

## **Fourth Sunday in Lent**

March 10, 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 fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

# Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 8:30 & 11:00 am

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

Prelude

*Ricercare*

Johann Jakob Froberger

## 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

*Give to Our God Immortal Praise!*

ELW 848

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,



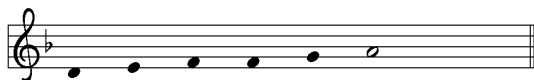
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



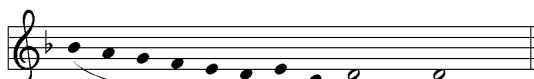
Lord, have mer - cy.



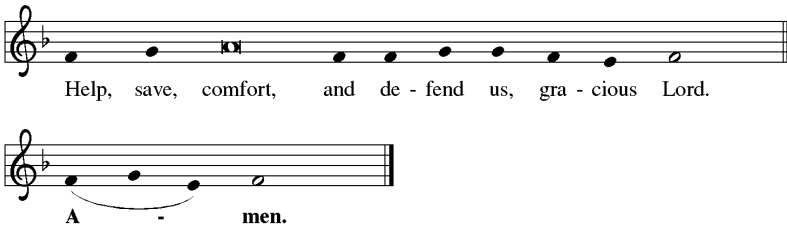
For this ho-ly house, and for all who of-fer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



## Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray,  
 O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, 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

Numbers 21: 4-9

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

**A** The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22

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



You de - li-ver your peo - ple from their dis-tress.



<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good,  
for God's mercy en- | dures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the | LORD proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand | of the foe,**

<sup>3</sup>gathering them in | from the lands;  
from the east and from the west, from the north and | from the south.

<sup>17</sup>**Some were fools and took re- | bellious paths;  
through their sins they | were afflicted.**

<sup>18</sup>They loathed all man- | ner of food  
and drew near | to death's door.

<sup>19</sup>**Then in their trouble they cried | to the LORD  
and you delivered them from | their distress.**

**Refrain**

<sup>20</sup>You sent forth your | word and healed them  
and rescued them | from the grave.

<sup>21</sup>**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your | steadfast love  
and your wonderful works | for all people.**

<sup>22</sup>Let them offer sacrifices | of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds with | shouts of joy.

**Refrain**

Second Reading

Ephesians 2: 1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

A The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

### Gospel Acclamation



Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

*Cantor/Choir: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3: 16)*

### Gospel

John 3: 14-21

P The Holy Gospel according to John

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said:] <sup>14</sup>“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.

<sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

Sermon

Rev. Michael Koch

*Silence for Reflection; Stand*

Hymn of the Day

*There in God's Garden*

ELW 342

*Stanza 3 low voices, stanza 4 high voices*

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](http://tinyurl.com/giveMLC)*

Offering is Received

Music at the Offering

(8:30) *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* Robert A. Hobby

(11:00) Joy Ringers *Amazing Grace* arr. Anna Laura Page

*Stand as the Offerings are brought forward*



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.**  
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

*God Loved the World  
That Priceless Grace*

ELW 323  
ELW 591

*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

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

ELW 666

## Dismissal

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*I Know That My Redeemer Lives!*

David Cherwien

## **Altar Flowers**

Are given in Loving memory of  
Sylvia Albers  
By the Albers, Linenkugel & Neely families.

## **Serving Today**

Preaching Today – Rev. Michael Koch  
Presiding Today – Rev. Seth Bridger  
Assisting Minister – Ron Coulter (8:30) Janice Snyder (11:00)  
Acolyte – Hayden Wolf (11:00)  
Deacon –Terrie Leske (11:00)  
Interim Music Director – Deborah Zudell-Dickey  
Joy Ringers – Ruth King  
Altar Guild –Debbie Luckens, Ruth Mortensen

## 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: Raffee Johns, Kevin Albers, Jim Schultz, Maddie Polenz, Steve Reutschi, 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 mom, those quietly receiving medical treatments, and those experiencing mental health concerns.

## This Week's Commemorations

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

*Mar. 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.

## God's Word for Next Week Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31: 31-34, Psalm 51: 1-12, Hebrews 5: 5-10,  
John 12: 20-33

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

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Give to Our God Immortal Praise, Text: Isaac Watts, Music: attr. John Hatton

There in God's Garden, Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi; tr. Eric Routley; Music: K. Lee Scott,

Text: © 1979 Hinshaw Music, Inc.; Music: © 1987 Birnamwood Publications, a div. of

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When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, Robert A. Hobby, copyright © 1996 MorningStar Music Publishers.

God Loved the World, Text: Gesangbuch; tr. August Crull, Music: Edward Miller, adapt.

What Wondrous Love Is This, Text: North American folk hymn, Music: W. Walker, Southern

Harmony; arr. Paul J. Christiansen; Arr. © 1955 Augsburg Publishing House.

WONDROUS LOVE, Harm. by Paul Manz, copyright © 1992 Morning Star Music Publishers. All rights reserved.

What Wondrous Love Is This, Arrangement: Marilyn Biery; copyright © 2007 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

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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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[www.messiahfairview.org](http://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.*