

Third Sunday in Lent
March 3, 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

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

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

Prelude

Three settings of Jesus, My Joy

J. G. Walther

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

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

ELW 645

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.



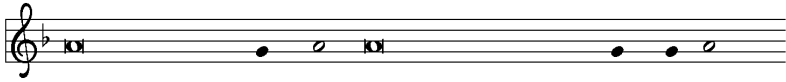
Lord, have mer - cy.



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.



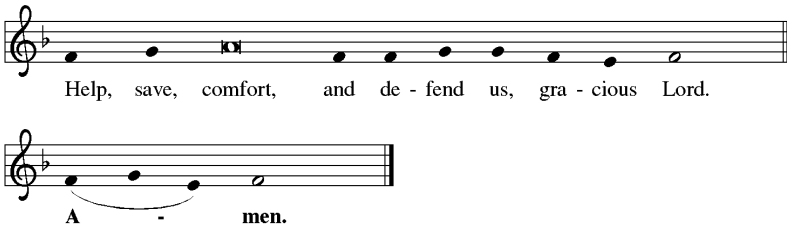
For this ho-ly house, and for all who of-fer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray,

Holy God, 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.

Sit

Word

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.

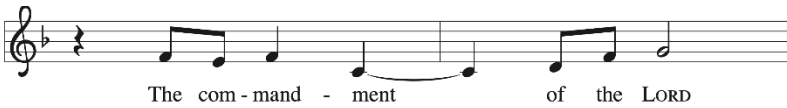
¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

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.

A The Word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 19

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



¹The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God, and the sky proclaims
its | maker's | handiwork.

²**One day tells its tale | to another, and one night imparts
knowledge | to another.**

³Although they have no | words or language, and their voices | are not
heard,

⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the
ends | of the world, where God has pitched a tent | for the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out | of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to | run its course.

⁶**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs
about to the end of | it again; nothing is hidden from its | burning
heat.**

Refrain

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.** Refrain

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.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get
dominion | over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of
a | great offense.

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

Refrain

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.”

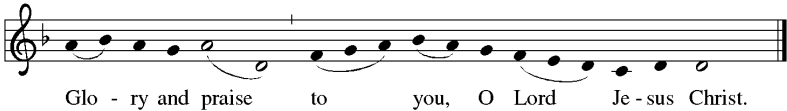
²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For 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 the 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.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation



Cantor/Choir: We proclaim Christ crucified, the power of God and the wisdom of God. (1 Cor. 1: 23, 24)*

Gospel

John 2: 13-22

P The Holy Gospel according to John

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.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon

Rev. Seth Bridger

Silence for Reflection; Stand

Hymn of the Day

Christ Is the Life

ACS 927



1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive
2 Christ is the death of all that is; a broad and beck - 'ning
3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing
4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the



Word, whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the
tomb, who wel - comes us from well - worn ways to
fire, whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as
End; cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans -



worlds to Be - ing stirred. Christ is the life be - yond all
dark - ness of the womb. Christ is the death, the sink - ing
kin - dling for the pyre. Christ is the death of dust - y
form - ing burn - ing brand. Christ is the life, in whose wise



time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath, whose la - bor
down past all de - sire and fear, whose prom - ise
days of un - cre - a - tive strife, for out from
love cre - a - tion lives and dies and thus for -



brings all things to be and brings all things to death.
in the gen - tle dark bids new - ness to ap - pear.
fire we tread up - on the thresh - old of new life.
ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ.

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

Stand as the Offerings are brought forward

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.

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:

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

- 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:
- C Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.
- P Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
- C Come, Holy Spirit.**
- P Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.
- C Come, Holy Spirit.**
- P We praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.
- C 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 ELW page 164

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

Holy God, Holy and Glorious

ELW 637

Thee We Adore, O Savior

ELW 476

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

God of Grace and God of Glory

ELW 705

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

God of Grace

Paul Manz

Serving Today

Preaching & Presiding Today – Rev. Seth Bridger

Deacon – Robert Trapp (8:30) Amy & Mark Hunger (11:00)

Interim Music Director – Deborah Zudell-Dickey

Altar Guild –Elenor Davis, Diane Paton

In Our Prayers

- For all in harms way due to violence and warfare, those experiencing economic hardships, and all who serve in areas of public safety.
- 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 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 expectant mothers and hope filled fathers to be, for new parents, and for those who long and pray for the opportunity to become parents.
- For those with health concerns: Steve Ruetschi, Kevin Albers after a hospitalization, Jim Schultz, Maddie Polenz, Rev. Daniel Benuska, Marilyn Sheerer, Leo McDonald (grandson of Dianne), 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), Lisa (friend of Jim Huetter), Karen Wolf's mother, those quietly receiving medical treatments, and those experiencing mental health concerns.

This Week's Commemorations

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

God's Word for Next Week Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

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

Presence Candle

Is given in remembrance of
Karen Gutske
by her family.

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Jesus, My Joy, (Jesu, meine Freude), J. G. Walther, Bärenreiter

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Thee We Adore, O Savior, Text: Thomas Aquinas; Music: Plainsong mode V.

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Messiah Lutheran Church

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Connect with Messiah – text 'MESSIAHFP' to 84576 to sign-up

Messiah Lutheran School

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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.