

Jesus was
led by the Spirit in
the wilderness

LUKE 4:1



First Sunday in Lent
March 9, 8:30 am & 11:00 am

Messiah Lutheran Church

21485 Lorain Road, Fairview Park, OH 44126, (440) 331-2405

E-mail – church@messiahfp.org

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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

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.

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.”¹
- “Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, presented through the church to those who are baptized.”² We welcome to the Lord's table all who commune in other Christian faiths.³
- 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.

¹ The Use of the Means of Grace (ELCA), Part III, Principal 33

² Ibid, Part III, Principal 37

³ Ibid, Part III, Principal 49

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

Prelude: "Lord of All Hopefulness"

David Cherwien

----- **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: "Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church"

ELW 321

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

ELW page 156

Let us pray, O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through 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

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

¹When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

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

Cantor will sing stanzas, congregation will sing refrain.

Second Reading

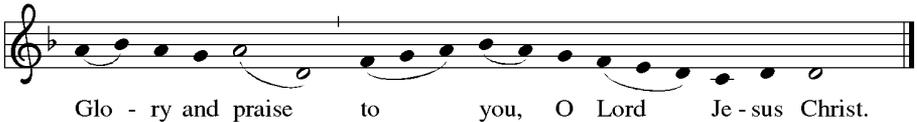
Romans 10:8b-13

^{8b} "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able



Choir/Cantor: One does not live by ¹ bread alone,* but by every word that comes from the ¹ mouth of God.

Gospel

Luke 4:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴ Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be

yours.”⁸ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here,¹⁰ for it is written,

He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’¹¹ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

¹² Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon

Rev. Seth Bridger

Silence for reflection.

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn: “When We Are Tested”

ACS 922

1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,
fam - ish - ed for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,
nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,
food that sus - tains us by night and by day,
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest,
seek - ing your will in the work that we do,
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

(8:30 only) 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*



Joy Ringers (8:30) "On My Heart Imprint Your Image" Tyleen Stutts

Messiah Students Sing (11:00) "Do Lord! Psalm 27" John Ylivsaker

Please stand as you are able.

Offertory: "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

ELW 186

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 al - so 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 alltimes . . .
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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:
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.

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

Thanks be to God! Amen!

Please be seated.

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.

Distribution Hymns:

(8:30) "The Call"

R. Vaughan Williams

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

ELW 471

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

ELW 325

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.**

Blessing of the Eucharistic Ministers

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

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

Hymn: "Bless Now, O God, the Journey"

ELW 326

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

Postlude: "Meditation on an American Folk Hymn"

Carl Simone

Altar Flowers are in loving memory of Sylvia Albers given by the Albers, Linenkugel and Neely families.

Serving Today

Preaching Minister – Rev. Seth Bridger

Presiding Minister – Rev. William Weidenbach, Jr.

Assisting Minister – Chris Neumann (8:30) Mike Thiel (11:00)

Communion Assistant Melissa Hollander (8:30) Linda & Bob Stoddard (11:00)

Deacons – Needed (8:30) Needed (11:00)

Acolyte – Paige Neumann (8:30) Ella McCarty (11:00)

Cantors – Christopher Switzer (8:30) Maren Casselberry (11:00)

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

Principal Organist – Michael Cherup

Altar Guild – Marilyn Edwards, Elenor Davis

Children's Church – Kristen Jolicoeur, Claire Connelly

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: Amy, Doug, Kim, Elaine, Edna, Rita, Joh, celebrating birth of Sullivan Anthony Whitaker, Tom, Gayle, Pope Francis, beginning of Lenten season, Lois, Nancy, Lon, Linda and Bill, Julia, Simon, Brody, Heather, Alex, Kate, Mason, Evelyn, Andy, Herbert, Joyce Jill, Richard, Bob and Darlene, Mike and Marilyn, Myra, Chris, Bryan, Jim, David, Monica, Marguerite, Jacob, Harrison, Frank, Danny, Dennie, Sara, Ronnie, Debbie, Charlie, Dave, Dana, George, Marion, peace with Mile's diagnosis, Schaefer family, Dory family, Eckert family, and Orzech family.
- 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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