



5th Sunday in Lent

10:30 am - March 22, 2026

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

PRELUDE

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

#723 “Canticle of the Turning”

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!



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the

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



weak-ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Jesus once said to a crowd, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone."

Friends, none of us are without sin.
None of us get it right all the time.
None of us can get by without God's grace.

In the Prayer of Confession, we acknowledge this truth.
We put down our stones
and we turn to God for forgiveness.

Join me in this act of transformation.
Let us pray:

**Holy God,
we love to live our lives by the rules.
We love clear answers.**

We love right and wrong.
 We love swift justice.
 We love to pick up stones,
 but you show us another way.
 You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation.
 You prioritize mercy over legality.
 You prioritize people over tradition.
 You prioritize love over everything.
 Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters.
 Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws than to each other or to you.
 Forgive us. Soften our hearts.
 Root us in mercy, justice, and love.
 With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen.

Church family,
 Jesus saw a crowd ready to throw stones and invited them to choose another way.
 Jesus offered them grace, mercy, and compassion,
 and the same can be said for us.
 So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
Our God is a God of mercy.
Our God is a God of compassion.
Our God is a God of grace.
We are forgiven, loved, and invited to choose another way.
Thanks be to God for yet another second chance.
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 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 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.**

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Please
be
seated

¹The 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. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I 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."

⁷So 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. ⁸I 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. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy 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." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then 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.' ¹²Therefore 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. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people.

¹⁴ 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

- ¹ Out of the depths
 I cry to you, O LORD;
² **O LORD, hear my voice!**
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.
³ If you were to keep watch over sins,
 O LORD, who could stand?
⁴ **Yet with you is forgiveness,**
in order that you may be feared.
⁵ I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;
 in your word is my hope.
⁶ **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,**
more than those who keep watch for the morning.
⁷ O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;
 with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.
⁸ **For the LORD shall redeem Israel**
from all their sins.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please
 stand as
 you are
 comforta-
 ble 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.

GOSPEL

John 8:2-11; Matthew 23:23

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 8:2-11

² 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. ³ The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, ⁴ they said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. ⁵ Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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.” ⁸ And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹ 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

²³ “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.

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.

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Rebel Heart" by *Lauren Daigle*, performed by Sara Parks & the Band

Please
stand as
you are

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.

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.

“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
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

#712 "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

"Tremble"

VERSE

$\text{♩} = 74$ Am Fmaj7 C

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)

4
 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.

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

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

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

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

25

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.

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.

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Preacher:	Pr. Steve Solberg
Liturgist:	Pr. Andrew Plocher
Assisting Minister:	Inga Banitt
Reader:	Nancy Hamlin
Ushers:	Jin & Carrie Ketchum
Communion Assistants:	Linda Champman, Sandy Lindberg, Marina Shinkarenko
Greeters:	Gayle Van Osdol
Songleader:	Sara Parks
Pianist:	Jacob Schmeltzer
Band Members:	Tom Bronken, Darren Smith, Ross Larson
Guest Musicians:	Euphonium-Leah Elenbaas & Gordon Erickson; Tuba-Chris Adams & Tom Bronken
Audio Technician:	Dan Zini
Livestream Technician:	Traci Zini
Projection Technician:	Abby LaForest
Nursery:	Sarah Bleckiner
Flower Delivery:	Nancy Skoog

Acknowledgements:
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Thank you for your generosity!

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