

Messiah Lutheran Church

MessiahFairview.org

(440) 331-2405

Welcome to worship in the community of faith known as Messiah Church & School. It is both a delight and joy that you are here to worship God today. We believe the Holy Spirit of God gathers us together as one. May each of us be strengthened through his word and the promise in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Throughout the last 3 years of Covid-living, Messiah's leadership has made decisions with the greater good in mind. 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 worship via the livestream ministry of Messiah (MessiahFairview.org; click watch services online).

Holy Communion is shared at every worship service. Instructions for communion distribution can be found in the worship bulletin at the time of communion.

After worship today, stop by the Atrium area for coffee and conversation.

A note about the liturgy – Setting Five

During the Lenten season we will be singing setting five of the liturgy, a chant based setting, that was brought forward from *Lutheran Book of Worship*. Although setting five may not be as widely known as other settings, it is dearly loved and sung regularly in many congregations of the ELCA. As a counter-balance to an increasingly high-tech and complex world, there is a renewed interest in the simplicity of chant, especially among young people. The choir, cantors, and organ will help to lead this service. You are encouraged to join in the singing as you are able.

Introduction to The Day

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

Second Sunday in Lent

March 5, 8:30 & 11 am

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

Prelude

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me setting Robert A. Hobby

Gathering

Stand and turn to face the cross of Christ at the Entrance to the Sanctuary

Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C Amen.

P Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection

P Holy God,

C we confess to you our faults and failings.

**Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
we choose fear over compassion.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we encounter you and seek to follow in your life giving ways.
Amen.**

P Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only
Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy, ✠ forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the Spirit's power.

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.

Kyrie

Cantor/Choir sings first part;; all respond Lord have mercy



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.



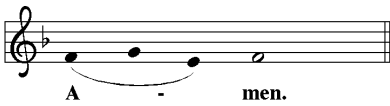
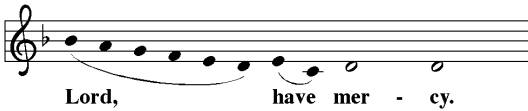
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord.



Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through 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

Genesis 12:1-4a

¹The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

P The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 121

Cantor sings refrain; All sing refrain

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
my help comes from the LORD.

*Cantor sings verses in regular print;
All sing verses in bold print and refrain*

- ¹I lift up my eyes | to the hills;
from where is my | help to come?
- ²**My help comes | from the LORD,**
the maker of heav- | en and earth.
- ³The LORD will not let your | foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.
- ⁴**Behold, the keep- | er of Israel**
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep; Refrain
- ⁵the LORD watches | over you;
the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;
- ⁶**the sun will not strike | you by day,**
nor the | moon by night.
- ⁷The LORD will preserve you | from all evil
and will | keep your life.
- ⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,**
from this time forth for- | evermore. Refrain

Second Reading

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.”

⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Cantor/choir sings Refrain; then all sing refrain



*Cantor: The Son of Man must be lifted up,
that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. (John 3:14-15)*

All repeat Refrain

Gospel

John 3:1-17

P The Holy Gospel according to John

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of

the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon

Pastor Krebill

Silence for Reflection; Stand

Hymn of the Day

God Loved the World

ELW 323

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.**

Prayer of the Church

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.

C And also with you.

*Greet those around you with these or similar words
You may be seated*

The Lord's Supper

Music at the Offering

Satan, We're Gonna Tear Your Kingdom Down Spiritual
Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley, Arr. Sandra Eithun

Choir (8:30)
Bells (11:00)

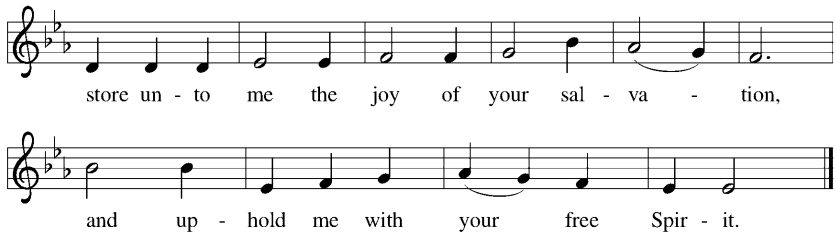
Stand as the Offerings are brought forward

Offertory:

Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW 188

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.

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

A Let us pray. God of good gifts,
C receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

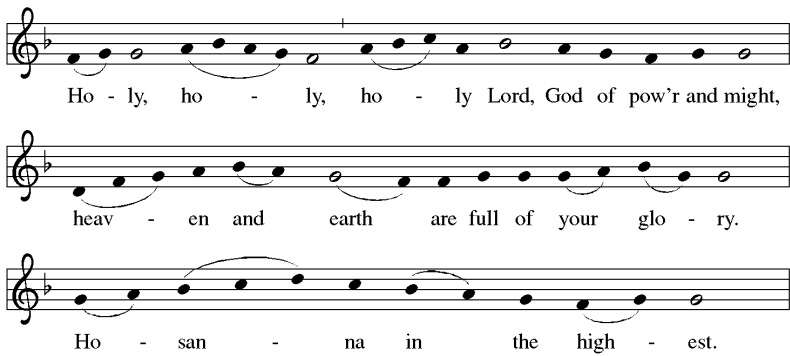
P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our 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.

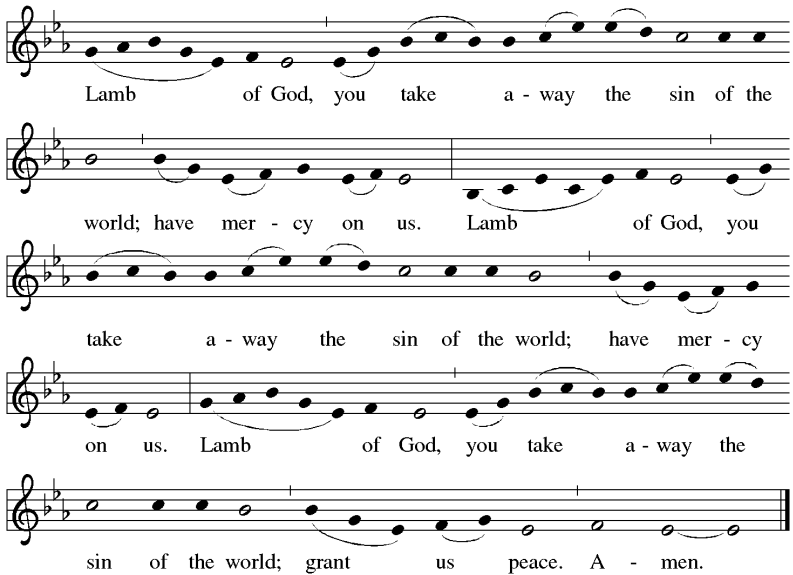
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - - na in the high - est.

P Holy, mighty and merciful Lord. . .now and forever.
 C Amen.

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.

Sit

Communion



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.

Distribution Hymns

Around You, O Lord Jesus	ELW 468
My Faith Looks Up to Thee	ELW 759

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 Prayer

A Let us pray. Encountering God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

C Amen.

Sending

Blessing

P God, the giver of all good gifts,
✠ Christ, the resurrection and redeemer,
and the Holy Spirit of restoration,
bless you in this Lenten journey.

C **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

ELW 325

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Allemande

DeSilva

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Serving Today

Preaching Minister – Pastor Krebill

Presiding Minister – – Pastor Bridger

Assisting Ministers – Ron Coulter (8:30); Lindsay Baker (11)

Acolytes – Cohen Thomas (8:30); Ella McCarty(11)

Cantor – Claire Connelly (11)

Joy Ringers Directed by Ruth King (11:00)

Messiah Choir (8:30) – Directed by Linda Kempke

Organist – Linda Kempke

Usher – Ed Kus(8:30) Frank & Karen Beodray(11)

Deacons –

Trish Kvasnicka (8:30); Michael Eckert, Alyssa Dory (11)

Altar Guild – Maria Geier, Debbie Luckens

In Our Prayers

- For faith to deepen through prayer, spiritual disciplines, and experiencing the Holy during the 40 days for Lent.
- In thanksgiving for the life of Ruth Glaser, and prayers of comfort for her family.
- For the ill: Shannon Brinkman, John Zupan, Jim Huetter, Sue Nerlinger, Geri Schuett, Donna Barth (sister of Kim Patton), Andrew Boraggina, Marc Heidmann, Jane Hegg, Steve Ruetschi, and Bill Russell.

Presence Candle Is Given

In remembrance of Karen Gustke by her family.

This Week's Commemorations

Mar. 7—PERPETUA and FELICITY, d. 202, catechumens who were martyred in a great persecution of Christians that broke out in Carthage, North Africa.

Mar. 10—HARRIET TUBMAN, d. 1913, and SOJOURNER TRUTH, d. 1883, African American Christians who escaped slavery and helped others do the same.

God's Word for Next Week

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42

We encourage you to read the lessons as part of your preparation for divine services.

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

Interim Pastor – The Rev. Steven M. Krebill

Pastoral Assistant – Deaconess Ruth Mortensen

Interim Music Director – Deacon Linda Kempke

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 – Danielle Twigg

Admin. Assistant & 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.