diane Ward



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.