

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024 10:30 am

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Illustration by: Lauren Wright Pittman | Inspired by: Psalm 31:9-16 | 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

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" *Low Brass Quartet*

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

"King of My Heart"

VERSE 1

$\text{♩} = 68$

1. Let the King of my heart be the moun - tain where I run, the foun - tain I drink from; oh, He

is my song. Let the King of my heart be the shad - ow where I hide, the ran - som for my life, oh, He

CHORUS

is my song. You are good, good, oh. You are good, good, oh. You are good, good,

VERSE 2

oh. You are good, good, oh. 2. Let the King of my heart be the wind in - side my sails, the an -

chor in the waves; oh, He is my song. Let the King of my heart be the fire in - side my veins, the ech -

CHORUS

Gm F Eb Bb Gm F Eb Bb Gm F Eb Bb

23 o of my days; oh, He is my song. You are good, good, oh. You are good, good, oh. You are

BRIDGE 1a

Gm F Eb Bb Gm F Eb Bb Bb

29 good, good, oh. You are good, good, oh. You're nev - er gon - na let,

34 Gm

nev - er gon - na let me down. You're nev - er gon - na let, nev - er gon - na let me down.

37 Bb 1 Gm

You're nev - er gon - na let, nev - er gon - na let me down. You're nev - er gon - na let,

40 (1) (2) F Gm F Eb F D.S. al Coda

nev - er gon - na let me down. You're nev - er gon - na let, nev - er gon - na let me down. You are

ENDING

55 Eb Gm F Eb Bb Cm Eb Eb Cm Eb

When the night is hold - ing on to me, God is hold - ing on. When the God is hold - ing on.

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.**

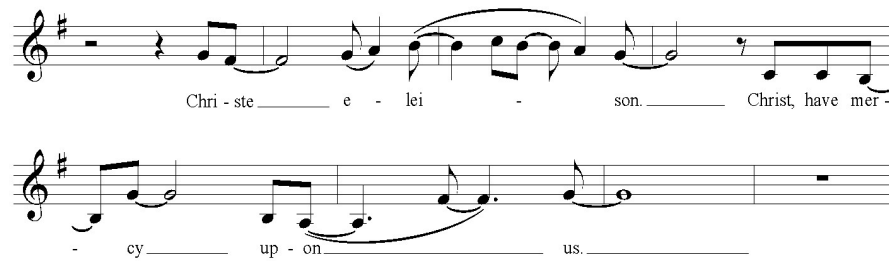
KYRIE

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.



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

Holy God, by the cross and resurrection of Jesus, you lift the suffering world toward hope and transformation and open the way to eternal salvation. As we move ever closer to the passion of Christ, may your law of love be written on our hearts as he draws all people to himself revealing your love for the world. **Amen.**

Please be
seated

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 5:5-10

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
 today I have begotten you”;

⁶as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
 according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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._____

D.C. al Fine

Save - us___ as___ you pro - mised, we will trust your word.

GOSPEL

John 12:20-33

Glory to you, O Lord.

[²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.

²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and

told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

Please be
seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“What Wondrous Love is This” *Low Brass Quartet*
Sara Parks, *Soprano Solo*

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Please stand
as you are
comfortable
in body or
spirit

**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,
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.

God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill, especially... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us. Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting 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

“The Wonderful Cross” *Celebration Choir*

OFFERING PRAYER

As the high priest Melchizedek blessed Abraham and offered his tithe of bread and wine at your holy altar, may our gifts be made perfect through Christ to glorify you and bless the 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.

Please be
seated

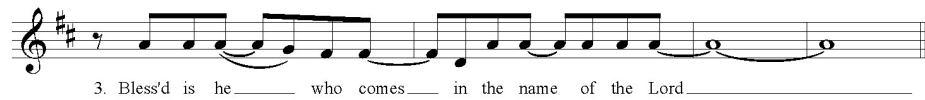
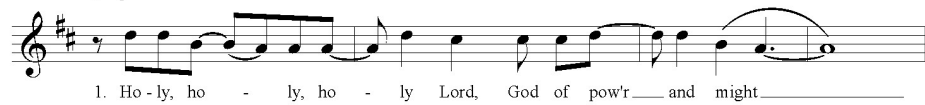
Please stand
as you are
comfortable
in body or
spirit

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

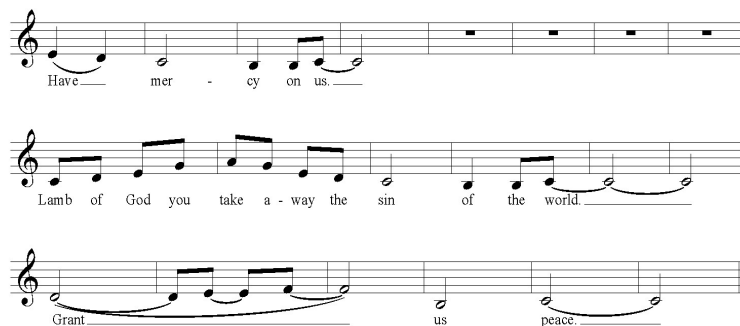
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Lamb of God



Please be
seated



ELW #379 "Now the Green Blade Rises"

ELW #465 "As the Grains of Wheat"

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,

Please
stand as
you are
comfortable
in body
or spirit

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:	Pr. Molly Hunter
Assisting Minister:	Jeanne Groos
Reader:	Mike Hill
Ushers:	Dave & Nancy Skoog
Communion Assistants:	Mike Hill, Sandy Lindberg, Gayle Mack, Marina Shinkarenko
Greeters:	Bev Evans, Marina Shinkarenko
Songleader:	Sara Parks
Pianist:	Jacob Schmeltzer
Band:	Tom Bronken, Darren Smith, Jason Parks
Low Brass Quartet:	Trombone-Gordon Erickson & Bella Olson, Tuba-Tom Bronken & Eli Salin
Director of	
Low Brass Quartet::	Jacob Schmeltzer
Audio Technician:	Dan Zini
Livestream Technician:	Traci Zini
Projection Technician:	Lesley Williams
Nursery Attendant:	Maddie Dykema
Flower Delivery:	Jill Luoma

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