

Third Sunday in Lent

March 3, 2024 10:30 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

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

ACS #925 "Beautiful Things"



1 All	this	pain;	I	won - der	if	I'll
2 All	this	earth;	. . .	could	all	that is
3 All	a -	round,	. . .	hope	is	spring - ing



ev - er	find	my	way.	I	won - der	if	my
lost	ev - er	be	found?	. . .	Could	a	gar - den
up	from	this	old	ground.	. . .	Out	of cha - os,



life	could	real - ly	change	at	all.
come	up	from this	ground	at	all?
life	is	be - ing	found	in	you.

Refrain

You make beau-ti-ful things, you make beau-ti - ful things out of the dust.

You make beau - ti - ful things, you make beau-ti -

ful things out of us.

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 reminder 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.

Chri - ste e - lei son. Christ, 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

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.**

FIRST READING

Exodus 20:1-17

Please be
seated

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.

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.”

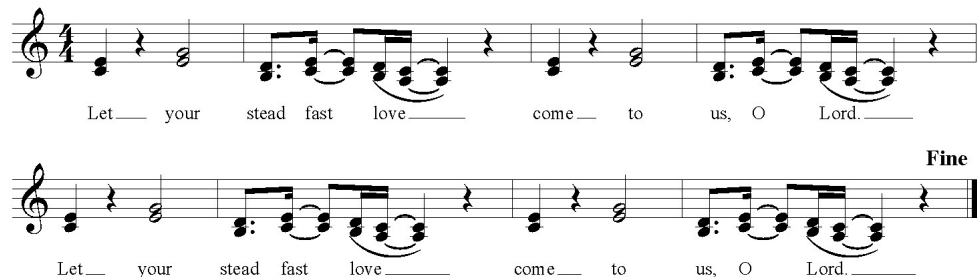
²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For 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

Please
stand as
you are
comfortable
in body
or spirit



Let ___ your stead fast love ___ come ___ to us, O Lord. ___

Let ___ your stead fast love ___ come ___ to us, O Lord. ___

Fine



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

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,
a more compassionate existence.
We believe that all of our beginnings should return us to this foundation,**

Please be
seated

Please stand
as you are
comfortable
in body or
spirit

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.

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.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

OFFERING PRAYER

O Lord our God, we want to follow all your commandments—to love only you, not worshiping the things of this world; to love our neighbor freely, not desiring for ourselves something they possess. Accept these offerings, we pray, and

Please be
seated

Please stand
as you are
comfortable
in body or
spirit

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.

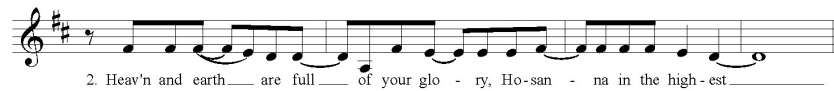
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

(Song leader sings each petition and congregation repeats)



...healing, renewing and making us whole.

Come, Holy Spirit.

...loving and caring in the world.

Come, Holy Spirit.

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.

Please be
seated

COMMUNION HYMNS

Lamb of God





ELW #637 "Holy God, Holy and Glorious"

ACS #927 "Christ Is the Life"

Please
stand as
you are
comfortable
in body
or spirit

POST COMMUNION PRAYER & BLESSING

BENEDICTION

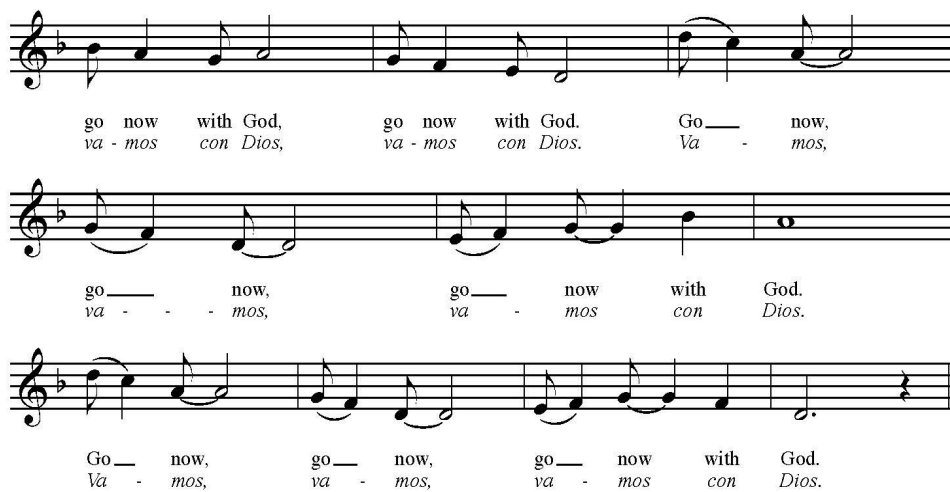
May God, whose hand has written the law of love upon your heart, fill you with peace from deep within and the commitment to live in harmony. And the blessing of God, who loves, forgives, and calls us home, be with you now and always. **Amen**

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 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. Molly Hunter

Pr. Andrew Plocher

Kathy Godec

Mark Paulsen

Bev Evans, Jean Reynolds

Kathy Godec, Marina Shinkarenko

Linda Carlson, Nancy Raisanen

Molly Luty, Terry Bocklund

Jacob Schmeltzer

Tom Bronken, Darren Smith, Jason Parks

Dan Zini

Traci Zini

Inga Banitt

Jamie Dodge

Bev Evans

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