

**Seventh Sunday after  
Epiphany  
February 23, 2025**

## **Messiah Lutheran Church**

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

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[www.messiahfairview.org](http://www.messiahfairview.org)

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

## **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

## Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 8:30 am & 11:00 am

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

Prelude: "Prelude and Fugue in E-minor ('Little')"

Nicolaus Bruhns

### ----- 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: "All Creatures, Worship God Most High"

ELW 835 st. 1-4

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. O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

LSGO Presentation

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

First Reading

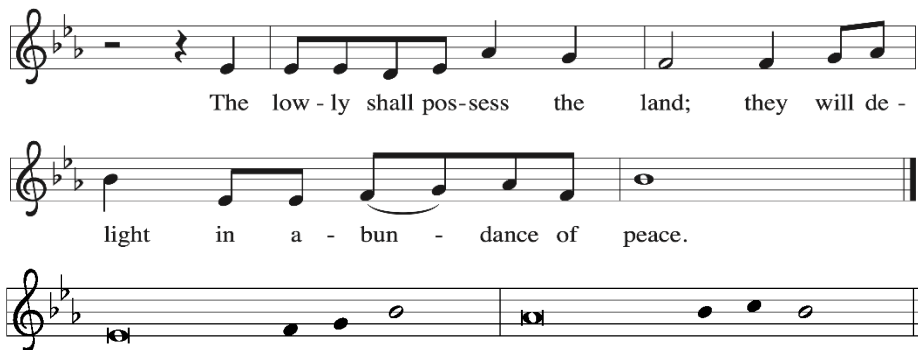
Genesis 45:3-11, 15

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’” <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40



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

<sup>1</sup> Do not be provoked by <sup>1</sup> evildoers;  
do not be jealous of those <sup>1</sup> who do wrong.

<sup>2</sup> **For they shall soon wither <sup>1</sup> like the grass,  
and like the green grass <sup>1</sup> fade away.**

<sup>3</sup> Put your trust in the LORD <sup>1</sup> and do good;  
dwell in the land and <sup>1</sup> find safe pasture.

<sup>4</sup> **Take delight <sup>1</sup> in the LORD,  
who shall give you your <sup>1</sup> heart's desire.**

**Refrain**

<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust <sup>1</sup> in the LORD,  
and see what <sup>1</sup> God will do.

**The LORD will make your vindication as clear <sup>1</sup> as the light  
and the justice of your case like the <sup>1</sup> noonday sun.**

<sup>7</sup> Be still before the LORD and wait <sup>1</sup> patiently.  
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers,  
the one who succeeds in <sup>1</sup> evil schemes.

<sup>8</sup> **Refrain from anger, leave <sup>1</sup> rage alone;  
do not be provoked; it leads on- <sup>1</sup> ly to evil.**

**Refrain**

<sup>9</sup> For evildoers shall <sup>1</sup> be cut off,  
but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- <sup>1</sup> sess the land.

<sup>10</sup> **In a little while the wicked shall <sup>1</sup> be no more;  
even if you search out their place, they will <sup>1</sup> not be there.**

<sup>11</sup> But the lowly shall pos- <sup>1</sup> sess the land;  
they will delight in abun- <sup>1</sup> dance of peace.

<sup>39</sup> **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from <sup>1</sup> you, O LORD;  
you are their stronghold in <sup>1</sup> time of trouble.**

<sup>40</sup> You, O LORD, will help them and <sup>1</sup> rescue them;  
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,  
because in you <sup>1</sup> they seek refuge.

**Refrain**

<sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup> Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

<sup>42</sup> So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

<sup>50</sup> What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able*



Choir/Cantor: Love your enemies, and you will be children of <sup>1</sup> the Most High;\* forgive, and you will <sup>1</sup> be forgiven. **All repeat Alleluia.**

(11:00) Messiah Student Singers: "Hallelujah, Praise Ye the Lord"

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 6th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said:] <sup>27</sup> “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup> “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

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: “God, When Human Bonds Are Broken”

ELW 603

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) Joy Ringers "A Humble Prayer"

Jason W. Krug

**(11:00) Messiah Student Singers "God is So Good"**

*Please stand as you are able.*

Offertory: "O Day of Peace"

ELW 711

(8:30) Soloist: Christopher Switzer

(11:00) Soloist: Maren Casselberry

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 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:



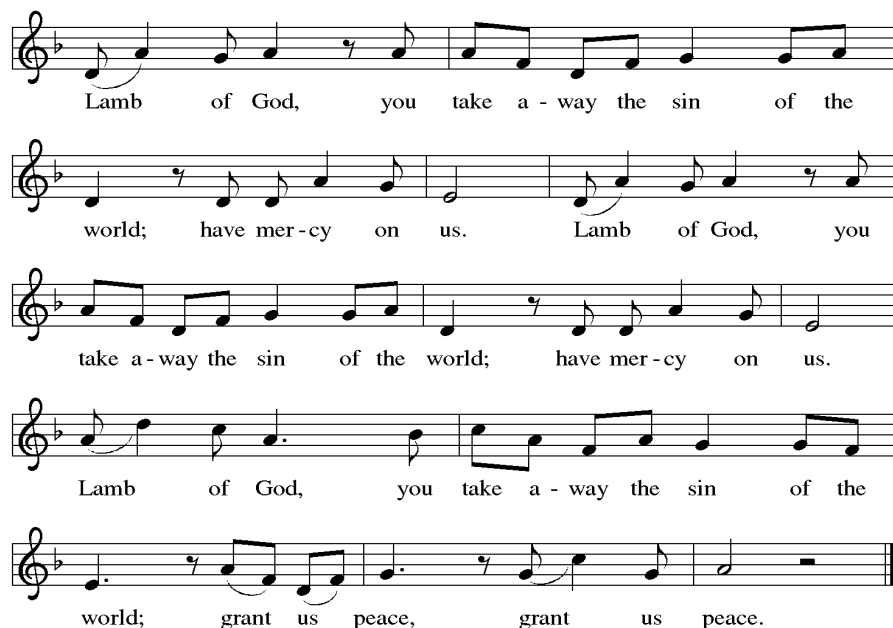
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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!**

*Please be seated.*

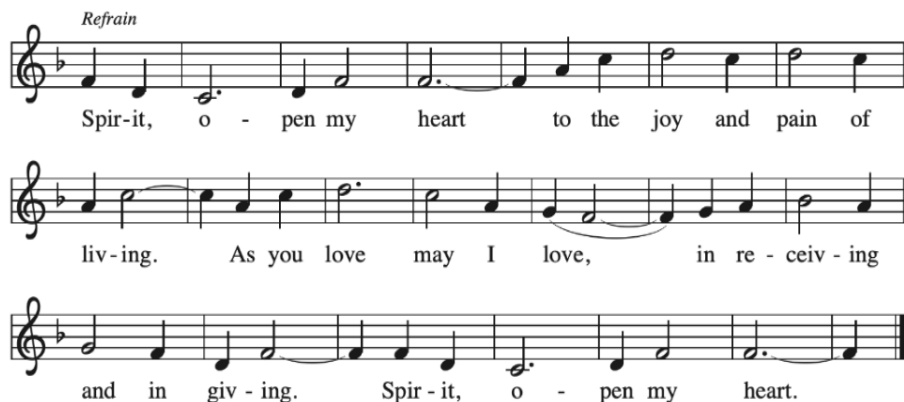


Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
 take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
 world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution Hymns:

“Spirit, Open My Heart”

ACS 1043



*Refrain*  
 Spir - it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of  
 liv - ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing  
 and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's  
 2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my  
 3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and  
 goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and  
 friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

*Refrain*

fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.  
 deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.  
 day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

"I Come with Joy"

ELW 482

*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 of Glory, You Have Bought Us"

ELW 707

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

Postlude: "Now All the Vault of Heav'n Resounds"

Mark Sedio

**Altar Flowers** Are given in Loving Memory of loved ones by Donna and Wayne Fronius.

## Serving Today

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Preaching Minister – Rev. William Weidenbach, Jr.

Presiding Minister – Rev. Seth Bridger

Assisting Minister – Nancy Richter (8:30) Janice Snyder (11:00)

Communion Assistant – Dave Pedley (8:30) Hayden Wolf (11:00)

Deacons – Amy & Mark Hunger (8:30) Terrence Bonness (11:00)

Acolyte – Needed (8:30) Hayden Wolf (11:00)

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

Principal Organist – Michael Cherup

Altar Guild – Elenor Davis, Ruth Mortensen

Children's Church – Claire Connelly, Beth Henderson, 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: 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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