



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

4th Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

Traditional Service



We welcome you to The Traditional Service this morning

Our Staff

Cindy Anderson, Parish Administrator Email: secretary@messiah-erie.org

Bonnie Stearns, Director of Utilities

Michelle Flaherty, The Gathering Music Minister: mlcmusic@messiah-erie.org

Pastor Tom Glasoe, Email: pastor@messiah-erie.org Cell: 814-460-8529

2025 Eastern Ave, Erie, PA 16510 814-899-6386 messiah-erie.org

Our Mission:

*Glorifying God through our worship, our witness, our service,
and our support*

Our Vision:

To build and strengthen the body of Christ

Holy Communion

To help you feel more comfortable please know that all baptized Christians who believe in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament and have already received Holy Communion in your home church, are welcome to come to the altar and receive Holy Communion.

To receive the sacrament:

1. Communicant should receive the consecrated host from the Pastor and then proceed to the Assisting Minister who will be standing near the sanctuary pillar on whichever side of the church is being communed to receive a prefilled communion cup;
2. If the communicant prefers the consecrated grape juice, they shall receive that from the Pastor.
3. If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know and the pastor will bring Holy Communion to you.

Assisting at Worship:

	Today	March 22
Asst. Min.	Savanna Conner	Brad Bresee
Lector	Laurie Hecht	Laurie Hecht
Acolyte	—	—
Usher	TBD	TBD
Sound System	TBD	TBD
Video	Savanna Conner	Brad Bresee
Counters	Linda Jones	Laurie Hecht
Altar Guild	Robin Curtis, Jean Parker, Karen Pistner	

Welcome/Announcements

The Great Lenten Litany

P Lord, have mercy.

***C* Lord, have mercy.**

P Christ, have mercy.

***C* Christ, have mercy.**

P Lord, have mercy.

***C* Lord, have mercy.**

P O Christ, hear us.

***C* In mercy hear us.**

P God, the Father in heaven.

***C* have mercy on us.**

P Be gracious to us.

***C* Spare us, good Lord.**

P From all sin, from all error, from all evil; from the cunning assaults of the devil; from an unprepared and evil death:

***C* Good Lord, deliver us.**

P From war, bloodshed, and violence; from corrupt and unjust government; from sedition and treason:

***C* Good Lord, deliver us.**

P From epidemic, drought, and famine; from fire and flood, earthquake, lightning, and storm: and from everlasting death:

***C* Good Lord, deliver us.**

P By the mystery of your incarnation; by your holy birth:

***C* Help us, good Lord.**

P By your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by your agony and bloody sweat; by your cross and suffering; by your death and burial:

***C* Help us, good Lord.**

P By your resurrection and ascension; by the gift of the Holy Spirit:

***C* Help us, good Lord.**

P In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

***C* Save us, good Lord.**

P Though unworthy, we implore you

***C* to hear us, Lord our God.**

P To rule and govern your holy catholic church; to guide all servants of your church in the love of your word and in holiness of life; to put an end to all schisms and causes of offense to those who would believe; and to bring into the way of truth all who have gone astray:

***C* We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

P To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful workers into your harvest; to accompany your word with your Spirit and power; to raise up those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the fainthearted and the distressed:

***C* We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

P To give to all nations justice and peace; to preserve our country from discord and strife; to direct and guard those who have civil authority; and to bless and guide all our people:

***C* We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

P To behold and help all who are in danger, need, or tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel; to preserve and provide for all women in childbirth; to watch over children and to guide the young; to heal the sick and to strengthen their families and friends; to bring reconciliation to families in discord; to provide for the unemployed and for all in need; to be merciful to all who are imprisoned; to support, comfort, and guide all orphans, widowers, and widows; and to have mercy on all your people:

***C* We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

P To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to reconcile us to them; to help us use wisely the fruits and treasures of the earth, the sea, and the air; and graciously to hear our prayers:

***C* We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

***C* we implore you to hear us.**

P Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

***C* have mercy on us.**

P Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

***C* give us peace. Amen.**

P O Christ, hear us.

***C* In mercy hear us.**

P Lord, have mercy.

***C* Lord, have mercy.**

P Christ, have mercy.

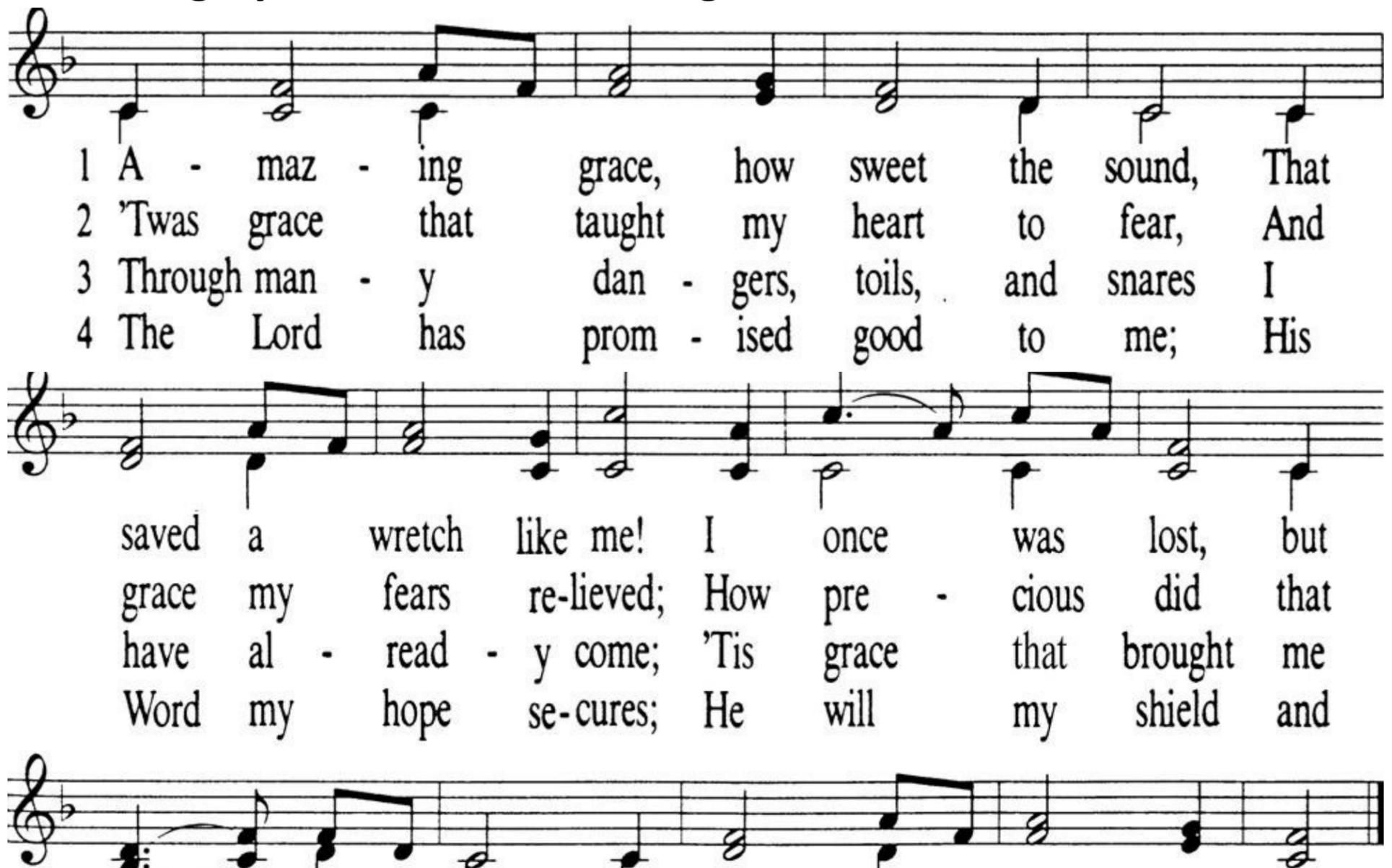
***C* Christ, have mercy.**

P Lord, have mercy.

***C* Lord, have mercy.**

Gathering Hymn

Amazing Grace



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, That
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; His
saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re-lieved; How pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace that brought me
Word my hope se-cures; He will my shield and
now I'm found; Was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, And grace will bring me home.
por - tion be As long as life en - dures.

Greeting

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

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us Pray: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Please be seated.

The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the LORD.” But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable:

“There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe - the best one - and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. “Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never

disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’

A The Gospel of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Hymn of the Day

There is a Balm in Gilead

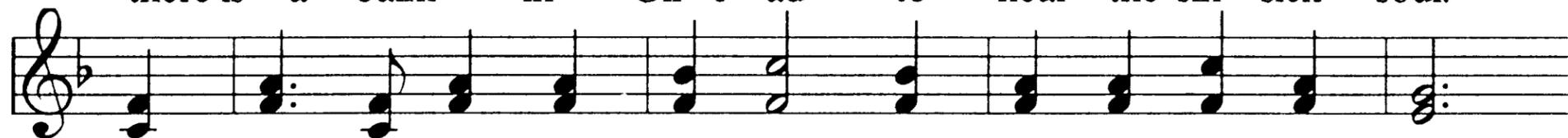
Refrain



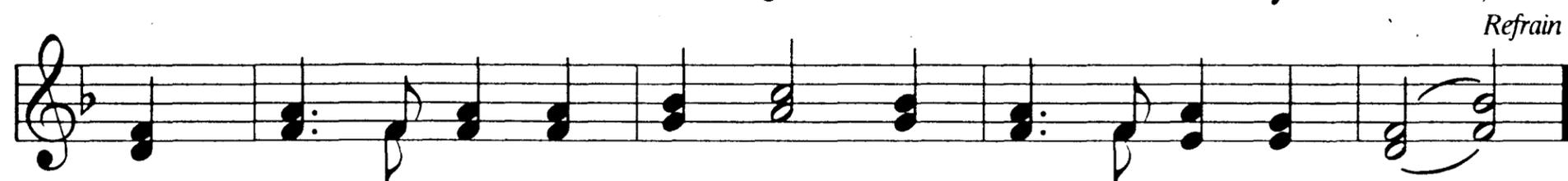
There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;



there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.



- 1 Some-times I feel dis-cour-aged and think my work's in vain,
- 2 If you can-not preach like Pe-ter, if you can-not pray like Paul,
- 3 Don't ev-er feel dis-cour-aged, for Je-sus is your friend;



but then the Ho-ly Spir-it re-vives my soul a-gain.
 you can tell the love of Je-sus and say, "He died for all."
 and if you lack for knowl-edge he'll ne'er re-fuse to lend.

Apostles' Creed

P Let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the father. He will come again 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 the People

A God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

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

C Amen.

Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Instrumental music while the Altar is being prepared

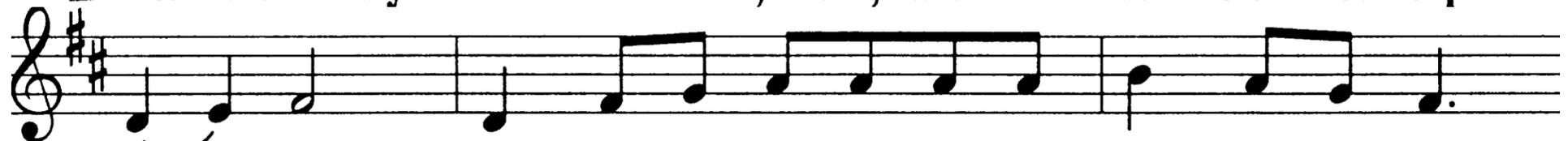
Offertory Hymn

Let the Vineyard Be Fruitful

[stand]



☪ Let the vine-yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown,

that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we

of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, Lord,

and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self

A Let us pray. *(brief pause)* O God, maker of heaven and earth,
C your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and
sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through
these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of
your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask
this in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains the lyrics 'The Lord be with you.' followed by 'And al - so with you.' The second staff contains 'Lift up your hearts.' followed by 'We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff contains 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff contains 'It is right to give him thanks and praise.' The music is written in a simple, melodic style with various note values and rests.

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Invitation to Communion

A Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Lamb of God

G 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.

Distribution of Communion [sit]

Communion Music Instrumental

Post Communion Blessing

A The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

C Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A Let us pray. (*brief pause*) Radiant God,

C God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Blessing

P Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always.

C Amen.

Sending Hymn

Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought . . . by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tower,
thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

The Vigil Candle is given to the Glory of God and in Thanksgiving for my many blessings by Robin Curti

Announcements

Second Mile Giving is that stewardship we offer in addition to our regular giving. For **March, Youth Ministry** is our Second Mile Giving beneficiary. Contributions may be made throughout the month by using the yellow envelopes found in the pews. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Wesleyville Food Pantry: Please consider a financial gift. Checks should be made payable to Messiah Lutheran Church marking "Food Pantry" in the memo line.

It's All Greek to Me Bible Study: Pastor Tom is leading a weekly Bible study on **Tuesdays at 1:00 pm & Wednesdays** follow Vespers in Fellowship Hall.

Lenten Soup Supper & Vespers: **Wednesday, March 18, & 25, at 5:30 pm for supper, 6:00 pm Vespers** in Fellowship Hall. Sign up in the Narthex to bring a soup, dessert or see Cindy for more options!

Purim Celebration: **Saturday, March 21, 5:00 pm** for a celebration of Purim. It is a time of food, fellowship and fun. It will be a time of story telling, sharing jokes, have food and do a singalong and be regaled with each other's humor. Join us!!!!

Easter Flowers: order forms are on the counter in the Narthex. Help us beautify our church for Easter by sponsoring a spring, potted flower. for **\$8.00 per plant**. All orders are due by **Sunday, March 22!**

Holy Week Services: ***Meal in the Upper Room: Monday, March 30 at 6:00 pm.*** Signup in the Narthex.

Maundy Thursday: April 2, 7:00 pm

Good Friday: April 3, 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday: April 5

8:30 am Traditional, **11:00 am** the Gathering Contemporary.

Wesleyville Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

March 16 at 10:00am to unload food delivery.

March 17 at 10:00-11:00am & 5:00-6:00pm for regular food distribution.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3-YEAR VISION

APPROVED - 2025 to 2027

WORSHIP

Start?

Technology

Add Screens in sanctuary

(DONE)

Update website

(ongoing)

Obtain Hearing Assisted Devices

(DONE)

Music Ministry

Build out the Band

(2025)

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Bubble Church

(ongoing)

School Day Off Camp

(On hold)

Milestone Ministry

(On hold)

PROPERTY

Fix Front Electronic Sign

(DONE)

Repair/Purchase Boiler

(DONE)

Plumbing Upgrades/Restrooms

(2027)

Buy New Freezer

(DONE)

IN-REACH

Recruit and Train More Volunteer

(2025)

Train in-home communion ministry

(2025)

EDUCATION

Bible Study (Adult and Children) - have more options

(2025-2027)

OUTREACH

Maintain Community Garden

(ongoing)

Continue Back to School Bash

(ongoing)

Continue participation in Community National Night Out (ongoing)

FELLOWSHIP

Explore more group events

(ongoing)

Continue to grow OWLs ministry (spiritually and fellowship)

(ongoing)

Lutheran Walkers

(2025)

This Week at the Church

(See Newsletter for More Detail)

**Office Hours :Monday Closed, Tuesday 10:00am-5:00pm,
Wednesday Closed, Thursday 10:00am-5:00pm,
Friday 10:00am-5:00pm**

Sun. 3/15	<i>4th Sunday of Lent</i>	
	8:30 and 11:00AM	Service of Holy Communion
	9:45AM	Servant Outreach
Mon.	6:30PM	Guided Meditation
Tues.	10:00AM	Sewing Circle
	1:00PM	Bible Study
Wed.	5:30PM	Soup Supper
	6:00PM	Vespers
	6:30PM	Bible Study
Thu.	10:00AM	Grateful Prayer Group-CC
	6:00PM	Church Council
	7:30PM	NA Group
Fri.	7:30PM	AA
Sun. 3/22	<i>5th Sunday of Lent</i>	
	8:30 and 11:00AM	Service of Holy Communion