



Second Sunday in Lent

10:30 am - March 1, 2026

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

PRELUDE

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!

GATHERING HYMN

“Imago Dei”

U *U maj 7*

I - ma - go Dei The im - age of God is here

Bm G A D

I - ma - go Dei The like - ness of God a - live

After 3rd time of refrain, go to descant/bridge

G A D G Em A

Ho - ly be - cause we are of God We are all of God
Sib - lings be - cause we are of God We are all of God

Ho - ly be - cause we are of God We are all of God
Sib - lings be - cause we are of God We are all of God

Descant/Bridge

We _____ be - long to one an - oth - er We be - long

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

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

Family of faith,
 we long to love others as God loves us,
 but that work is easier said than done.
 We lose our way.
 We become distracted.
 We grow fearful.
 We need God's grace.
 Fortunately for us, God's grace is freely and abundantly given.
 So join me in the Prayer of Confession.
 Join me in being transformed.

Merciful God,
did we see you hungry and give you something to eat?
Did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink?
Did we see you alone and offer you compassion?

Or did we cross the street?
Did we avert our eyes?
Did we come up with every excuse in the book?

God, we long to be people who love our neighbors
with the same overwhelming love that you have for them.
But we must admit, we have a long way to go.

Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear
get in the way of love. Wash us clean and give us the courage to try again.
With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.

Faith family,
 even when we act with judgment,
 even when we are guided by fear,
 even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need,
 God does not turn God's back on us.
 So join me in this good-news declaration:

We are seen.
We are forgiven.
We are invited to try again.
Thanks be to God for this unending love.

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, let us pray
to the Lord.



For the peace from above and for our
salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace of the world, and for the well
being of the church of God, and for the
unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



For this holy house, for all who
offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord,



Help, Save, comfort and defend
us gracious Lord.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Good news God, speak louder than the news updates. Speak louder than our mental distractions. Speak louder than our anger and louder than our fear. God, speak loudly to us today, because we long to hear your good news once more. With hope we pray,
Amen.

Please
be
seated

The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
**My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

**Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
**the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.

**The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please
stand
as you
are
com-
fortable
in body
or in
spirit.

$\text{♩} = 116$

Now's the time to hear God's word. Let the mes-sage be tru - ly heard.

Let us lis - ten care - ful - ly and al - low our hearts to be stirred.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 7:36-50:

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and when he went into the Pharisee's house he reclined to dine. And a woman in the city who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair, kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." "A certain moneylender had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Matthew 25:35-40:

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Please be
seated

Please
stand as
you are
comfortable
in
body or
spirit.

SERMON

MEDITATIVE MUSIC

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe God's goodness overflows—
unexpected, uncontained—
and so we live with open hands.

God is good. We will live it.

We believe love of God
and love of neighbor
are one life—
and so we practice mercy.

God is good. We will live it.

We believe what we place in God's hands,
however small,
becomes enough—
and so we share what we have.

God is good. We will live it.

We believe the vulnerable belong at the center—
and so we protect their dignity.

God is good. We will live it.

We believe justice, mercy, and faithfulness
are the weight of the kingdom—
and so we follow Jesus
into courageous love.

God is good. We will live it.

The good news is still good.

And we will live it.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world
and its needs.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss, especially... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

“We Remember Hands that Tend”

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, we bring what we have—ordinary gifts, honest offerings. Receive them, bless them, and make them enough. Let them become good news: bread for the hungry, welcome for the vulnerable, justice shaped by mercy. Take what we place in your hands and use it to form us into a people who live what we believe. For your goodness overflows, and we are grateful to share in it. Amen.

Please be
Seated.

Please
stand as
you are
comfortable
in body
or spirit.

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 join the unending hymn:

$\text{♩} = 92$

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord, Na - ture dis - lays your glo - ry.

5
Hea - ven and Earth are full of your works just as far as the eye can see.

9
Bles - sed is the Son of God who died at Cal - va - ry. took on our sins and

14
set us free in an act he could fore - see. Ho - ly, ho - ly

18
ho - ly Lord, Beau - ty is all a - round We have been blessed be -

22
- yond com - pare. Let us praise You with joy - ful sound.

Holy are you,

... We proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

... 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, who takes a - way the sins of the world, have
 mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, who takes a - way the sins of world, have
 mer - cy on our souls. Lamb of God, who takes a - way the sins of the
 world, grant us peace. Grant us peace. Grant us peace.

“I Come With My Devotion”

I come with my de - vo - tion to love and serve
 I hear my Sa - vior's call - ing to serve the lost
 God made us in God's im - age each per - son whom
 my God Whose lov - ing cos - mos formed me
 and least The hun - gry and im - pris - oned,
 we meet Ex - tra - va - gant - ly lov - ing



be - fore I e - ver sought The glo - ry of the
the bro - ken ones like me For in each act of
all of hu - man - i - ty So I'll re - turn the



hea - vens or praise on earth be - low So ev - ery
kind - ness it's Christ for whom we care All wor - thy
love which has formed me from the start — Lov - ing



gift I have now I lay be - fore the throne
of our love — since it's God's face we bear
my cre - a - tor, my - self, and ev - ery heart

“I Saw a Stranger”



I saw a stran - ger on the road in need of help and
I laid there des - perate by the road in need of help and
In our em - brace the mem - o - ry re - turned from E - den's



care No clues to their i - den - ti - ty, just hu - man
care As one by one they passed me by, too bu - sy
dust Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh, my kin whom



flesh laid bare A thought had flut - tered through my
 or too scared Then one ap - proached and my first
 I can trust The ar - ti - fi - cial walls we



mind: "Is this one of my own?" My tri - bal mind
 thought was "Do they mean me harm?" To my sur - prise
 build a - round the tribes we claim Make us for - get



made me for - get that they're bone of my bone
 they met my eyes and held me in their arms
 the gos - pel truth: "Be - lo - ved" is your name

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

“Tremble”

VERSE



1. Peace, bring it all to peace. The storms sur - round - ing me, let it break
 2. Still, call the sea to still, the rage in me to still, ev - 'ry wave
 3. Breathe, call these bones to live, call these lungs to sing. Once a - gain, _____

1 | 2, 3
 Gsus Gsus7 F2

CHORUS 1a

♩ (2nd D.S. Instrumental)



at Your name. at Your name. Je - sus, Je - sus,
 I will praise. _____

7 Am7 G(4) F2 Am7 G(4)

You make the dark - ness trem - ble. Je - sus, Je - sus, You si - lence fear.

10 F2 Am7 G(4) F2 Am7 G(4) D.C.

Je - sus, Je - sus, You make the dark - ness trem - ble. Je - sus, Je - sus.

BRIDGE

2 Am7 G(4) Am7 G(4) F2 C G(4)
14 D.S.

Your name is a light that the shad - ows can't de - ny. Your

18 F2 G(4) Am7 F2 C G(4)

name can - not be o - ver - come. Your name is a - live, for - ev - er lift - ed high. Your

CHORUS 1b

22 F2 G(4) Am7 F2
C G(4) F2 Am7 G(4)

name can - not be o - ver - come. Je - sus, Je - sus,

25

You make the dark - ness trem - ble. Je - sus, Je - sus, You si - lence fear.

28 F2 C G(4) F2 Am7 G(4) D.S.

Je - sus, Je - sus, You make the dark - ness trem - ble. Je - sus, Je - sus.

2

F2 Am7 G(4) F2

32

Je - sus, Je - sus.

SENDING

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
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
Assisting Minister:	Mike Hill
Reader:	Simeon MacIvor-Andersen
Ushers:	Amy Diedrich, Paula Diedrich
Communion Assistants:	Mike Hill, Kerry McGinley & Karen Burkman, Gayle Mack
Greeters:	
Songleader:	Sara Parks
Pianist:	Jacob Schmeltzer
Band Members:	Tom Bronken, Darren Smith, Ross Larson
Audio Technician:	Dan Zini
Livestream Technician:	Traci Zini
Projection Technician:	Kathy Godec
Nursery:	Maddie Dykema
Flower Delivery:	

Acknowledgements:

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Thank you for your generosity!

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