



Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:30 am - March 30, 2025

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

PRELUDE

GATHERING HYMN

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #407 "O Living Breath of God"



- 1 O liv-ing Breath of God, wind at the be-gin - ning up-on the wa - ters;
- 2 O liv-ing Breath of God, by whose pow'r the Son came to birth a - mong us;
- 3 O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing us to life through bap-tis-mal wa - ters;



- O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing the cre - a - tion to won-drous birth:
- O liv-ing Breath of God, who to the cre - a - tion gives life a - new:
- O liv-ing Breath of God, sigh-ing with cre - a - tion for free-dom's birth:



Come now, and fill our spir - its; pour out your gifts a - bun - dant.



O liv-ing Breath of God, Ho-ly Spir-it, breathe in us as we pray.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of God who is in between,
on the edge of faith,
at the beginning of the wilderness,
at the start of something new,
And whose grace is everywhere. Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another:

The presiding minister will read the sections in plain text. You are invited to read the bold portions.

If God is a painter, let us be the brush.
If God is a musician, let us be the song.
If God is an architect, let us be the tools.
Let us be the hands.
Let us be the builders.
But if God is a shepherd, who never stops seeking,
let us be willing to be found, no matter how lost we feel.
Our God is never far away.
Forgive us for forgetting this good news. Amen.

Family of faith, we are all a little bit lost and a little bit found. We grumble. We push back. We doubt God. We doubt ourselves. We leave the flock and lose our way. But fortunately for us, our God is a shepherding God who is always by our side. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel: No matter how far we wander, we can never wander from the bounds of God's grace. We are loved.. We are not alone. In the name of Christ you are forgiven 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 -



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

Shepherding God, You look for us. You search for us. You turn every corner and climb every mountain. You call our name until your voice is hoarse. When we lose our way, you never stop seeking after us. So once again we pray, find us in this moment. Look for us. And then surround us with your presence, so that we might feel you near. With hope we pray, with hope we listen. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Joshua 5:9-12

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way.

¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see,

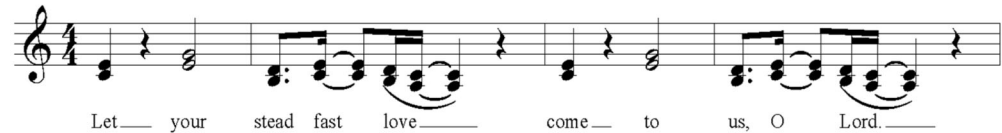
everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

LENTEN ACCLAMATION

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or in spirit.



GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-7

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ⁴Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Meditative Song “Breath, Listen & Notice”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a seeking God,
a with-us and before-us God,
a chasing-after-us God.

We believe that no matter where we wander
or what mountains we climb, this God—
the God who walked the streets of Jerusalem,
shook hands with lepers,
patted children on the head,
and told stories of love—
is always close at hand.

So on the good days and the hard days,
on the mountains and in the valleys,
We believe that we are always being found.
Thanks be to God for a love like that.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion, especially... Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who

live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Rescue” by Lauren Daigle
Sara Parks, Vocalist with Celebration Band

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **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.

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sing each line twice



Please
be
seated

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

2. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho-san - na in the high - est.

3. Bless'd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

...And so, we gather at this table, in the space between longing and fulfillment, remembering that:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

... we give you thanks, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

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.



"Lost and Found" (*A Sanctified Art*)
 #1062 "Build a Longer Table" (*All Creation Sings*)

BENEDICTION

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit. **Benediction:** *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

As you leave this place, may you find God in every messy middle.
 May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.
 May you trust that you are made in the image of God.
 May you move through this world with an open heart, with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone.
 God is with you in the mountains, in the valleys, and everywhere in between.
 Believe that good news. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Grave Into Gardens"

VERSE 1

♩ = 46 *Swing-sixteenths*

A E A E

1. I searched the world, but it could - n't fill me.

C#m7 B(4) A2

4 Man's emp - ty praise and trea - sures that fade are nev - er e - nough.

E A E

8 Then You came a - long and put me back to - geth - er.

C#m7 B(4) A2

12 And ev - ry de - sire is now sat - is - fied here in Your love.

CHORUS

16 E C#m7

Oh, there's noth - ing bet - ter than You. There's noth - ing

TURNAROUND

20 A2 E

bet - ter than You. Lord, there's noth - ing, noth - ing is bet - ter than You.

VERSE 2

24 A E A E A E

2. I'm not a - fraid to show You my weak - ness.

30 C#m7 B(4) A2

My fail - ures and flaws, Lord You've seen them all, and You still call me friend.

34 E F#m7 E

'Cause the God of the moun - tain is the God of the val - ley. There's not a place

39 C#m7 B(4) A2

Your mer - cy and grace won't find me a - gain. Oh, there's

CHORUS

E C#m7

noth - ing bet - ter than You. There's noth - ing bet - ter than You. Lord, there's

1, 3

47 A2 E

noth - ing, noth - ing is bet - ter than You. Oh, there's

TURNAROUND

51 ^{2, 4} E A E A
(2nd x jump to Br.)
noth - ing is bet - ter than You.

BRIDGE

E A E A
You turn mourn - ing to danc - ing. You give beau - ty for ash - es.
You turn graves in - to gar - dens. You turn bones in - to ar - mies.

60 E C#m7 A2 E E ^{1, 2, 4} ^{3, 5}
You turn shame in - to glo - ry. You're the on - ly one who can. You're the
You turn seas in - to high - ways. You're the on - ly one who can.

SENDING

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Preacher: | Pr. Andrew Plocher |
| Liturgist: | Pr. Molly Hunter |
| Assisting Minister: | Mike Hill |
| Reader: | Marina Shinkarenko |
| Ushers: | Sally Davis, Nancy Hamlin |
| Communion Assistants: | Mike Hill, Gayle Mack, Marina Shinkarenko |
| Greeter: | Milt & Boli Soderberg |
| Songleader: | Sara Parks |
| Pianist: | Jacob Schmeltzer |
| Band Members: | Jason Parks, Tom Bronken, Darren Smith, Ross Larson |
| Audio Technician: | Traci Zini |
| Livestream Technician: | Traci Zini |
| Projection Technician: | Kathy Godec |
| Nursery: | Maddie Dykema |
| Flower Delivery: | Alison Cory |

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