

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

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. Today, the **"Steps Towards Faith"** sermon series comes to a conclusion. When all of these stories are put together in the larger context from Ash Wednesday to Easter, these stories become our story.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 8:30 & 11 am

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

Prelude

Lord, Thee I Love With All My Heart -arr. Michael Costello

Gathering

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

Confession and Forgiveness

(8:30 only)

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

What Wondrous Love Is This

ELW 666

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.

Holy Baptism

Adalynn Genevieve Reust *See yellow insert. (11am only)*

Kyrie

(8:30 only)

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.



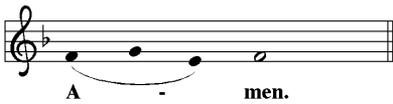
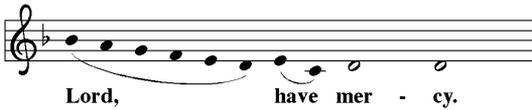
Lord, have mer - cy.



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,
Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through 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

Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” ⁴Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.”

¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

P The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

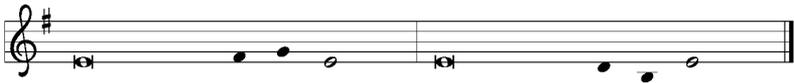
Psalm 130

Cantor sings refrain; All sing refrain



Cantor sings verses in regular print;

All sing verses in bold print and refrain



¹Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD;

²**O LORD, hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

³If you were to keep watch over sins,

O LORD, who could stand?

⁴**Yet with you is forgiveness,**

in order that you may be feared. Refrain

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

⁶**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning, more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love; with the LORD there is plentiful redemption.

**⁸For the LORD shall | redeem Israel
from | all their sins. Refrain**

Second Reading

Romans 8:6-11

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

P The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Cantor/choir sings Refrain; then all sing refrain



Cantor: I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me will never die. (*John 11:25, 26*)

All repeat Refrain

Gospel

John 11:1-45

P The Holy Gospel according to John

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” ⁹Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” ¹¹After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” ¹²The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” ²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a

stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon

Pastor Bridger

Silence for Reflection; Stand

Hymn of the Day

Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

ELW 750

Apostles' Creed

(8:30 only)

**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

Update on the Pastoral Transition from the Discernment Committee

The Lord's Supper

Music at the Offering

What Wondrous Love Is This arr. Jason W. Krug (ASCAP) Bells(8:30)

Jesus Is a Rock – African American Spiritual Choir (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.

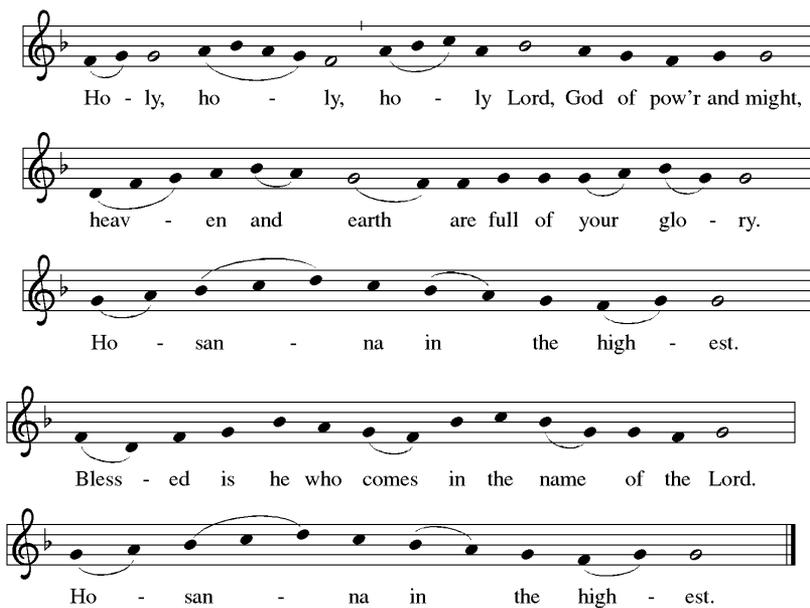
If the Lord so moves you, you can make an offering by text to 855-913-1744 or by visiting our online giving portal at tinyurl.com/giveMLC

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

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.

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.

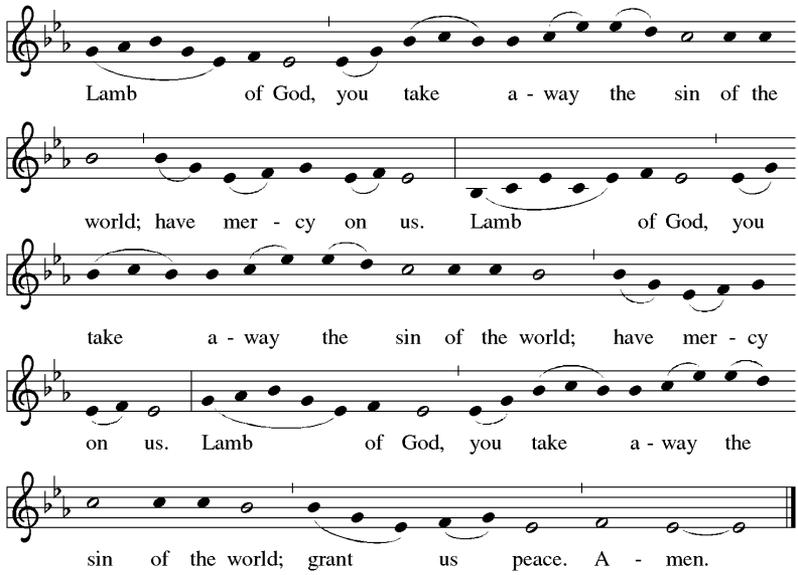
C Amen.



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

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus
You Are the Way

ELW 802
ELW 758

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

Christ, the Life of All the Living

ELW 339

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude:

Allegro Moderato - Handel

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Serving Today

Preaching Minister – Pastor Bridger

Presiding Minister – Pastor Krebill

Assisting Ministers – Nancy Richter (8:30); Janice Snyder (11)

Communion Assistant – Eric Anderson (8:30)

Acolytes – Annalies Anderson(8:30); Hayden Wolf(11)

Cantor – Pastor Krebill (8:30)

Joy Ringers (8:30)-- Directed by Ruth King

Messiah Choir (11) – Directed by Linda Kempke

Organist – Linda Kempke

Ushers – Ed Kus(8:30); Joe King(11)

Deacons – Ray Durban (8:30); Michael Eckert, Alyssa Dory (11)

Altar Guild – Trudy Gustke, Diane Paton

In Our Prayers

- For faith to deepen through prayer, spiritual disciplines, and experiencing the Holy during the 40 days of Lent
- In celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism with Adalynn Genevieve Reust
- With joy for the birth of Finley Lucile Paton, born to Greg and Courtney Paton
- For those living with health concerns: Louise Vertal, Jim Huetter, Sue Nerlinger, John Zupan, Donna Barth (sister of Kim Patton), Andrew Boraggina, Marc Heidmann, and Jane Hegg

This Week's Commemorations

Mar. 29—HANS NIELSEN HAUGE d. 1824, a layperson who led a renewal movement in the Lutheran Church of Norway. His movement was strongly represented in the Norwegian immigration to America of the 19th century, and his influence is felt to this day in the ELCA.

Mar. 31—JOHN DONNE, d. 1631, one of England's great poets, dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, and the most renowned preacher of his day.

God's Word for Next Week Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66
We encourage you to read the lessons as part of your preparation for divine services.

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

Messiah Lutheran School

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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 Coordinators – Danielle Twigg, Sarah Heinsbergen

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.