

How often have  
I desired to  
gather your children  
together as a hen  
gathers her brood  
under her wings

LUKE 13:34



**Second Sunday in Lent  
March 16, 2025**

## **Messiah Lutheran Church**

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## **Messiah Lutheran School**

4401 W. 215<sup>th</sup> St., Fairview Park, OH 44126, (440) 331-6553

Email – [school@messiahfp.org](mailto:school@messiahfp.org)

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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.

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

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<sup>1</sup> The Use of the Means of Grace (ELCA), Part III, Principal 33

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, Part III, Principal 37

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, Part III, Principal 49

**Second Sunday in Lent**  
March 16, 8:30 am & 11:00 am

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

Prelude: "Adagio from *Toccata Undecima*"

Georg Muffat

**----- 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: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

ELW 834

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. God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, 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

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

<sup>11</sup> After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup> But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. <sup>7</sup> Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." <sup>8</sup> But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" <sup>9</sup> He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup> He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. <sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. <sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

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

The Lord is my Light and my Salvation; whom shall I fear?  
 The Lord is the Stronghold of my life.  
 For He will hide me, and He will guide me;  
 He will set me high upon a rock.  
 The Lord is my Light and my Salvation:  
 Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the Stronghold of my life.

I ask of the Lord for only one thing, this will I seek:  
 To live in the Lord's house all my life.  
 In times of trouble He will protect me,  
 He will keep me safe from every foe.  
 I ask of the Lord for only one thing, this will I seek:  
 to live in the Lord's house all my life.

My enemies gather and surround me, mocking my Lord:  
 Now show us indeed that He helps you!  
 Their words assail me, venomous slander against my Lord,  
 He who gave them life!  
 My Father is He who framed the heavens, Lord evermore;  
 His love is sufficient for my life.

Come hear me, O Lord. Whene'er I call you, answer me, Lord.  
 I come to You now, I seek your face.  
 Since You have helped me in all my trials,  
 do not leave me now, O Lord, my Life.  
 Come hear me, O Lord. Whene'er I call you

O Lord, will You teach me what to do here? Make my way safe;  
 do not give me up, but lead me, Lord.  
 I know You'll hide me and You will guide me.  
 Then have trust in God; do not despair.  
 O Lord, will you teach me what to do here?  
 Make my way safe; do not give me up, but lead me, Lord!

And only one thing have I beseeched Him;  
 that I may live forever and ever in His heart.  
 His love enthralls me; each day more richly  
 His name is spelled out among the stars.  
 I give him my life, shout my conviction,  
 Him I adore! No man can confound this rock of faith!

<sup>17</sup> Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

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

*Please stand as you are able*



Choir/Cantor: The Son of Man must be <sup>1</sup> lifted up,  
that whoever believes in him may have e- <sup>1</sup>ternal life.

Gospel

Luke 13:31-35

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 13th chapter.

**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup> He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it!

How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

<sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

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

*Please be seated.*

Sermon

Rev. William Weidenbach, Jr.

*Silence for reflection.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

Hymn: "Thy Holy Wings"

ELW 613

(11:00) Baptism: Remley Michael Koza

ELW page 227

(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*



(8:30) Choir "Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand"  
Kenyan Hymn adapted by Greg Scheer

(11:00) "Song"

Christopher Uehlein

*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 also 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:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

ELW page 162

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 (sung)

ELW page 163

All who are hungry, come!  
The feast of grace is spread.  
**Thanks be to God! Amen!**

*Please be seated.*



Distribution Hymns:

“Around You, O Lord Jesus”

ELW 468

“Guide My Feet”

ACS 987

Leader All

1 Guide my feet  
2 Hold my hand  
3 Stand by me while I run this race.  
4 I'm your child  
5 Search my heart

Guide my feet  
Hold my hand  
Stand by me while I run this race.  
I'm your child  
Search my heart

Guide my feet  
Hold my hand  
Stand by me while I run this race,  
I'm your child  
Search my heart

for I don't want to run this race in vain.

*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: “God of Grace and God of Glory”

ELW 705

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

Postlude: “St. Denio”

Christina Becket

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## Serving Today

Preaching Minister – Rev. William Weidenbach, Jr.

Presiding Minister – Rev. Seth Bridger

Assisting Minister – Nancy Richter (8:30) Lindsay Baker (11:00)

Communion Assistant – Eric Anderson (8:30) Hayden Wolf (11:00)

Deacons – Robert Trapp (8:30) Terrie Leske (11:00)

Acolyte – Annalies Anderson (8:30) Hayden Wolf (11:00)

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

Principal Organist – Michael Cherup

Altar Guild – Ruth Mortensen, Martha Trapp

Children's Church – Allie Polenz, Lauren Carge

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## Prayers of the Congregation

- For those lifted up by worshippers last week at all of our on-line and in-person services: the family of Frank Petak, John, Janet, Randy, Amy, Sandy, Doug, Linda, Gayle, Tom, Rory, Sue, Nick, Ger, Gloria, Ian, Halley, Brian, Joyce, Nancy, Mya, Richard, Matt, Marion, Bob, Brody, Frank, Marilyn, George, Evelyn, Jill, Herbert, Henry, Chris, Alex, Simon, Lori, Him, Heather, Rick, Mike, Paul, Mason, Dolores, Jill, Julia, Kate, 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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