

**Sixth Sunday after  
Epiphany  
February 16, 2025**

## **Messiah Lutheran Church**

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

E-mail – [church@messiahfp.org](mailto:church@messiahfp.org)

[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

**Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**  
February 16, 8:30 am & 11:00 am

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

Prelude: "Praeludium und Fugue in G Major" Dietrich Puxtehude"

**----- 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: "Praise the Almighty!"

ELW 877

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. Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

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

First Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-10

<sup>5</sup> Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,  
whose trust is the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes,  
and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious,  
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

<sup>9</sup> The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it?

<sup>10</sup> I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

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





Choir/Cantor: Rejoice, and <sup>l</sup> leap for joy,\* for surely your reward is <sup>l</sup> great in heaven. **All repeat Alleluia.**

Gospel

Luke 6:17-26

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 6th chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>17</sup> [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>18</sup> They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup> And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. <sup>20</sup> Then he looked up at his disciples and said: Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. <sup>21</sup> "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. <sup>22</sup> "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup> Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. <sup>24</sup> "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. <sup>25</sup> "Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. <sup>26</sup> "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

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.*

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*



(11:00) Joy Ringers Kingsfold

setting, Anne Krentz Organ

*Please stand as you are able.*

Offertory

(8:30) "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"

ELW 308

Choir sings stanzas 1 and 3, congregation sings stanza 6



1 "Come now, you bless - ed, eat at my ta - ble,"  
 2 When did we see you hun - gry or thirst - y?  
 3 "When you gave bread to earth's hun - gry chil - dren,  
 4 Christ, when we meet you out on life's road - ways,

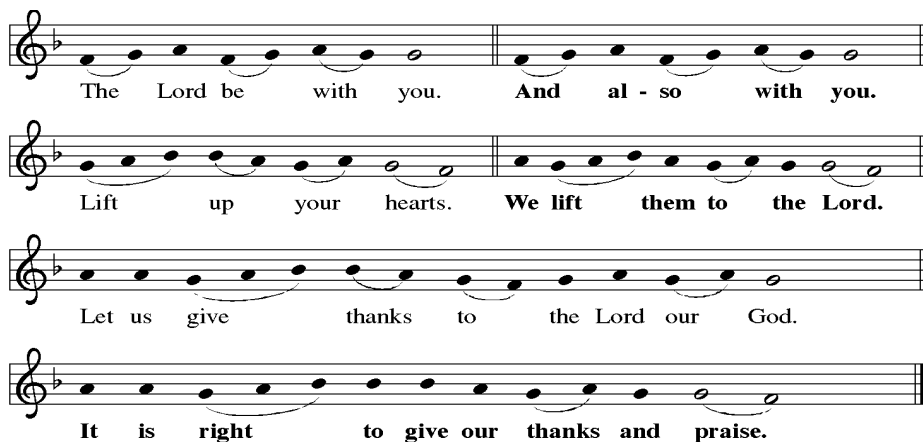
said Je - sus Christ to the righ - teous a - bove.  
 When were you home - less, a strang - er a - lone?  
 when you gave wel - come to war's ref - u - gees,  
 look - ing to us in the fac - es of need,

"When I was hun - gry, thirst - y, and home - less,  
 When did we see you sick or in pris - on?  
 when you re - mem - bered those most for - got - ten,  
 then may we know you, wel - come and show you

sick and in pris - on, you showed me your love,"  
 What have we done that you call us your own?  
 you cared for me in the small - est of these."  
 love that is faith - ful in word and in deed.

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!**

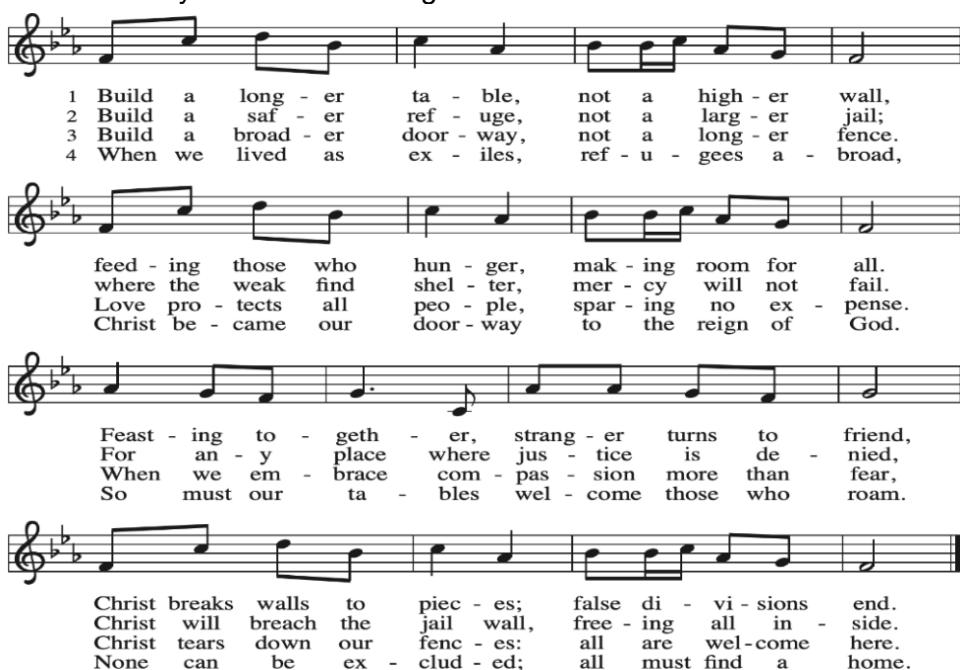
*Please be seated.*



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: "Build a Longer Table"

ACS 1062



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,  
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;  
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.  
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,  
feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.  
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.  
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.  
Christ be - came our door - way, to the reign of God.  
Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,  
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,  
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,  
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.  
Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.  
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.  
Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.  
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

# "We Come to the Hungry Feast"

ELW 479

*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** -----

Blessing of Prayer Shawls – see insert

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

**Amen.**

Hymn: “We Know That Christ Is Raised”

ELW 449

A: Go in peace. Live in hope.

**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: “Praise the Almighty, My Soul, Adore Him”

Paul Manz

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## **Serving Today**

Preaching Minister – Rev. Seth Bridger

Presiding Minister -- Rev. William Weidenbach, Jr.

Assisting Minister – Carl Herhuth (8:30) Mike Thiel (11:00)

Communion Assistant – Linda Herhuth (8:30) Needed (11:00)

Deacons – Needed (8:30) Terrie Leske, Terrence Bonness (11:00)

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

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

Principal Organist – Michael Cherup

Altar Guild – Maria Geier, Debbie Luekens

Children’s Church – Bethany Henderson, Lauren Carge

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The **red candle** in the sanctuary (the area surrounding the altar) reminds us of God’s presence with us. Today, that candle is provided in loving remembrance of Karen Gustke, given by her sister Amy Valentino and family.

## 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 will you have me do, Lord?
- For those lifted up by worshippers last week at all of our on-line and in-person services: Bonnie Morgan family for their loss, Cindy Strickland for healing, Jenni Haag for healing, Edna after surgery, Rita for healing, Laura after knee replacement, Elain, Kim, Amy, Vic, Lisa, Evelyn, Julia, Daniel on his 84<sup>th</sup> birthday, Mason, Andy, Kate, Maddy, Maggie, Lillian, Nancy, Ed, Heather, Virginia, David, Sue, George, Dayle, Marion, Alex, Brody, Dory family, Eckert family, Orzech family, Wendy's daughter, healthy delivery for those expecting soon, Dennie, Simon, Danny, and Nancy.
- 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.
- 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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