

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 28, 8:30 & 11 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

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

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

Prelude

Healer of Our Every Ill Setting by David Chernien

Gathering

Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, **+** one God, creator of darkness and light,
word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for self-examination.

P God, our rock and refuge,
We pour out our hearts before you.
We have known you but have not always loved you.
We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.
We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.
Remember your covenant.
Renew your creation.
Restore us,
that we might proclaim your good news to all.

C Amen.

P The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.
God has spoken:
The time of grace is now.
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.
By the authority of **+** Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
You are God's beloved.

C Amen.

Gathering Hymn

O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come

ELW 610

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.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray,

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Sit

Word

First Reading

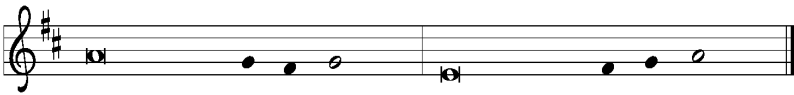
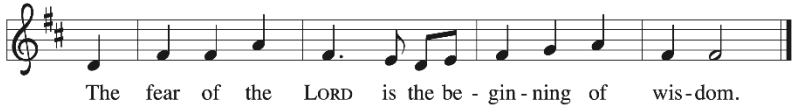
Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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



- ¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with | my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.
- ²**Great are your | works, O LORD, pondered by all who de- | light in them.**
- ³Majesty and splendor | mark your deeds,
and your righteousness en- | dures forever.
- ⁴**You cause your wonders to | be remembered;
you are gracious and full | of compassion. Refrain**
- ⁵You give food to | those who fear you,
remembering forev- | er your covenant.
- ⁶**You have shown your people the power | of your works
in giving them the lands | of the nations.**
- ⁷The works of your hands are faithful- | ness and justice;
all of your pre- | cepts are sure.
- ⁸**They stand fast forev- | er and ever,
because they are done in | truth and equity. Refrain**
- ⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your cove- | nant
forever;
holy and awesome | is your name.
- ¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the begin- | ning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise
en- | dures forever. Refrain**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia

Choir/Cantor: The people who sat in darkness have seen | a great light, for those who sat in the shadow of death | light has dawned. (Matthew 4:16)*

Gospel

Mark 1:21-28

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

Cast Out O Christ

ACS1016



1 Cast out, O Christ, cast far a - way the
 2 Our rag - ing griefs, our jeal - ous fears are
 3 Once long a - go, from Gal - i - lee, you
 4 Your word breathes life and health and hope that
 5 So come, O Christ, and cast a - way the



de - mons that de - stroy: the haunt - ing dreads that
 Le - gion in their name. Our shack - led hearts im -
 sailed to storm - tossed shores. And still, in pow'r, you
 break through e - vil's thrall. You send us, strength - ened,
 de - mons that de - stroy. Trans - form our lives to



choke our souls, the hates that sti - fle joy.
 plore your grace to loose our bind - ing shame.
 brave new paths to breach our bolt - ed doors.
 home in peace to live your gos - pel call.
 sense your love and spread a - broad your joy.

**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

Pastoral Call Committee Update

The Lord’s Supper

If the Lord so moves you, you can make an offering by text to 855-913-1744 or by visiting our online giving portal at tinyurl.com/giveMLC

Offering is Received

Music at the Offering

11:00 Choir

The Silent Stars Shine Down on Us

Thomas Keesecker

Stanza 3 - As they offered gifts most rare
 at thy cradle, rude and bare,
 so may we with holy joy,
 pure and free from sin's alloy,
 all our costliest treasures bring,
 Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.

Stand as the Offerings are brought forward

A Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
 Meet us at this table,
 that we receive what we seek
 and follow your Son, Jesus,
 in whose name we pray.
 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:

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW page 108

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

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord ... (the prayer continues) ...
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory,
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.

Lamb of God

ELW page 112

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, grant us peace.

Sit

Communion

Distribution Hymns

Healer of Our Every Ill
We Come to You for Healing, Lord

ELW 612
ELW 617

Stand after all have communed

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

C **Amen.**

Post Communion Canticle *O Lord, Now Let Your Servant* ELW 313

A Giver of every gift,
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.
Raise us to life by your power
for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sending

P God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
And the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
✠ bless you and remain with you always.

C **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Rise, Shine, You People!

ELW 665

Dismissal

A Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

The Only Son from Heaven

Johann Pachelbel



ShroveFest 2024

Tuesday, February 12 11:30 am – 6:30 pm

We are excited to bring back our ShroveFest Drive-Thru Event on February 13. ShroveFest To Go will be available for sale both as lunch and dinner from 11:30 am – 6:30 pm. KidsShrove, Carry-Out, and ShroveLounge is from 4 – 6 pm. Featured entrees include Messiah's famous Cabbage Roll Meal, Pulled Pork Meal, and Combo Plates – with homemade strudel and packzis for dessert. Cabbage and Noodles will be available beginning at 4pm. Don't forget to look out for frozen cabbage sales after Sunday Church services leading up to the event as well!

For all things Shrove please visit mfp.fyi/Shrove for event details, menu, and volunteering opportunities. We are thrilled to see you again for another amazing event you only get once a year.

So what is ShroveLounge? We heard you when you said you missed the fellowship that this event has brought over many years – this is why we will be offering space to mingle amidst fellow guests while you wait for your carryout order, or while children enjoy the excitement of KidsShrove. Come inside from 4 – 6 pm for Shrove ambiance with standing tables to gather around and connect. We can't wait to see you!

Join us for Ash Wednesday Worship February 14th at 7 pm.

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Serving Today

Preaching & Presiding Today – Rev. Seth Bridger
Acolyte – Hayden Wolf(11:00)
Deacon – Bob Trapp (8:30) Terrie Leske (11:00)
Interim Music Director – Deborah Zudell-Dickey
Altar Guild – Maria Geier, Debbie Luekens

In Our Prayers

- For the light of Christ to shine in the lives of God's people near and far.
- For all in harms way due to violence and warfare, those experiencing economic hardships, and those who serve in areas of public safety.
- 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 those with health concerns: Leo McDonald (grandson of Dianne), Maddie and the Polenz family, Sharon Raquet, Priscilla Hinsch, Kristy Younger, Cliff Preuss, Sue Nerlinger, Terri Civittolo, Linda Stoddard, Liz Dimmock, Nina Long, Evelyn and Churchill Ward, Andrew Boraggina, Marc Heidmann, Officer Nickolas, Baby Miles, Carla (friend of Rita-Ann Shaffer), those quietly receiving medical treatments, and those experiencing mental health concerns.

This Week's Commemorations

Jan. 28—THOMAS AQUINAS, d. 1274, a Dominican priest and one of the greatest figures in the history of Western thought. His theology, a correlation of Christian faith and the philosophy of Aristotle, continues to be enormously influential, especially in Roman Catholic circles.

Feb. 2—THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD, a day remembering how Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple forty days after his birth. The day is also known as Candlemas.

Feb 3—ANSGAR, d. 865, a monk who led a mission to Sweden and founded the first church there. He is sometimes called the Apostle to the Swedes.

God's Word for Next Week **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 40:21-31, Psalm 147:1-11,20c, 1 Corinthians 9:16-23,
Mark 1:29-39

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

Messiah Lutheran Church

21485 Lorain Road, Fairview Park, OH 44126

(440) 331-2405

E-mail – church@messiahfp.org

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

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

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.