

Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 17, 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

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 8:30 & 11:00 am

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

Prelude *Draw Nigh and Take the Body of the Lord* by David Schack

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 *Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church* ELW 321

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

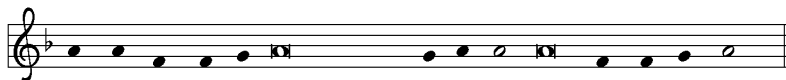
C And also with you.



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



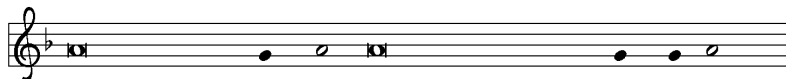
Lord, have mer - cy.



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,



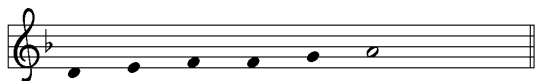
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



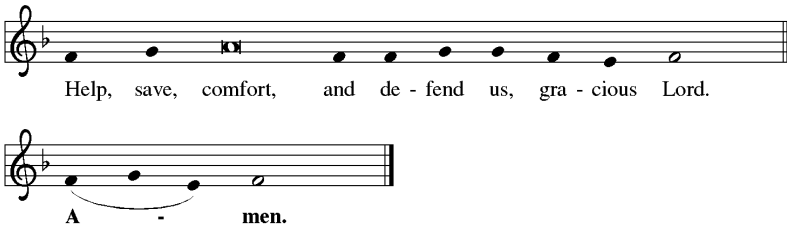
For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray,

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, 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

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

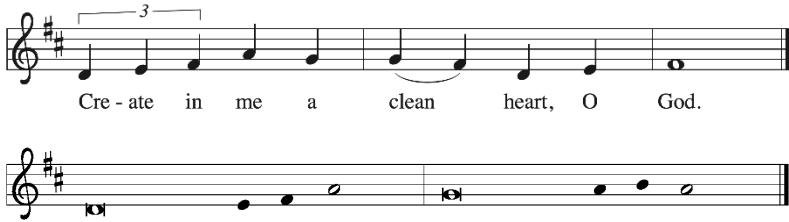
³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119: 9-16

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



⁹How shall the young keep | their way clean?

By keeping | to your word.

¹⁰**With my whole | heart I seek you;
let me not stray from | your commandments.**

¹¹I treasure your promise | in my heart,
that I may not | sin against you.

¹²**Blessed are | you, O LORD;
instruct me | in your statutes.**

¹³With my lips | I recite
all the judgments | of your mouth.

¹⁴**I take greater delight in the way of | your decrees
than in all man- | ner of riches.**

¹⁵I will meditate on | your commandments
and give attention | to your ways.

¹⁶**My delight is | in your statutes;
I will not for- | get your word.**

Second Reading

Hebrews 5: 5-10

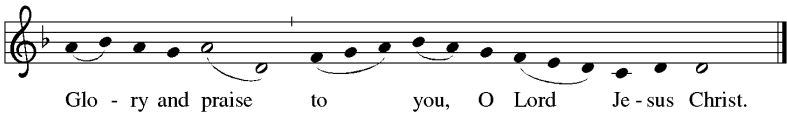
⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; ⁶as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation



Cantor/Choir: Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (John 12:24)*

Gospel

John 12: 20-33

P The Holy Gospel according to John

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon

Rev. Seth Bridger

Silence for Reflection; Stand

Refrain

Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of
 liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing
 and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
 2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
 3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
 goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
 friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain

fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
 deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
 day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

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

Holy Communion

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

Choir (8:30)

Come, Ye Sinners

Setting David Ashley White

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 Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-lowed be your name,
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav-en.
Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a-gainst us. Save us from the time of tri-al
and de-liv-er us from e-vil. For the king-dom, the pow'r,
and the glo-ry are yours, now and for-ev-er. A-men.

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

*As the Grains of Wheat
Come to the Table*

ELW 465
ELW 481

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.

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Crucifer, Lift High the Cross

by John Eggert

Serving Today

Preaching & Presiding Today – Rev. Seth Bridger
Assisting Minister – Christopher Peters (11:00)
Deacon –Robert Trapp (8:30) Terrie Leske (11:00)
Interim Music Director – Deborah Zudell-Dickey
Altar Guild –Marilyn Edwards, Martha Trapp

This Week's Commemorations

Mar. 17—PATRICK, d. 461, the great missionary to Ireland.

Mar 19—JOSEPH, Mary's husband and the guardian of our Lord, whose faith and courage helped bring the light of Christ into the world.

Mar. 21—JONATHAN EDWARDS, d. 1758, the greatest theologian of the American colonial era and a renowned preacher whose sermons helped fuel a widespread renewal called the First Great Awakening.

God's Word for Next Week

Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50: 4-9a, Psalm 31: 9-16, Philippians 2: 5-11,
Mark 14: 1-15: 47

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

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: Emerson Buskirk, Ellie Hendrickson (Edna Martin's great-granddaughter), Kevin Albers, Chip Difiore as he recovers from knee replacement surgery, Raffee Johns after surgery, 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.

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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.