

Third Sunday in Lent



Messiah Lutheran Church
March 7, 2021

(440) 331-2405
MessiahChurchFairview.org

To our Guests: Welcome!

Worship Patterns in Pandemic Days

God be praised for every person here this morning and for all who are with us in spirit as they watch and pray at home. God strengthen us all through his word and promise in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The continued threat of coronavirus infection requires us to change our habits during the time we spend together. Please follow these rules to keep each other safe:

On entering—

- Masks are required. Please be sure to wear one.
- Sit only in pews marked with a bow.
- Keep the spacing rod between you and your family and the person or family at the other end.
- Greet each from a distance.

During the service—

- Refrain from singing. Instead, listen to the singers in the balcony and follow the words in the bulletin.
- When we share the Peace, do not hug or shake hands except with members of your own family. Wave or bow to the people around you.
- Offering plates will not be passed. If you missed the basket on your way in, place it there when you leave.

During communion—

- Keep a safe distance from the person in front of you as you approach.
- Hold out your cupped hands for the host. The pastor will not place this in your mouth or extended fingers.
- For the wine, take a plastic cup from the top of the music stand, and hold it steady as the pastor fills it. Deposit the plastic cup in the receptacle as you return to your place.

As you leave—

- Unless you need the elevator, exit through front doors only.
- Feel free to gather on the front lawn for conversation, keeping safe distances.

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

Prelude

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory,” Sandra Eithun

Remain Seated

Confession and Forgiveness

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

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Silence is kept for self-examination.

A Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.

C Amen.



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -
 2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
 4 Three - per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
 fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flow'r.
 tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
 we, when all our search - ing ends, may see your face to face.

Stand as you are able

Greeting

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

C **And also with you.**

Kyrie



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Word of God

First Reading

Exodus 20:1-17

¹God spoke all these words: ²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

By the Singers

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- | vives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to | the simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | joice the heart;**
the commandment of the LORD is clear
and gives light | to the eyes.

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and en- | dures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous | altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold,**
sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb.

¹¹By them also is your ser- | vant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is | great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's | own offenses?**
Cleanse me from my | secret faults.

^{13a}Above all, keep your servant from presump- | tuous sins;
let them not get dominion | over me;

^{13b}**Then shall I be | whole and sound,**
and innocent of a | great offense.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable | in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the
discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the
scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the
wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not
know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our
proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and
Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling
block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called,
both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness
is stronger than human strength.

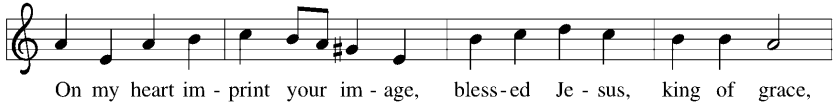
The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand as you are able

Gospel Acclamation

“On My Heart Imprint Your Image,” #811



Gospel

John 2:13-22

At the announcement of the Gospel:

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!”

¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?”

¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

²⁰The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be seated

Sermon

Pastor Bridger

Hymn of the Day “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways,” #772



- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
- 2 Or - der my foot-steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
- 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
- 4 Make me to walk in your com-mands, 'tis a de-light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Stand as you are able

Confession of Faith

P With the Church of every time and every place, we confess our faith.

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

C **Amen.**

A 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.

C **Amen.**

A 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.

C **Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayers:

Lord, in your mercy. . .

C Hear our prayer.

Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Greet those around you with these or similar words, after which you may be seated in prayerful silence as the altar is prepared. Stand again as you are able at the pastor's invitation

Presentation of the Offering

“Canticle of the Turning,”

A Let us pray.

Receive, O God, our bodies and souls and all our talents, together with these offerings we bring before you. For you have bought us to be your own, that we may live for you.

C Amen.

The Lord's Supper

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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

By the singers—



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P Holy God, almighty and immortal, we thank and praise you for your unaccountable love...who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

C Amen.

C 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

Communion

By the singers—

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

Sending Hymn “God of Grace and God of Glory,” #705 *stanzas 1, 3, 4*



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“God of Grace and God of Glory,” Healey Willan

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Serving Today

Preaching Minister – Pastor Bridger

Presiding Minister – Pastor Burce

Assisting Ministers – Ron Coulter

Acolyte – Noah Bridger

Singers – Allison Paton, Brad Paton

Organist – Connie Triplett

Deacon – Terrie Leske

Welcome Team – Debbie & Steve Schneider

Sound Technician – Jared Waugaman

Altar Guild – Tiffany Advani

Altar Flowers Are Given

In memory of Joyce Fry by the Altar Guild members

This Week's Commemorations

March 7—PERPETUA and FELICITY, d. 202, catechumens who were martyred in a great persecution of Christians that broke out in Carthage, North Africa.

March 10—HARRIET TUBMAN, d. 1913, and SOJOURNER TRUTH, d. 1883, African American Christians who escaped slavery and helped others do the same.

March 12—GREGORY THE GREAT, d. 604, the pope and bishop of Rome who shaped European history by sending missionaries to preach to the Anglo-Saxon invaders of Britain.

March 7

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22, Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-20

We encourage you to read the lessons as part of your preparation for divine services.

Messiah Lutheran Church

21485 Lorain Road, Fairview Park, OH 44126
(440) 331-2405
E-mail – church@messiahfp.org

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

Senior Pastor – Jerome Burce

Associate Pastor – Seth Bridger

Minister of Youth – Adonai Henderson

Pastoral Assistant – Ruth Mortensen

Music Director – Connie Triplett

Messiah School Principal – Helen Casselberry

Administrator & Pierstorff 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.