

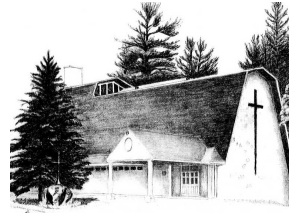


The Transfiguration of Our Lord
Welcome to Messiah
March 6, 2011

Messiah Lutheran Church
750 Rindge Road
Fitchburg, MA 01420
978-343-7397

Pastor Phil Alexander
978-514-3231

Thomas Whitestone
Music Director/Organist



Nursery is available in the lower level

Welcome

Opening Hymn #414 “Tis Good Lord to be Here”

Divine Service – Setting Four - Hymnal p. 203

PSALM 2: 6-12

⁶ “As for me, I have | set my King*
on Zion, my | holy hill.”

⁷ I will tell of | the decree:*
The LORD said to me, “You are my
Son; today I have be- | gotten you.

⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations
your | heritage,*
and the ends of the earth your
pos- | session.

⁹ You shall break them with a | rod of iron*
and dash them in pieces like a
potter’s | vessel.”

¹⁰ Now therefore, O | kings, be wise;*
be warned, O rulers | of the earth.

¹¹ Serve the | LORD with fear,*
and rejoice with | trembling.

¹² Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you
perish in the way, for his wrath is
quickly | kindled.*

Blessèd are all who take ref- | uge in
him.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Liturgy Continues - Hymnal p. 204

COLLECT OF THE DAY: O God, in the glorious transfiguration of your only-begotten Son you once confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of the ancient fathers, and in the voice that came from the bright cloud you wondrously foreshowed our adoption by grace. Therefore mercifully make us coheirs with our King of his glory, and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT: Exodus 24:8-18

⁸ Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, “This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

⁹ Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up ¹⁰ and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself. ¹¹ But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.

¹² The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and commands I have written for their instruction.”

¹³ Then Moses set out with Joshua his aide, and Moses went up on the mountain of God. ¹⁴ He said to the elders, “Wait here for us until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur are with you, and anyone involved in a dispute can go to them.”

¹⁵ When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, ¹⁶ and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from within the cloud. ¹⁷ To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. ¹⁸ Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE NEW TESTAMENT: 2 Peter 1:16-21

¹⁶ For it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each man’s work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times

for your sake. ²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel is preceded by Alleluia – Hymnal p.205

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ² There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. ³ Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

⁴ Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

⁵ While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”

⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified.

⁷ But Jesus came and touched them. “**Get up,**” he said. “**Don’t be afraid.**” ⁸ When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, “**Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.**”

SUNDAY SCHOOL “BLESSING AND SENDING”

Hymn: #873 “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

SERMON

PRAYERS

WELCOME PAD AND OFFERING

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT - p. 208



THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

“SHOULD I COMMUNE OR NOT?”

Those who eat and drink Our Lord’s body and blood without understanding do so at great harm. Holy Communion is a public confession of the faith confessed at this Altar, and anyone not instructed by the Pastor, or who cannot positively answer the questions below, should not partake in the Sacrament. Please do join us at the Altar for a blessing, indicating your desire by simply crossing your hands over your heart.

- Do you understand that you are a sinner?
- Are you sorry for your sins of thought, word and deed, and do you hope to amend your sinful life with the help of the Holy Spirit?
- Do you recognize the true bodily presence of the Lord Jesus in and with the bread and wine?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ as the only Savior from sin and death who died on the cross so that you might be forgiven through faith in His merits?

Communion in your pew – If it is difficult for you to walk to the altar, the Elders will serve you Communion where you are seated in the Pew. Please indicate your desire to be served as the Elder approaches. It will be helpful for service if you are seated near the end of the Pew.

Closing Hymn: #417 “Alleluia, Song of Gladness”

ACTIVE , INTENTIONAL , MISSIONAL

	Today	Next week: 3/13
Greeters	Ted & Joan Dow	Jim & Eila Eagle
Acolyte	Noelle Sands	
Reader	Pastor Phil Alexander	Cheryl Alexander
Communion Asst.	John Phillips	Jerry Nagle
2nd Assistant	Arthur Drehman	Jim Eagle
Pew Communion	Mike Brennan	Everett Gasbarro
Ushers	Rich & Rudy, Ted Hietala & Raoul Frederique	Rich & Rudy, Shawn Lowe, Rick Mohnk
Communion Cleaning	Kris Schneider & Joan Dow	Cheryl Alexander & Sandra Cormier
Counters	Todd Peltonen & Rich Crawford	Pam Phillips & George Whitcraft
Coffee Fellowship	March Circle	Volunteers

Readings for next week, the First Sunday in Lent:

Genesis 3:1-21

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11



THE ALTAR FLOWER ARE DEDICATED TO THE GLORY OF GOD and in memory of our sainted Mothers, Anna Leblanc (entered Glory 04-25-01) and Vee Aho (entered Glory 03-07-10). Presented by Ken and Ruth LeBlanc.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND REQUEST:

- † Thanksgiving to Arthur Drehman for bring His word to us this morning.
- † Pierce Rhinhart, severe flu this week with a high fever, coughing & difficulty breathing.
- † Wendy Hietala's niece Stacey waiting for results from a recent biopsy.
- † Thanksgiving that Jim Eagle is doing well after having a pacemaker installed on Wednesday.
- † Christina Burns, Sue Devereaux, Rauni Honkala, Virginia Morris, Elisha Rhinhart and Sauli Savukoski– medical issues.

Last week's Worship Attendance: 72

“A.I.M. Opportunities” this coming week:

- Today:** **March 6, 2011**
8:15 a.m. – Finnish Language Worship service
8:45-9:30 a.m. – Pannukakku Breakfast & Bake Sale
9:30 a.m. – Family Worship Seminarian Arthur Drehman preaching
9:45 a.m. – Sunday School
10:30 – 11:00 a.m. – Pannukakku Breakfast & Bake Sale followed by a Bible Study
- Monday:** **March 7, 2011**
7:00 p.m. – Pineshore Committee meeting
- Tuesday:** **March 8, 2011**
10:00 a.m. – Finnish Bible Study
7:00 p.m. – Elders
- Wednesday:** **March 9, 2011 ~ ASH WEDNESDAY**
9:30-10:30 a.m. – Bible Study at The Gables, 935 John Fitch Highway
2:00 p.m. – The Highlands’ ministry
7:00 p.m. – Ash Wednesday service
8:00 p.m. - Choir
- Thursday:** **March 10, 2011**
7:00 p.m. – House church at the parsonage
7:00 p.m. – NAMI
- Saturday:** **March 12, 2011**
9:30 a.m. – Confirmation Class
- Sunday:** **March 13, 2011**
9:30 a.m. – Family Worship
9:45 a.m. – Sunday School
10:30 p.m. – Brief fellowship followed by a Special Congregational meeting

Agenda for the Special Congregational Meeting: to vote to accept the recommendation from the Trustees and Council to replace the sanctuary carpet, to be funded by the donated gift.



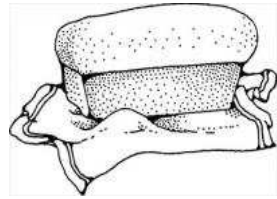
A special thank you to our Messiah family, Pastor and Cheryl for their prayers. Also a thank you to the Guild, Circles and Finnish League for all the goodie bags found behind our door. Again, thank you for all the prayers and card, it meant so much. Love to all, Richard & Shelby

Lenten Soup & Bread Supper



Please join us for delicious homemade soups & fresh bread every Wednesday evening during Lent served from 6:00-6:50 p.m. followed by our 7:00 p.m. Lenten service. Desserts welcomed.

If you would like to provide a pot of your favorite soup contact Sue Lowe or Eila Eagle or signup sheets are located in the narthex & fellowship hall. Invite your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors for supper & service.



An invitation from Highland Baptist Church, 19 Cedar Street, Fitchburg to all, and all youth & teens are encouraged to attend; a simulcast event entitled ***"The Case for Christianity"*** on Saturday, March 12 from 10-4 p.m.

In this live interactive event, Lee Strobel will present the latest evidence for Christianity and then he and Mark Mittelberg will answer the biggest objections that are currently raised by skeptics – as well as the tough questions submitted during the day by participants around the country. For more information available on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall, as well as signup sheet. **Registration needed no later than Monday, March 7** and a lunch will be provided and a *Love Offering* will be taken to cover the costs of lunch and the event.