

**Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 30, 2025**

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

E-mail – church@messiahfp.org

www.messiahfairview.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

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

Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

Prelude: "Verset de *Procession sur l'Adoro Te*" Leon Boellmann

----- 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 #606 "Our Father, We Have Wandered"

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. God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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

Joshua 5:9-12

⁹ The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32



Be glad, you right-teous, and re-joice in the LORD.



*Choir/Cantor sings Refrain; Assembly repeats & sings **bold print**.*

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions ¹ are forgiven,
and whose sin is ¹ put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the LORD im-¹ putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there ¹ is no guile!**

Refrain

³While I held my tongue, my bones with-¹ered away,
because of my groaning ¹all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me ¹day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the ¹heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con-¹ceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave
me the guilt ¹of my sin.

⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in ¹time of
trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they ¹shall not reach them.**

Refrain

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve ¹me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts ¹of deliverance.

⁸**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that ¹you should go;
I will guide you ¹with my eye.**

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no ¹understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will ¹not stay near
you."

¹⁰**Great are the tribulations ¹of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust ¹in the LORD.**

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice ¹in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are ¹true of heart.

Refrain

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.



Choir/Cantor: I will arise and go to my fa-^lther and say,*
I have sinned against heaven^l and before you.

Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

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 #407 “O Living Breath of God”

(11:00) Holy Baptism – Thea Evelyn Schroeder (page 227, front of red hymn book)

(8:30) 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*



"Melodia Semplice"

Lani Smith

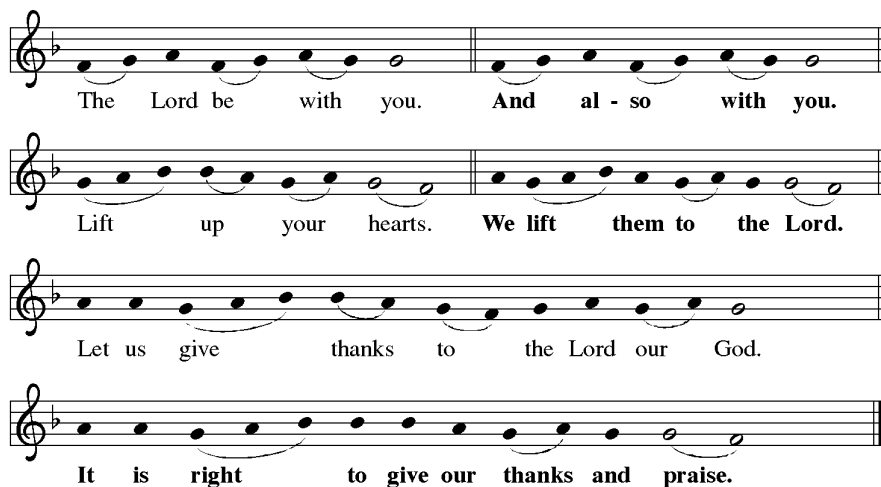
Please stand as you are able.

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 -----



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 164, front of red hymn book)

Distribution Hymns:

Hymn #779 “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

Hymn #442 “All Who Believe and Are Baptized”

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 #328 "Restore in Us, O God"

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

Postlude: Amazing Grace

David Cherwien

Serving Today

Preaching Minister: Rev. Seth Bridger

Presiding Minister: Rev. William Weidenbach, Jr.

Assisting Minister: Linda Herhuth (8:30) Christopher Peters (11:00)

Communion Assistant: Dave Pedley (8:30) Carolyn Watkins (11:00)

Deacons: Robert Trapp (8:30) Terrie Leske, Terrence Bonness (11:00)

Acolyte: Needed (8:30 Leroy Russ (11:00)

Cantors: Brad Paton, Linda Weidenbach

Flute: Bethany Henderson

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

Principal Organist: Michael Cherup

Altar Guild: Debbie Luekens, Ruth Mortensen

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: Mike, Phyllis, Betty, Richard, Pope Francis, Donna, Doug, Sandy, Shannon, Myra, Julia, Jaren, heather, Simon, Linda, Dolores, Andy, Don, Alex, Paul, Matt, Jim, Matt's mother, Dawn, Ray, David, Sandy, Jill, Bonnie, Dory family, Eckert family, Orzech family, Henry, Jacob, Bob, Marguerite, Kate, Rick, Brian, Chris, Marcia, Marilyn, Gary, Mike, Bill, Chuck Mason, Brody, Evelyn, Cameron, Harry, Joyce, John, Marilyn
 - 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.
-
-

Copyrights

Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License SB131019. Permission to stream/print the music in this service obtained from ONE [LICENSE.NET](https://www.onechurch.org/licenses). License #A-702571. All Rights Reserved.
Psalm from *Psalter for Worship, Year C*, Evangelical Lutheran Worship Edition, © 2008.
Create In Me a Clean Heart; Music by Richard W. Hillert, © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Our Father, We Have Wandered; Text by Kevin Nichols, *Resource Collection of Hymns and Service Music for the Liturgy*, © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.
O Living Breath of God; Text by Osvaldo Catena; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford. English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.
Restore in Us, O God; Text by Carl P. Daw Jr., © 1989 Hope Publishing Company. Music by Hal H. Hopson, © 1985 Hope Publishing Company.
Melodia Semplice, Lani Smith, © 2004 Lorenz Publishing Co.
Amazing Grace, David Cherwien, © 1984 A.M.S.I.

