



# 5th Sunday in Lent

8:30 am - March 22, 2026

*Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church*

**PRELUDE**

“How Can I Keep from Singing?” *Tuba Quartet*

**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 comfortable, in body or in spirit. The presiding minister will read the sections in plain text. You are invited to read the bold portions.*

## CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

In the name of the Father,  
and of the  $\text{†}$  Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of  $\text{†}$  Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

“Righteous Mercy”

Since our child - hood you have taught us what is wrong  
Though there's wide - ness in your mer - cy, let us not  
Far too of - ten we hold on - to an - ger dressed

and what is right Nur - tur - ing our sense of  
a - buse that grace Called in - to this Chris - tian  
as righ - teous - ness We for - get we serve a

8  
jus - tice, fuel - ing us to work and fight Keep that  
jour - ney, let our lives re - flect our faith When we  
God who calls us to re - la - tion - ship So when

14  
fire for jus - tice burn - ing in the sha - dow  
fal - ter and fall short of our com - mit - ment  
those who caused us harm re - pent and choose a

19  
of our fear E - ven there your Spi - rit's stir - ring,  
to your will Hold us, wrap - ping us in your love  
bet - ter way Spi - rit move our venge - ful hearts

25  
light - ing us a path that's clear  
as we work toward whole - ness still  
to choose love in - stead of wrath

## GREETING

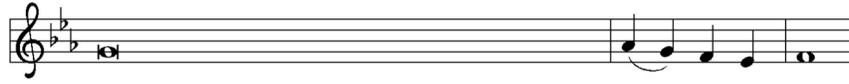
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## KYRIE

p. 98 ELW "Kyrie"

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

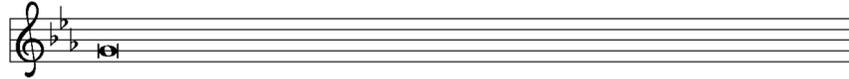
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



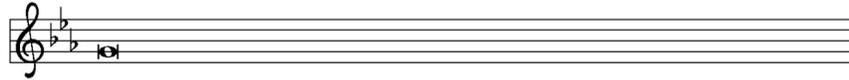
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy One, when you speak, we don't want to miss it. When you bend down and write in the dirt, when you move through the trees, when you wake with the dawn, when you tug on our heart, or whisper into our dreams, we don't want to miss it. So today we pray, clear out the cobwebs in our ears. Quiet the steady stream of thoughts marching through our minds. Open up space in our hearts so that we can receive your word for us today. With hope we pray. **Amen.**

Please  
be seated.

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalm 130

<sup>1</sup>Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD;

**<sup>2</sup>O LORD, hear my voice!**

**Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**

<sup>3</sup>If you were to keep watch over sins,

O LORD, who could stand?

**<sup>4</sup>Yet with you is forgiveness,  
in order that you may be feared.**

<sup>5</sup>I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;  
in your word is my hope.

**<sup>6</sup>My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,  
more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

<sup>7</sup>O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;  
with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

**<sup>8</sup>For the LORD shall redeem Israel  
from all their sins.**

<sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit.

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

### GOSPEL

John 8:2-11; Matthew 23:23

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 8:2-11

<sup>2</sup>Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them. <sup>3</sup>The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, <sup>4</sup>they said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. <sup>5</sup>Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” <sup>6</sup>They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. <sup>7</sup>When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” <sup>8</sup>And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. <sup>9</sup>When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. <sup>10</sup>Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” <sup>11</sup>She said, “No one, sir.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.”

Matthew 23:23

<sup>23</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others.

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

Please be seated.

## SERMON

**MEDITATIVE MUSIC** “Llangloffan (Bless Now, O God, the Journey)” Tuba Quartet

*Arr. by Tom Bronken*

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit.

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried;  
 he descended to the dead.  
 On the third day he rose again;  
 he ascended into heaven,  
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**  
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic church,  
 the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many. Console any who weep and heal all who are sick, especially... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this assembly. Ready the hearts and spirits of all preparing to be baptized. Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We offer our thanksgiving for all people who have died in faith. Give us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save, and bring us up from our graves to life in you. 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.

### SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM

*“Jesus Loves Me”*

### 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 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.

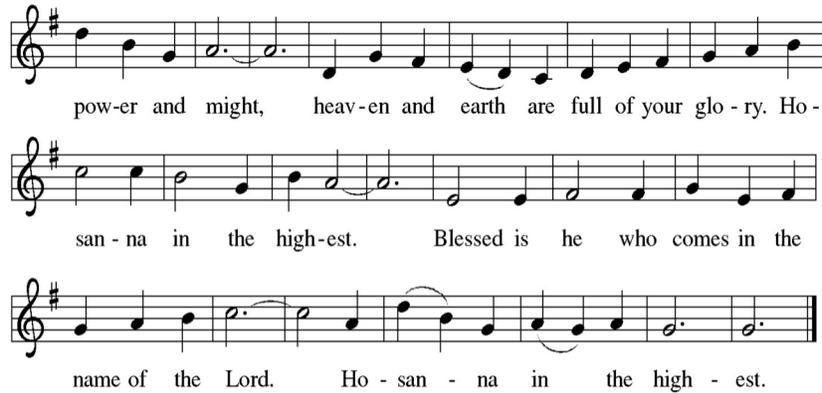
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-  
san-na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.  
Your mercy is everlasting...

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Oh God of resurrection...

Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us...

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places,...

...blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

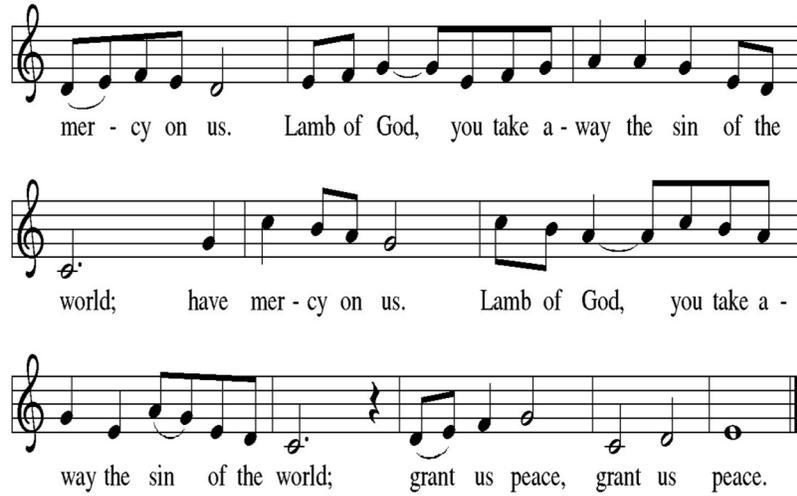
### COMMUNION HYMNS

"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; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## #334 "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery"



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your  
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed  
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling  
death we are re - born; though you die in all of  
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and  
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and  
his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you  
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the  
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the  
rise with ev - 'ry morn.  
bod - y of our Lord.  
riv - er, you the sea.

#712 "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,  
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;  
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light  
4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:  
still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,  
to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;  
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,  
hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.  
by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.  
stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.  
that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

Please stand as you are comfortable in body or spirit.

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

Church,  
go beyond easy judgment.

Kneel in the dust.  
Listen before you speak.  
Practice justice that restores.  
Offer mercy that protects.  
Remain faithful when it costs you.  
These are the weightier things.

This is the heart of the kingdom.

Go steady in grace.  
 Go anchored in mercy.  
 Go faithful.

And may the blessing of the Triune God—  
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—  
 rest upon you and remain with you,  
 now and always.  
 Amen.

**SENDING HYMN**

#339 “Christ, the Life of All the Living”



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
 2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,  
 3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:  
 e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;  
 for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.  
 for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.  
 thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.  
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.  
 for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

**SENDING**

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

“Tocatta” by J Pachelbel

## 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](http://www.messiahlutheranmqt.org)

Preacher:	Pr. Steve Solberg
Liturgist:	Pr. Andrew Plocher
Assisting Minister:	Marina Shinkarenko
Reader:	Brenda Blett
Ushers:	Bruce Robertson, Cathy Seblonka
Communion Assistants:	Beth Krznarich, Judy Quirk, Marina Shinkarenko
Greeters:	Chris Harkness
Organist:	Kathy Strazzinski
Senior Choir Director:	Sara Parks
Guest Musicians:	Euphonium-Leah Elenbaas & Gordon Erickson; Tuba-Chris Adams & Tom Bronken
Audio Technician:	Dan Zini
Livestream Technician:	Traci Zini
Nursery:	Sarah Bleckiner
Flower Delivery:	
Refreshments:	

Acknowledgements:  
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donations automatically go to our  
general fund which supports the  
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Thank you for your generosity!

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**venmo**