

**Fifth Sunday in Lent  
April 6, 2025**

## **Messiah Lutheran Church**

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## **Messiah Lutheran School**

4401 W. 215<sup>th</sup> St., Fairview Park, OH 44126, (440) 331-6553

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**Welcome to worship!** We are delighted you chose to worship here today. May you be strengthened through God's word and the promise of life 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 first loved us all.

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### ***Concerning the sacrament of Holy Communion***

- “In this sacrament the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery.”<sup>1</sup>
- “Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, presented through the church to those who are baptized.”<sup>2</sup> We welcome to the Lord's table all who commune in other Christian faiths.<sup>3</sup>
- Gluten-free hosts are available for those who need them; ask the pastor as you approach.
- Those not communing, are encouraged to come forward for a blessing, for all are loved by God.
- If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know you would like to receive communion at your seat.

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<sup>1</sup> The Use of the Means of Grace (ELCA), Part III, Principal 33

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, Part III, Principal 37

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, Part III, Principal 49

## Fifth Sunday in Lent

*You are invited to participate at the places marked with **bold** type.*

Prelude: "O That I Had a Thousand Voices"

Paul Manz

### ----- Gathering -----

*Please stand as you are able.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's  
abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One,  
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
but our lives do not always reflect you  
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion  
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality  
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,  
even though you have set us free again and again.**

**We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.**

**Transform our lives  
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
God's arms are always stretched open wide  
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

**Amen.**

Hymn #833 "Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices"

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

Kyrie (page 156, front of red hymn book)

Let us pray. Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

----- Word -----

First Reading

Isaiah 43:16-21

<sup>16</sup> Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea,  
a path in the mighty waters,

<sup>17</sup> who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior;  
they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished,  
quenched like a wick:

<sup>18</sup> Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

<sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing;

now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

<sup>20</sup> The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,

<sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

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

Psalm 126



<sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,  
then were we like | those who dream.

<sup>2</sup> **Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with | shouts of joy.  
Then they said among the nations,  
“The LORD has done great | things for them.”**

**Refrain**

<sup>3</sup> The LORD has done great | things for us,  
and we are | glad indeed.

<sup>4</sup> **Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses | of the Negeb.**

<sup>5</sup> Those who | sowed with tears  
will reap with | songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup> **Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,  
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.** **Refrain**

Second Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup> If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh,  
I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people  
of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to  
the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to  
righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup> Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss  
because of Christ. <sup>8</sup> More than that, I regard everything as loss  
because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.  
For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them  
as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not  
having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one  
that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based  
on faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and  
the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> if  
somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the  
goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has  
made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my  
own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining  
forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize  
of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

*Please stand as you are able*



Choir/Cantor: Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what <sup>1</sup> lies ahead,\* I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God <sup>1</sup> in Christ Jesus.

Gospel

John 12:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to John the 12th chapter.

**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. <sup>3</sup> Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup> "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup> (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup> Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

Sermon

*Silence for reflection.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

# Hymn ACS #1002 “Holy Woman, Graceful Giver”



1 Ho - ly wom - an, grace - ful giv - er, proph - et,  
 2 How the fra - grance filled the dwell - ing! How the  
 3 Lov - ing - ly Christ stilled the scoff - er who would  
 4 Though dis - dained or though con - test - ed, acts of



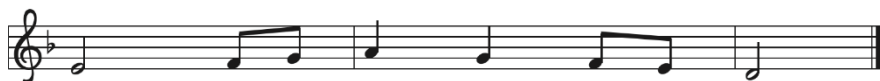
ser - vant, and be - liev - er, Mar - y with the oint - ment  
 act of beau - ty well - ing blest all those with - in the  
 grasp - ing guard the cof - fer, point - ing to a hid - den  
 love are nev - er wast - ed: beau - ty is a face of



jar, sought by Christ, by scorn un - daunt - ed, knelt in  
 place! How the act of pure de - vo - tion, whis - p'ring  
 trove: not all trea - sures gain and pro - fit, feed the  
 God. Grace - ful Mar - y, by your giv - ing, you have



love, his feet a - noint - ed for his com - ing bur - ial  
 of his com - ing pas - sion, blest the heart of Christ with  
 poor, and feed the spir - it acts of beau - ty, acts of  
 shown a way of liv - ing: acts of beau - ty, love, and



hour, for his com - ing bur - ial hour.  
 grace, blest the heart of Christ with grace!  
 love, acts of beau - ty, acts of love.  
 good, acts of beau - ty, love, and good.

Let us confess our faith in the words of the 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

*Each portion of the prayers ends with:*

A: Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude with:*

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The assembly may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace*

*You may be seated.*

Offering is received

*Electronic offerings may be made via:  
text to 855-913-1744, or scan*



(8:30) "O Bread of Life from Heaven"

(11:00) "Turn Thee to Me"

David Cherwien

Antonin Dvorak

*Please stand as you are able.*

Hymn #186 "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

A: Let us pray. Gracious Provider,

**you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

----- **Holy Communion** -----

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.**



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy” (page 162, front of red hymn book)

In the night in which he was betrayed...Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: “The Lord’s Prayer” (page 163, front of red hymn book)

All who are hungry, come!  
The feast of grace is spread.

**Thanks be to God! Amen!**

*Please be seated.*

“Lamb of God” (page 163, front of red hymn book)

Distribution Hymns:

Hymn #466 “In the Singing”

Hymn #685 “Take My Life, That I May Be”

*Please stand as you are able.*

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

A: Let us pray. Generous Host,  
**you have shared your feast with us and made us new.**  
**Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,**  
**that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,**  
**in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.**  
**Amen.**

-----**Sending** -----

God our tender parent, God the crucified one,  
God the reconciling Spirit, ☩ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

Hymn #802 “Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus”

A: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.  
**We will, with God's help.**

Postlude: "Little Prelude and Fugue in A Minor"

J.S. Bach

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### **Serving Today**

Preaching Minister: Rev. William Weidenbach, Jr

Presiding Minister: Rev. Seth Bridger

Assisting Minister: Carl Herhuth (8:30) Mike Thiel (11:00)

Communion Assistant: Linda Herhuth (8:30) Linda Weidenbach(11:00)

Deacons: Needed (8:30) Terrence Bonness (11:00)

Acolyte: Eli Henry (8:30) Nicholas Skliros (11:00)

Soloist: Christopher Switzer

Choir Director & Coordinator of Music Ministry: Deborah Zudell-Dickey

Principal Organist: Michael Cherup

Altar Guild: Elenor Davis, Marilyn Edwards

Children's Church: Kristen Jolicoeur, Claire Connelly

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### **Prayers of the Congregation**

- For people the world over who are living in the midst of war and its tumult. That all may strive for peace and reconciliation. That all may ask; What will you have me do, Lord?
  - For those lifted up by worshippers last week at all of our on-line and in-person services: Herb, Carol, Nancy, Lori, Sandi, Chuck, Don, Karen, Gary, Jim, Kate, Matt, Mason, Julia, Simon, Brody, Heather, Alex, Evelyn, Andy, Mason, Rae, Lisa, Doug, Sand, Paula, Gayle, Tom, John and family as they lay to rest Marlyne's ashes, and earthquake victims in Myanmar and Thailand.
  - For all government leaders to practice grace and compassion in their actions. And for us to have the courage to only speak words of love and mercy. For all those suffering physically, emotionally or financially from decisions made by others.
  - Those for whom we quietly pray; those who struggle emotionally and financially, those with family discord, those whose jobs are at risk or unfulfilling, those who are afraid or worried, those with health concerns, and those we have not yet reached with the love of Christ.
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“Turn Thee to Me” is from a cycle of Biblical Songs written by Czech composer Antonin Dvorak in 1894. In this work of great spiritual depth, the composer speaks to God of his anxieties, trust and joy. The songs all share a rare intensity of emotion and exceptional melodic beauty.

It is widely believed the "Eight Little Preludes and Fugues for Organ" were not composed by J.S. Bach. Many scholars say it was likely one of Bach's students or children that composed it under his name.

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In The Singing; Text by Shirley E. Murry, Music by Carlton R. Young, © 1996 Hope Publishing Co.

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus; Text by Sigismund von Birken; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices; Text by Johann Mentzer, tr. composite © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

O That I Had a Thousand Voices, Paul Manz, © 1964 Concordia Publishing House.

O Bread of Life from Heaven, David Cherwien, © 1993 SUMMA Productions.

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