

Third Sunday in Lent

March 3, 2024 8:30 am

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



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

“Rockingham Old”

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as comfortable, in body or in spirit and face the cross at the back of the sanctuary. The presiding minister will read the sections in plain text.
You are invited to read the bold portions.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Despite all that God has taught us, we still act foolishly; we are still weak. In the cross of Christ, we find forgiveness and grace. We confess our sins, trusting in God's wisdom and strength rather than our own.

Merciful God,

how fickle we are; we sin against you without even knowing it.

Clear us, we pray, of any unknown sin, and save us from willfully ignoring your way.

Let your commandments rule and guide us.

Forgive us for worshiping anyone or anything except you; keep us faithful.

**Forgive us for failing to honor all our relationships—
with those closest to us and those who are distant neighbors.**

Help us to speak words of blessing and kindness, rather than words that belittle or destroy.

Turn us away from violence, falsehood, and selfishness.

**Forgive us for thinking everything depends on our efforts and power,
for you are the God who made us, led us out slavery,
and has brought us into the community of faith.**

Help us to depend on you alone and to rest in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Brothers and sisters,
in Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and coming again,
we are forgiven and set free to live in faithfulness
with God and with one another!
Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

ELW #832 “My Lord of Light”



- 1 My Lord of light who made the worlds, in wis - dom you have spo - ken;
- 2 My Lord of love who knew no sin, a sin - ner's death en - dur - ing;
- 3 My Lord of life who came in fire when Christ was high as - cend - ed;
- 4 My Lord of lords, one Trin - i - ty, to your pure name be giv - en



but those who heard your wise com-mands your ho - ly law have bro - ken.
 for us you wore a crown of thorns, a crown of life se - cur - ing.
 your burn - ing love is now re - leased, our days of fear are end - ed.
 all glo - ry now and ev - er - more, all praise in earth and heav-en.

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

ACS pg. 31

Pastor will sing Kyrie and Christie, congregation responds with Lord have mercy and Christ, have mercy



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



Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.



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

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

ACS pg. 32



My soul pro - claims your great-ness, O Lord; I



sing my Sav - ior's praise! Great won - ders you have



done for me, and ho - ly is your name.

Congregation sings the refrain, choir sings the verses

Refrain

Vs. 5 To Israel, your servant blest, your help is ever sure;
the promise to our parents made their children will secure. *Refrain*

Vs. 6 Sing glory to the Holy One, give honor to the Word,
and praise the Power of the Most High, one God, by all adored. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, whose power is made perfect in weakness, whose wisdom appears as foolishness in this world, we thank you for the scandal of the cross. In Jesus Christ, you overturn all our usual ways of behaving and believing. You scatter our false notions of discipleship as easily as coins are spilled from a box. You correct our notions of piety and order with fierce passion. Do not let your church become content or contained as an institution. Raze to ruins what is distorted in us, and raise us to new life as a community so that we may be the body of Christ in and for the world. With fear and joy we ask this in Christ's name. **Amen.**

Please be
seated

FIRST READING

Exodus 20:1-17

¹God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 19

¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

²**One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

⁶**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again;**

nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,**

O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ACS pg. 34

Please stand
as you are
comfortable
in body or
spirit



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.

GOSPEL

John 2:13-22

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” ¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

SERMON

MEDITATIVE REFLECTION

“What Wondrous Love is This”

During this time you are invited to enter into silent meditation as you listen, reflect or color.

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

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.

You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You renew creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace. Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You judge the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in every land. Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You bring healing and hope. We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists, and public health workers who prevent and treat illness. We pray for any who are sick, especially... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You abide with your people. Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions: marriage, divorce, childbirth, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change, or a death in the family, especially... We pray for those preparing for baptism. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You bring life from death. We remember our loved ones who have died, confident that they have new life in you. May we trust that nothing can separate us from your love. 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.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

Please be
seated

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM

“Holy God”

OFFERING PRAYER

Please
stand as
you are
comfort-
able in
body or
spirit

O Lord our God, we want to follow all your commandments— to love only you, not worshipping the things of this world; to love our neighbor freely, not desiring for ourselves something they possess. Accept these offerings, we pray, and teach us to be generous, giving fully of ourselves that we may truly be the body of Christ in this world. Amen.

THE LORD’S SUPPER

The Lord be with you.

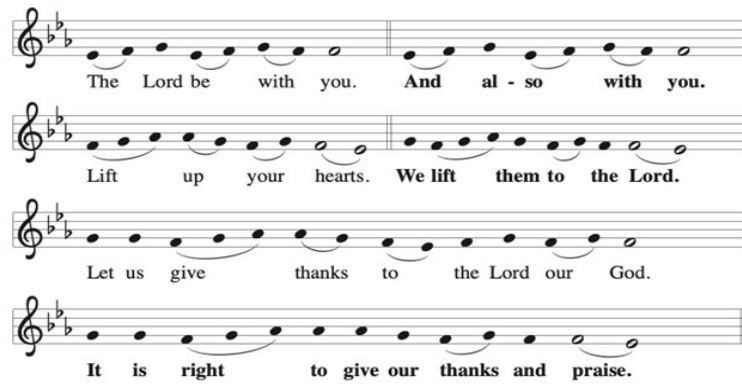
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

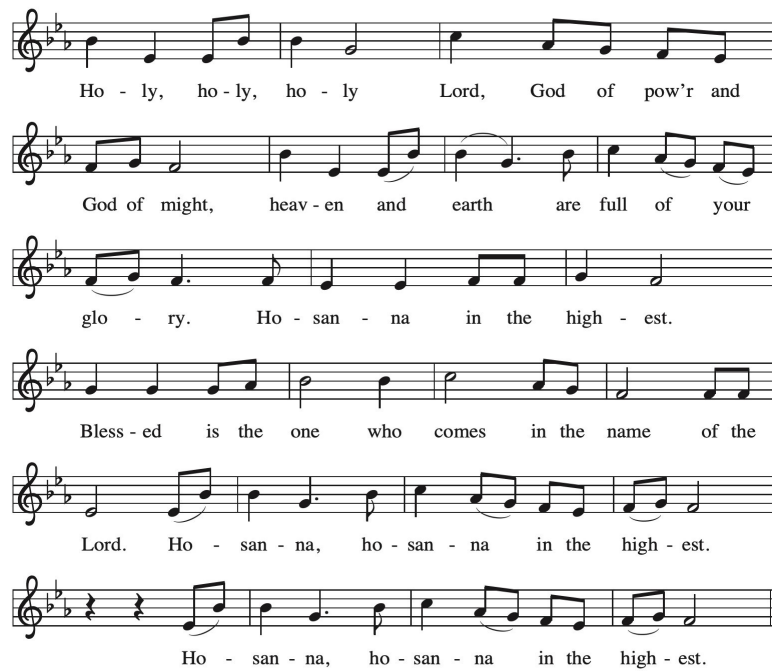
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.



... It is truly right and our greatest joy
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



As we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

... Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

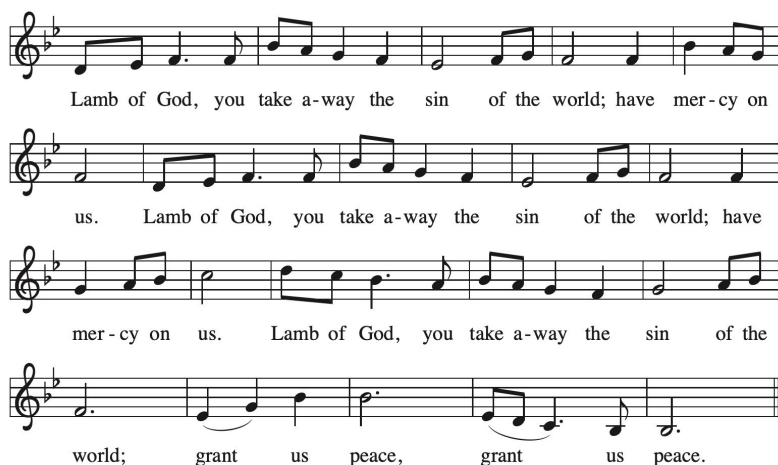
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will

be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Please be
seated

“Lamb of God” ACS pg. 40



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.

“Christ Is the Life”



1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive Word,
2 Christ is the death of all that is, a broad and beck - 'ning tomb,
3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing fire,
4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the End;

whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the worlds to Be - ing stirred.
who wel - comes us from well-worn ways to dark-ness of the womb.
whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as kin-dling for the pyre.
cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans-form-ing burn-ing brand.

Christ is the life be - yond all time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath,
Christ is the death, the sink - ing down past all de - sire and fear,
Christ is the death of dust - y days of un-cre - a - tive strife,
Christ is the life, in whose wise love cre - a - tion lives and dies



whose la - bor brings all things to be and brings all things to death.
 whose prom - ise in the gen - tle dark bids new - ness to ap - pear.
 for out from fire we tread up - on the thresh - old of new life.
 and thus for - ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ.

ELW #803 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

BENEDICTION

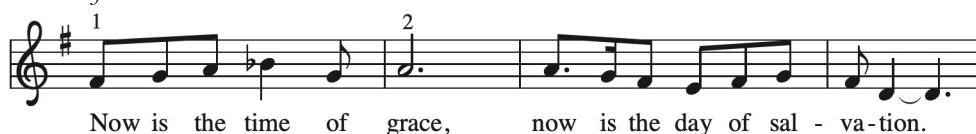
Please
stand as
you are
comfort-
able in
body or
spirit

The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord's face shine on you
 with grace and mercy.
 The Lord look upon you with favor
 and ✠ give you peace. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN

ACS #918 "Now Is the Time of Grace" (*refrain, vs. 1, refrain*)

Refrain:



Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion.



Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in - vi - ta - tion.

Verse 1: This is the fast that God would choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to let the captives go free, and to break the yoke of oppression. *Refrain*

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

"Built on a Rock"

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

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Preacher:	Pr. Molly Hunter
Liturgist:	Pr. Andrew Plocher
Assisting Minister:	Judy Quirk
Reader:	Louise Reichert
Ushers:	Sam Elder, Bruce Robertson
Communion Assistants:	Mike Coyne, Judy Quirk, Marina Shinkarenko
Greeters:	Cathy Seblonka, Susy Swanson
Organist:	Kathy Strazzinski
Senior Choir Director:	Wayne Hanmer
Audio Technician:	Dan Zini
Livestream Technician:	Traci Zini
Nursery:	Jamie Dodge
Flower Delivery:	Bev Evans

Acknowledgements:

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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!

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