

Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024 10:30 am

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

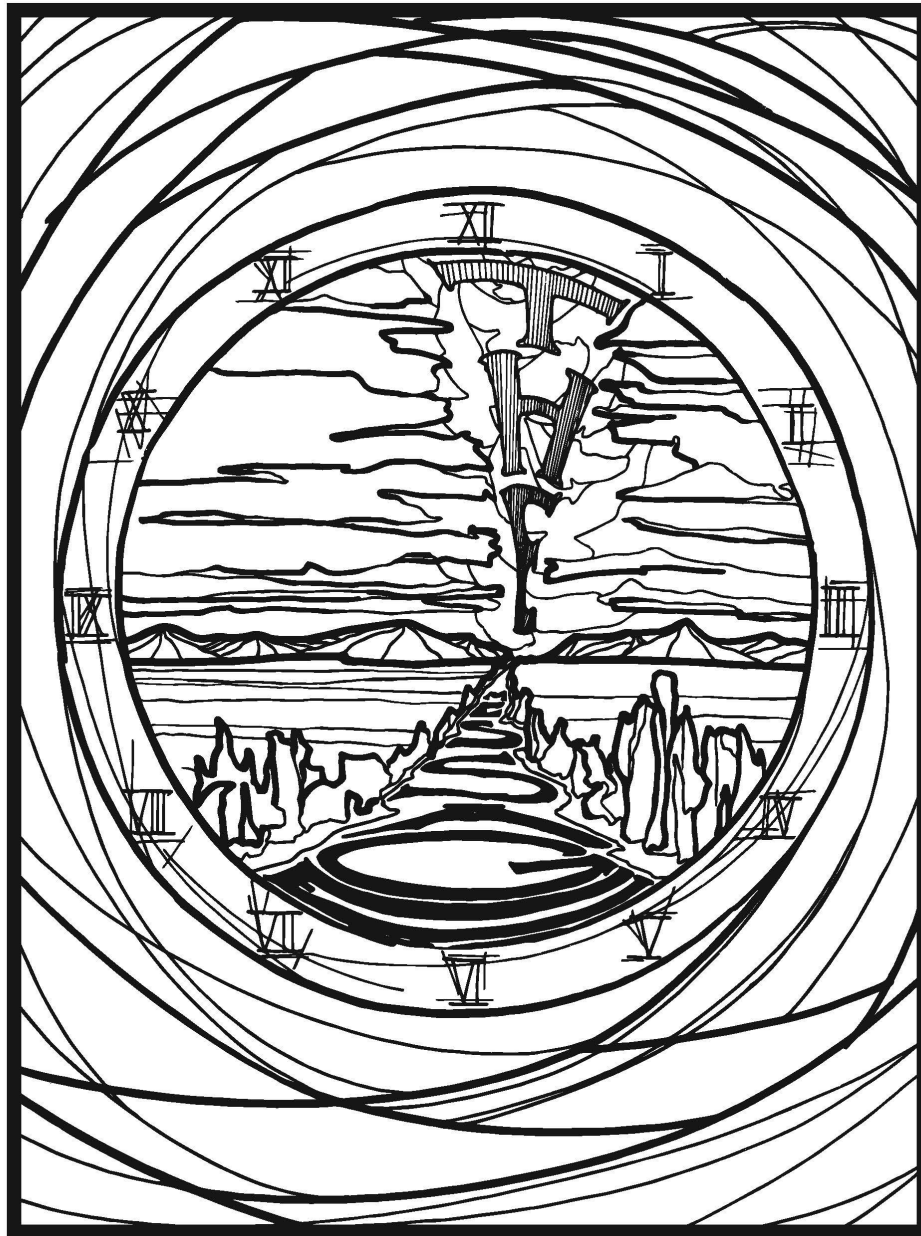


Illustration by: Hannah Garrity | Inspired by: John 8:14-21 | sanctifiedart.org

Welcome to Messiah

We are a community of grace where we live out Jesus' commandment to love God with our whole heart and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We also seek to be a welcoming community for all people. This includes people of every race, ability, sexual orientation and gender identity, ethnic background, economic grouping, religious affiliation, and political persuasion. We do this simply because God created all people in God's own image and Christ Jesus came so all people might have abundant life. We may not always be perfect, but this is our intention--all are welcome!

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit. The presiding minister will read the sections in plain, **you are invited to read the bold sections***

CALL TO WORSHIP

What wondrous love is this?

Love that ate with sinners.

Love that welcomed children.

What wondrous love is this?

Love that healed the lame.

Love that listened to the silenced.

What wondrous love is this?

Love that died for us.

Love that rose for us.

Love that still forgives and knows us.

Family of God, we are in the presence of such wondrous love.

Let us worship God.

GATHERING HYMN

“Earth is Yours” Gungor

michael gungor

VERSE 1
♩ = 136

D A Bm G

1. Your voice, it thun - ders, the oaks start twist - ing; The for - est sounds with ce - dars break - ing.

D/G D A/C# Bm G/B

The wa - ters see You and start their with - ing; From the depths a song is ris - ing.

PRE-CHORUS 1 **CHORUS 1**

D/G A G D A/C# Bm

Now it's ris - ing from the ground. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord.

G D F#m7 Bm G

The earth is Yours, and sing - ing: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord." The earth is Yours,

VERSE 2

N.C. D D/A F#m7 Bm

the earth is Yours. 2. Your voice, it thun - ders, the ground is shak - ing; The might-

G A/G G/A D F#m7

y moun - tains now are trem - bl - ing. Cre - a - tion sees You and starts com - pos - ing;

PRE-CHORUS 2

51 *Bm* *G* *G/B* *A* *G*
 The fields and trees, they start re-joic-ing. And now it's ris-ing from the ground.

59 *A* *G/B* *A/C#* *Gm/Bb* *Gm/D* *Gm/A* *Gm*
 Now it's ris-ing from the ground. Hear us cry-ing out. Hear us cry-ing out.

CHORUS 2

67 *D* *A/C#* *Bm* *G* *D* *F#m7*
 Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord. The earth is Yours, and sing-ing: "Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly,

78 *Bm* *G* *D* *D/F#* *A/C#* *Bm*
 ho-ly Lord." The earth is Yours, and sing-ing: "Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord."

88 *G* *D*
 The earth is Yours, the earth is Yours, the earth is Yours, —

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

For today's prayer of confession, we will pray with our whole selves—mind, body, heart, and soul—through a kinesthetic prayer. I invite you to listen and follow along by actively responding to the prompts I give you as you are able. Let us begin with open eyes and an open heart as I guide you through this time of prayer.

Let us pray:

Jesus of Nazareth walked this earth seeing and giving to those in need—the Samaritan woman, the child, the blind man, the Pharisee—yet too often we close our eyes, allowing fear or prejudice to hold us back. If you have ever ignored someone who was in need, please close your eyes.

Jesus modeled a life of grace, whispering from the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Even with his example, we struggle to live lives of grace, often speaking words of hostility and shame over forgiveness or patience. If you have ever dealt harshly with someone, embracing hostility instead of peace, or shame instead of grace, please clench your fists.

Jesus gave thanks before breaking bread, modeling a life of gratitude before consumption. However, we easily find ourselves in entitled mindsets and habits, taking this earth and God's creation for granted, consuming before caring. If you have ever chosen consumption without gratitude, or comfort over care, Please cross your arms.

Jesus said from the cross, "Behold your son; behold your mother." It was a remind-

er that we belong together, as all of us are made in God's good image. However, too often we forget that we are worthy of belonging, denying God's image in ourselves or others. If you have ever been ashamed of who you are, or have denied the divine image in another, bow your head.

Friends, this is what sin feels like—being cut off from others, closed off from the world, left in the dark, alone and disconnected from God. However, God knows us and loves us. Like a mother with her children, God will not abandon us!

Thus, if you have ever seen someone in need and responded with care, open your eyes.

If you have ever seen God in another, or trusted God's promise that you are worthy of love, lift your head.

If you have ever chosen forgiveness and grace over hatred and hostility, unclench your fists.

And if you have ever chosen gratitude over entitlement, or willingly made a sacrifice for the care of God's creation, uncross your arms now.

Remember this day, God's grace is for all of us no matter who we are or what we've done or left undone. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: this is what the kingdom of God feels like—eyes open, heads up, connected and united in grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and freed! Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

GREETING

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.**

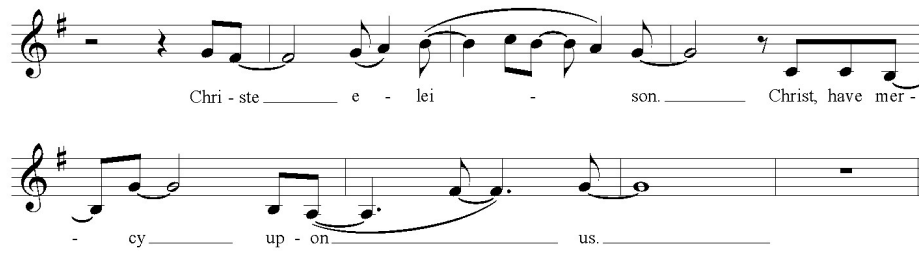
KYRIE

Leader: In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

REFRAIN: ALL

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son Lord, have mer-

-cy up-on us.



Leader: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

Leader: 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. *(to Refrain)*

Leader: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

Leader: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

God, your Son Jesus Christ bore the cross for our salvation and was raised from the dead for the redemption of the world. Give us the courage to take up our cross and follow him, that through his grace we may accept the cost of faithful discipleship and receive the joy of everlasting life with Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sa-

rah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 4:13-25

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.”

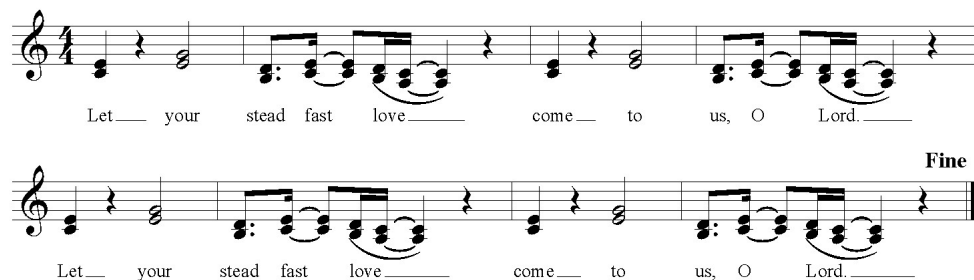
¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please
stand as
you are
comfortable
in body
or spirit



Let___ your stead fast love___ come___ to us, O Lord.____

Fine

Let___ your stead fast love___ come___ to us, O Lord.____



GOSPEL

Mark 8:31-38

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“What Wondrous Love is This”

During this time, the band will play or the song leader will sing and you are invited to thoughtful meditation, quiet, reflection, continued coloring or to sing along and the words can be found on the screens.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in a God who meets us in the shadows,
who welcomes our questions,
who invites us to begin again.
We believe that Jesus showed us a new way,
a deeper faith,**

Please be
seated

Please stand
as you are
comfortable
in body or
spirit

a more compassionate existence.

We believe that all of our beginnings should return us to this foundation, and that no matter how many times we lose our way, God always welcomes us home. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the church. Give wisdom and discernment to our bishops, pastors, deacons, teachers, and leaders. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth's waters and restore the soil. Preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife, that generations to come may cherish your creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender, ability, sexual orientation, color, ethnicity, or religion. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for healing. Send compassionate helpers to any who suffer because of war and violence. Shelter unhoused people, befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, and console the bereaved, especially... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ's sacrificial love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for peace. We honor the saints who lived in service to others. Inspire us by their example until you gather us into your kingdom. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Please be
seated

Please
stand as
you are
comforta-
ble in body
or spirit

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

OFFERING PRAYER

Almighty God, we thank you for the covenant you established with Abraham and Sarah, which you have opened to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Accept these offerings with the dedication of our lives, that we may be for the world a sign of your abiding love and a testament to your enduring promise. In Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

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.

... his rising to life breathing forgiveness, we praise and worship him:

(songleader sings #1, congregation sings #1... call & response each line)



...healing, renewing and making us whole.

Come, Holy Spirit.

...loving and caring in the world.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Please be
seated

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Lamb of God

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.

ACS #1082 "O God, You Search Me"

ACS #966 "Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken"

Please
stand as
you are
comforta-
ble in body
or spirit

POST COMMUNION PRAYER & BLESSING

BENEDICTION

May God, whose hand has written the law of love upon your heart,
fill you with peace from deep within
and the commitment to live in harmony.
And the blessing of God, who loves, forgives, and calls us home,
be with you now and always. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN

“Go Now With God”

vs. 1 Filled with the Ho - ly Spir - it go now with God,
 vs. 1 *Lleno del Es - pi - ri - tu San - to va - mos con Dios,*
 vs. 2 Of - fer - ing a hand to a stran - ger go now with God,
 vs. 3 Wa - ters of mer - cy have found us go now with God,
 vs. 4 Cross - ing ev' - ry bound'ry, ev' - ry na - tion go now with God,

go now with God. In - to the world as a serv - ant
va - mos con Dios. En - tran - do al mun - do pa - ra ser - vir
 go now with God. Trust - ing in the ris - en sav - ior
 go now with God. Grace on the jour - ney sur - rounds us
 go now with God. Danc - ing in the gift of lib - er - a - tion

go now with God, go now with God. Go now,
va - mos con Dios, va - mos con Dios, Va - mos,

go now, go now with God.
va - mos, va - mos con Dios.

Go now, go now, go now with God.
Va - mos, va - mos, va - mos con Dios.

SENDING

Let the same mind be in you that was in Jesus Christ. Go forth in peace to love and serve the world. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

No cash or checkbook? No problem.

You can donate through Venmo
or on our website at:
messiahlutheranmqt.org/give

If you wish to designate your
donation to a specific fund, please be
sure to do so. Any undesignated
donations automatically go to our
general fund which supports the
entirety of our ministry.

Thank you for your generosity!

Messiah Evangelical
Lutheran Church

@messiahlutheranmqt



venmo

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church



Children belong in worship!

Worship kits and a nursery
space is available. God rejoices
in the joyful noise of children
and so do we!



God calls us to welcome everyone!

Messiah seeks to be a welcoming
community and to share the love of
God with our neighbors. If you are
new, please introduce yourself to our
pastors.



Worship should be accessible!

Hearing devices (and T-Coil) and
large print bulletins are available. We
invite you to sit or stand as you are
comfortable. All gender and family
restroom facilities are available on
the first level, please see signs in the
Narthex.



All are welcome at Jesus' table!

During communion grape juice and gluten-free
options are available. Those not wishing to
commune may come forward for a blessing.
Those not able to come forward may receive
communion in their pew, please notify the usher.



God calls us to pray!

Private prayer requests may be made by writing
them on the back of the Welcome Card. If you
would like to be added to the prayer list or receive
a pastoral care visit, please contact the church
office.

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

305 W. Magnetic St., Marquette Michigan

906.225.1119 — www.messiahlutheranmqt.org

Preacher:

Liturgists:

Assisting Minister:

Reader:

Ushers:

Communion Assistants:

Greeters:

Songleaders:

Pianist:

Band:

Audio Technician:

Livestream Technician:

Projection Technician:

Nursery Attendant:

Flower Delivery:

Pr. Andrew Plocher

Pr. Molly Hunter

Inga Banitt

Molly Luty

Fred & Jeanne Groos

Sandy Lindberg, Stephen Luty, Gayle Mack

Linda Carlson

Sara Parks, Molly Luty

Jacob Schmeltzer

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Traci Zini

Kathy Godec

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