



Holy Communion

The Third Sunday in Lent + Year C

March 23, 2025 + 10:00 a.m.

Messiah Lutheran Church

Lyndhurst, Ohio + 440.442.6941 + messiahlyndhurst.org

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church!

Peace be with you in this Lenten season. It is good to be together.

We are a community committed to the fostering of faith for young participants. Children are encouraged to participate fully in worship and are encouraged to growth through Sunday School. Classes for all ages are available at 9:00am.

Discover more about the congregation at our website messiahlyndhurst.org or on social media at facebook.com/MLC44124.

Prayer Concerns can be shared via email (pastor@messiahlyndhurst.org) or phone (440-442-6941). Please indicate if you would like your request to be considered for inclusion in worship or with our Prayer Partners prayer chain ministry.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated weekly. Worshippers of all ages are welcome at Christ's Table. If Communion is new for you or a young one in your family, we invite you to have a conversation with Pastor Paul.

Serving in Worship Today:

Presiding Minister	The Rev. Paul Moody
Assisting Minister	Carol Sopko
Organist	Adam Dellinger
Choir Director	Vicki Lester
Altar Guild	Twyla Lucas
Reader	TBD
Usher	Gregg Greanoff

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Please rise in body or spirit. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters
ELW #445

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.


Assembly




Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have





For the reign of God, and for



mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.




peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

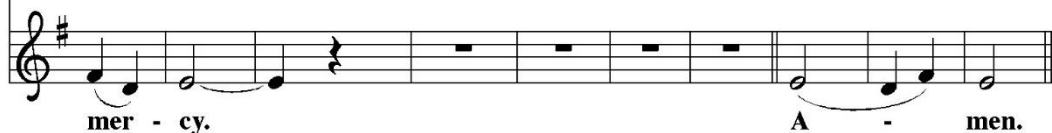
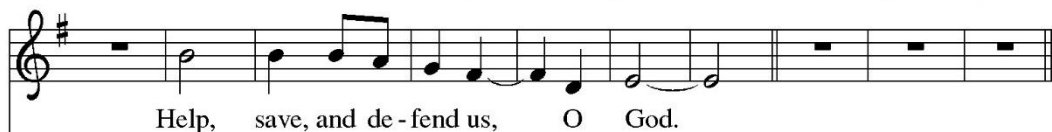
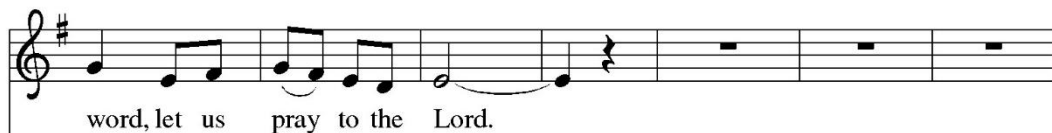
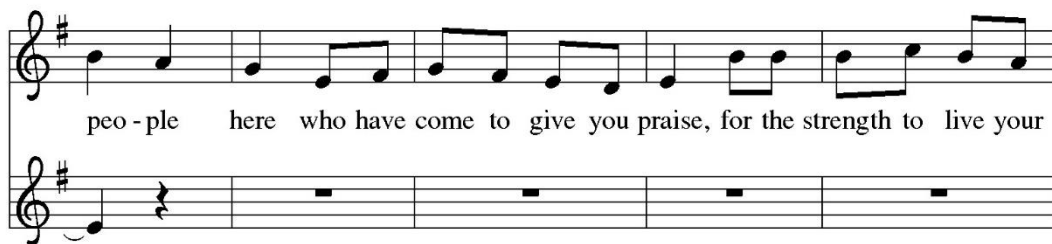


Lord.

For your



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Please be seated)

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

- ¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts,
 come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.
- ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
 and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.
- ³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.
- ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.
- ⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
 and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
 for he has glorified you.
- ⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found,
 call upon him while he is near;
- ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way,
 and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
- ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



¹ O God, you are my God; eager- ¹ ly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land
where there ¹ is no water.

² **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your ¹ holy place,
that I might behold your power ¹ and your glory.**

³ For your steadfast love is better than ¹ life itself;
my lips shall ¹ give you praise.

⁴ **So will I bless you as long ¹ as I live
and lift up my hands ¹ in your name.**

⁵ My spirit is content, as with the rich- ¹ est of foods,
and my mouth praises you with ¹ joyful lips,

⁶ **when I remember you up- ¹ on my bed,
and meditate on you in ¹ the night watches.**

⁷ For you have ¹ been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I ¹ will rejoice.

⁸ **My whole being ¹ clings to you;
your right hand ¹ holds me fast.**

SECOND READING:

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

¹ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on

whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.


ANTHEM

Cup of Sorrow
Cindy Berry

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Please rise and sing the acclamation twice)



Re - turn to God with all your heart, the

Source of grace and mer - cy; Come, seek the ten - der

faith - ful-ness of God.

GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

The Holy Gospel According to Saint Luke:

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.²[Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?"³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

The Rev. Paul Jones Moody

(Please observe a moment of silence after the sermon, and rise as directed)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross
ELW #335

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

(A brief silence)

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion (*especially*). Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict (*especially*). Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

(Here other intercessions may be offered)

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended (*especially*). May their witness inspire our own. 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.

PEACE

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

(Please greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying, "Peace be with you" or similar response.)

OFFERING

(Please rise in body or spirit)

OFFERING RESPONSE

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

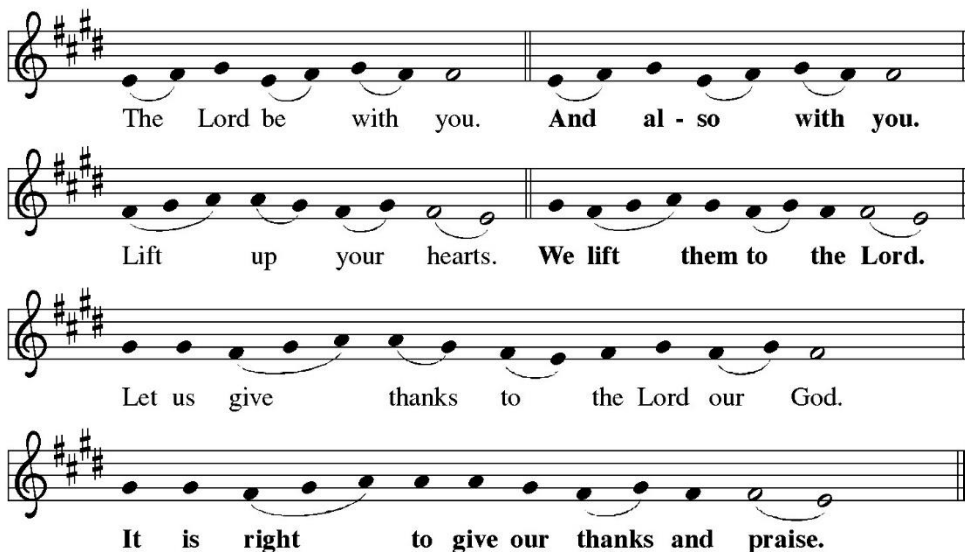
OFFERING PRAYER

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.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING



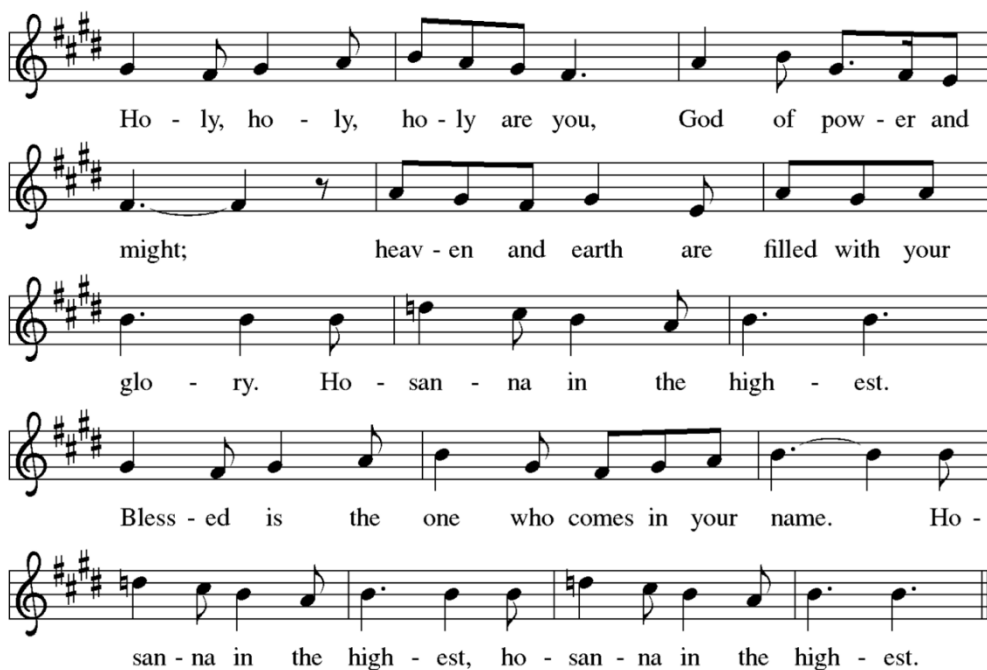
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With [name/s and] your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us,

**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.**

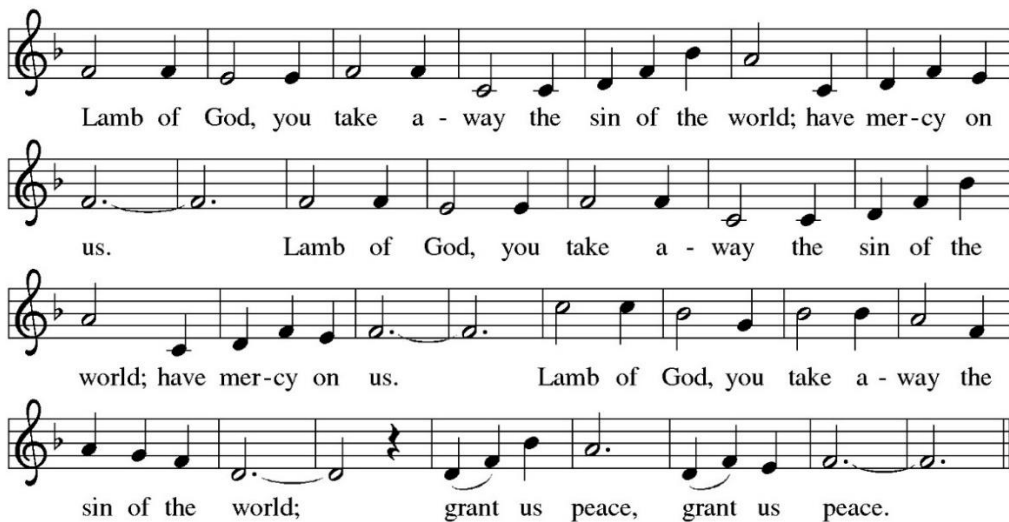
HOLY COMMUNION

All who are hungry, come!
The feast of grace is spread.
All are welcome here.

(Please be seated, and follow the usher's guidance, coming forward to receive Holy Communion.)

If you would like to be served in your pew, please let an usher know, and the team will come and serve you.

The Sacrament will be served at the rail. Please kneel if you would like. If you need gluten-free bread, please let the server know. Wine is red, juice is lighter in color. The presiding minister will say a blessing for each group that communes.)



COMMUNION HYMN

Let Us Break Bread Together
ELW #471

COMMUNION HYMN

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
ELW #803

(Please rise)

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -
 2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -
 3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -



ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:
 ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:
 ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:



thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for -



Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.



ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new.
 Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
 that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
 in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION PRAYER

As God has gathered us and filled our hearts with Word and Sacrament,
now God sends us forth to serve in mission. Let us pray:

**Gracious God, through belief in Christ and through the presence of the Holy Spirit within us, empower us to share the word; care and support each other in God's community; worship as a family in Christ; and be Christ-like examples to those whose lives we touch.
Amen.**

BLESSING

God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Lead Me, Guide Me
ELW #768

DISMISSAL

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

(Please observe a moment of silence before the postlude)

POSTLUDE

Messiah Staff Members

Choir Director: Vicki Lester
Director of Christian Education: Sheryl Trost
Office Administrator: Steven Liss
Organist: Adam Dellinger
Social Media & Website: Kristy Bohinc

Attributions

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Prayers

Prayer Team & Partners: Our Prayer Team will pray with/for you. Please complete a blue Prayer Request Card, available in the sanctuary, which offers these options: (1) request a Pastoral follow-up, (2) include in the intercessory prayers to be read aloud in worship, (3) add to the ongoing list in the Bulletin and Grace Note, or (4) add to the Prayer Partner Email Chain.

PLEASE SEND NEW PRAYER REQUESTS TO: pastor@messiahlyndhurst.org

Please pray for our siblings in Christ: Lila Boehler, Gladys, Tonyia Greanoff, Spencer Griffith, Diane Kosovich, Grace Loudenstein, Lisa Perry, Susan Sopko, Vince, the family and friends of Sue Branca, the family and friends of Evelyn Keefer, the family and friends of Ralph Spencer, as well as all those in need of comfort and healing.

(Prayer requests included in the bulletin will remain active for a period of four weeks. If you wish to have the prayer renewed, please resubmit accordingly.)

Announcements

Easter Flowers: If you'd like to give flowers in honor of a loved one, please use the flower envelopes (blue with white flowers) in the pews. The suggested offering is \$20 per flower. The deadline to order is Sunday, April 13, 2024.

Save the Dates – Join us as we walk through the Lenten season together:

- Lenten Soup Supper and Conversation – 6:15pm on April 2.
- Holden Vespers – every Wednesday through April 9 at 7:00pm.
- Palm Sunday Service – April 13 at 10:00am.
- Maundy Thursday Service – April 17 at 7:00pm.
- Good Friday Service – April 18 at 7:30pm.
- Easter Service – April 20 at 10:00am.

Special Request / Easter Basket Project – from Holly & Bill Maurer and Kate Funkner:

About 10 years ago, Pastor Bobbie Davis Newhouse was our pastor at St. John Lutheran in Highland Heights. Pastor Bobbie has spearheaded the Cleveland Easter Basket Project for more than 25 years, benefiting the Metro Pediatrics unit and NICU. Last year over 400 baskets were distributed, all through the generosity of volunteers. Each basket includes a book because literacy is so important, age-appropriate toys, personal care items and treats. All this is made possible by Pastor Bobbie, despite the fact that due to an unfortunate accident she suffered a spinal cord injury and is confined to a wheelchair.

If you are able to make a contribution to the project you can either: (1) write a check to First Baptist Church (the current project host), put Easter Basket Project on the memo line, and send to them, (2) just hand it to one of us on Sunday and we will hand deliver to the church, or (3) use Go Fund Me to make a donation. Feel free to contact one of us with questions. Thank you for your support and prayers for this very rewarding ministry!

Lenten Food & Paper Product Drive: March 9 – April 13 benefitting the Tri-C East Campus Food Pantry. Paper products (paper towels, napkins) and food items are requested. Place donations on the table by the church back entry.

Book Club: The book we are reading for the April 8 meeting is *The Briar's Club* by Kate Quinn.

Pastor Paul's Office Hours:

Wednesdays: 1:00 – 3:00pm

Church Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, & Fri: 12:00 – 4:00pm

In-person access to the office is via appointment only.

Attendance and Offering for the week of March 16, 2025:

Attendance: 68 Offering: \$2,102

Special Acknowledgments

Email to messiahlutheranoffice@gmail.com by Wednesday at 3pm for publication on the following Sunday. We'll keep items in print for at least two weeks.

♥ Messiah, thank you so much for your many messages of support and care as Katie and I have navigated a difficult time losing our dear pup Rosie. We are so grateful for the way she was welcomed and loved by many here. Thank you especially to Kristy for leading the March 2nd service and making a difficult announcement with grace and love, and to Sarah for a great Children's Moment that day (Pastor Paul and Katie).

♥ Wow! So many thanks to the Messiah community for your tremendous donation of beloved stuffies! Through the work of The Teddy Bear Brigade, we will be sending the 135 stuffies you donated to children around the world experiencing poverty, war, immigration, or natural disasters. Please visit <https://gleaningcharity.org/tbb/> for more information. What a beautiful example of our community acting together to share Christ's love with the world! (Lenz Family)

Lenten Banner

The Lenten banner portrays the connection between the two major themes of Lent – repentance and baptism. The sinner in the foreground has turned away from God and pursued the way of sin, and that has brought the sinner to his/her knees in a barren place. Seeking life-giving water, the sinner finds only a dry streambed and confronts a half-buried skeleton. The way of sin becomes the way of death. The pouring out of a handful of the parched, dusty soil is reminiscent of the words that remind us sinners of our mortality: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

The Lenten exhortation responds, REPENT, turn around and "RETURN to the Lord for he is gracious and merciful." The "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" awaits the sinner's return and, standing under the sign of the cross, pours forth the waters of baptism with its promises of forgiveness, rebirth as child of God, and eternal life. The promises of baptism flow unbounded into time and space. The penitential purple of the sky behind the Lamb gradually lightens to suggest the approaching brightness of Easter morning.