

Presentation of Our Lord

February 2, 2025

Messiah Lutheran Church

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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

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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

Presentation of Our Lord
February 2, 8:30 am & 11:00 am

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

Prelude: "Trumpet Tune and Air"

Jeremiah Clarke

----- **Gathering** -----

Please stand as you are able.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
Our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.
Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you speak blessing and compassion into the world.
Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.
We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another.
Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp.
Show us your lovingkindness.
Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways.
Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine."
In ☩ Christ, you are forgiven.
In the Spirit, you are made free.
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.
Amen.

Hymn: "In His Temple Now Behold Him"

ELW 417

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.

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

----- **Word** -----

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 84

How dear to me is your dwell - ing, O LORD.

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

¹ How dear to me ¹ is your dwelling, O ¹ LORD of hosts!

² **My soul has a desire and longing for the courts ¹ of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the ¹ living God.**

³ Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where
she may ¹ lay her young,
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king ¹ and my God.

⁴ **Happy are they who dwell ¹ in your house!**

They will always be ¹ praising you.

Refrain

⁵ Happy are the people whose strength ¹ is in you,
whose hearts are set on the ¹ pilgrims' way.

⁶ **Those who go through the balsam valley
will find it a ¹ place of springs,
for the early rains have covered it with ¹ pools of water.**

⁷ They will climb from ¹ height to height,
and the God of gods will be ¹ seen in Zion.

⁸ **LORD God of hosts, ¹ hear my prayer;
give ear, O ¹ God of Jacob.**

Refrain

⁹ Behold our defend- ¹ er, O God;
and look upon the face of ¹ your anointed.

¹⁰ **For one day in your courts is better than a ¹ thousand elsewhere.
I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than dwell in the tents ¹ of the wicked.**

¹¹ For the LORD God is both sun and shield, bestowing ¹ grace and glory;
no good thing will the LORD withhold from those who walk ¹ with integrity.

¹² **O ¹ LORD of hosts,
happy are they who put their ¹ trust in you!**

Refrain

Second Reading

Hebrews 2:14-18

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able



Choir/Cantor: My eyes have seen ^l your salvation,*
which you have prepared in the presence ^l of all peoples.

All repeat Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 2nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was

being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed

³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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: “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

ELW 295

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*



(8:30) Choir: Once He Came in Blessing"

J. Horn, arr. M. Sedio

(11:00) Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin

J.C. Bach

Please stand as you are able.

Offertory: "Born, Reborn"

ACS 956

Refrain

Born, re - born! Born, re - born! Formed, re - formed!

Souls with glad - ness now a - dorned! Born, re - born! Born, re - born!

Formed, re - formed! Praise our God for-ev - er - more!

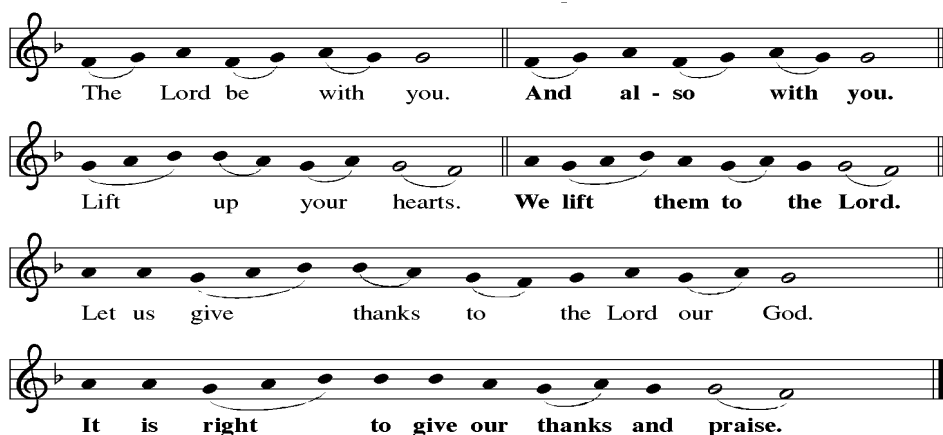
1 Drown us. Drown us. Raise us. Raise us.
2 Name us. Name us. Heal us. Heal us.

Refrain

Mark us. Mark us. Claim us! Claim us!
Wash us. Wash us. Seal us! Seal us!

A: Let us pray. God of grace,
your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. 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 all times . . . 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.

The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

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.

Please be seated.

Distribution Hymns:

"In Peace and Joy I Now Depart"

ELW 440

"O Lord, Now Let Your Servant"

ELW 313

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. Nourishing God,
at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

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

The Spirit of the triune God ☩ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

Hymn: “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing” ELW 545

A: Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: “Festal Postlude” Robert J. Powell”

Serving Today

Preaching Minister – Rev. Seth Bridger
Presiding Minister – Rev. William Weidenbach, Jr.
Assisting Minister – Needed (8:30) Christopher Peters (11:00)
Communion Assistant – David Pedley (8:30) Robert Zalac (11:00)
Deacons – Needed (8:30) (11:00) Amy & Mark Hunger
Acolyte – Needed (8:30) Needed (11:00)
Choir Director & Coordinator of Music Ministry – Deborah Zudell-Dickey
Principal Organist – Michael Cherup
Altar Guild – Maria Geier, Elenor Davis
Children’s Church – Claire Connelly, Lauren Carge

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 shall I do, Lord?

For peace, comfort and assurance to those who are suffering loss in the California wildfires. For safety of those working to protect homes, businesses and the environment. And for restoration of habit for all animals.

For those lifted up by worshippers last week at all of our on-line and in-person services: Nick, Haley, Sue, Noel, Jerry, Gloria, Mrs. Louts Yee, Tom, Jim, Frank, Sue, Leo, Rita, Amy, our Confirmation Students, Joyce, Jill, Richard, Bob, Dolores, Mike, Marilyn, Myra, Chris, Brian, Jim, Paul, Jill, Nancy, Linda, Kathy, Walker twins, Mike, Sheri, Han, Rose, Sandy, Vic, Beverly Rita, Chris and his son, Monica, Eddie David, Susan, Sue, Dennie, Marion, George, Heather, Alex Julia, Simon, Brody Late, Mason, Evelyn, Dory family, Eckert family, Orzech family, and Laura.

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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