



Third Sunday in Lent

10:30 am - March 8, 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

“Beautiful Things”

VERSE 1 & 2

$\text{♩} = 82$ G A/G D G A/G D

1. All this pain. I won - der if I'll ev - er find my way; I won - der if my
 2. All this earth. Could all that is lost ev - er be found; Could a gar - den

5 G A/G Bm7 Asus G A/G D D

life could real - ly change at all.
 come up from this ground at all?

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.

18 G A/G D G A/G D G A/G

3. All a - round hope is spring - ing up from this old ground.

23 D G A Bm7 Asus G A/G D

Out of cha - os, life is be - ing found in You.

The presid-
ing minister
will read the
sections in
plain text.
**You are
invited to
read the
bold por-
tions.**

D A/D G/D D

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

32 A/D G/D D D+

You make beau - ti - ful things, You make beau - ti - ful things out of us.

G A/G G A/G

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

40 D A/D G/D D

You make beau - ti - ful things, You make beau - ti - ful things out of us.

D A G D D A/D

You make me new, You are

50 G/D D A/D G/D

mak - ing me new. You make me new, You are mak - ing me new.

55 D D A/D G/D

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

59 D D/G A/G G D/G

You make beau - ti - ful things You make beau - ti - ful things out of us.

D A/D G/D D

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

68 D/G A/G G D/G D

You make beau - ti - ful things,

73 A/D G/D D

You make beau - ti - ful things out of us. _____

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Friends, we are like the disciples.

The day that Jesus fed 5,000, his disciples could not imagine a solution to the crowd's hunger.

They

told Jesus to send the crowds away.

We often do the same.

Like the disciples, we try to follow Jesus around, but when we run into issues, we often cannot imagine how we could play a part.

That is why we need the Prayer of Confession.

For in this prayer, we remember that we can make a difference.

So friends, join me in this moment of truth telling.

Join me in prayer:

Holy God,

with you the impossible is possible.

5,000 can be fed.

The blind can see.

The hopeless can find hope.

With you the impossible is possible,

but we are quick to forget that.

We look at our hurting world and tell ourselves that nothing can be done.

We forget that you empowered the disciples to feed the crowd.

We forget that you are always with us.

Forgive our small-minded ways.

Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come.

But even more so, forgive us when we refuse to be a part of it.

With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, Amen.

Family of faith,

no matter how many mistakes the disciples made,

Jesus still washed their feet. Jesus still fed them. Jesus still called them beloved.

The same is true for you and me, so hear and believe this good news:

today is a new day, and once again, we belong to God.

We are forgiven. We are called. We are not alone.

What good, *good news. 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, 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

Holy God, we could press our ear to the page, hoping to hear you more clearly. We could silence all the alarms and notifications, hoping to catch a murmur of your voice. We could still our beating hearts, and still we might miss your voice. So today we pray, open up space in our hearts, in our spirits, in our minds, to feel your presence among us. With you, anything is possible. We believe. Help our unbelief. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Exodus 17:1-7

Please
be
seated

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt,



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

GOSPEL

Mark 6:32-44 & Ephesians 3:20-21

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 6:32-44:

³² And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴ As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. ³⁵ When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; ³⁶ send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.” ³⁷ But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” They said to him, “Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?” ³⁸ And he said to them, “How many loaves have you? Go and see.” When they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” ³⁹ Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. ⁴¹ Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² And all ate and were filled, ⁴³ and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴ Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

Ephesians 3:20-21:

²⁰ Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Please be
seated

SERMON

MEDITATIVE MUSIC

“What Wondrous Love is This” *Messiah's Handbell Choir*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Please
stand as
you are
comfortable
in
body or
spirit.

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.

O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought, and bring relief to places damaged by floods. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need, especially... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. 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.**

Please be Seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“We Shall Overcome” *Celebration Choir*

OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit.

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.

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:

♩ = 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.**

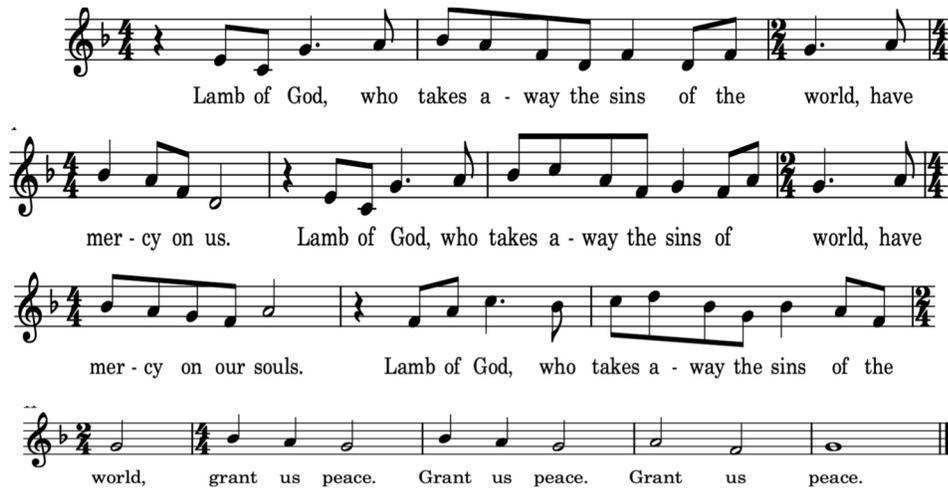
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

“Human Minds Just Can’t Imagine”



Hu - man minds just can't i - ma - gine all that God can bring
 God, ex - pand our dreams and vi - sion when we think our gifts
 Like the grains of wheat are ga - thered from the vast and roll -



to bear Through our small and sep - arate be - ings, e - ven
 too small Help us trust your great pro - vis - ion and to
 - ing fields Like the grapes from vi - ny bran - ches whose small



when we join to share Still we fol - low where Christ leads us,
 an - swer when you call You who gave us time and ta - lents
 fruit the wine will yield We re - mem - ber as one bo - dy,



ma - ny pie - ces of one whole That we might al - low
 will up - hold and see us through As we join to - geth -
 each of us a cru - cial part In the glo - bal church



our dream - ing to trans - form our bro - ken world
 - er in the work you've gi - ven us to do
 pro - fess - ing: we be - long to God's own heart

#922 “When We Are Tested”



- 1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
- 2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
- 3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
- 4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
 plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
 trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
 sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
 lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
 teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
 Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
 trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
 seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
 an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

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, _____

CHORUS 1a

*(2nd D.S. Instrumental)



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



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

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

Your name is a light that the shad - ows can't de - ny. Your name can - not be o - ver - come. Your name is a - live, for - ev - er lift - ed high. Your name can - not be o - ver - come. Je - sus, Je - sus,

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

Je - sus, Je - sus.

SENDING

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Preacher:	Pr. Steve Solberg
Liturgist:	Pr. Andrew Plocher
Assisting Minister:	Marina Shinkarenko
Reader:	Laurel Kniskern
Ushers:	Jeanne Groos, Jill Luoma
Communion Assistants:	Linda Chapman, Sandy Lindberg, Gayle Van Osdol
Greeters:	Marina Shinkarenko, Nancy Skoog
Songleader:	Sara Parks
Pianist:	Jacob Schmeltzer
Band Members:	Tom Bronken, Darren Smith, Ross Larson
Bell Choir Director:	Judy Quirk
Audio Technician:	Dan Zini
Livestream Technician:	Traci Zini
Projection Technician:	Kathy Godec
Nursery:	
Flower Delivery:	

Acknowledgements:

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