



LCA

Messiah Lutheran Church
Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 26, 2025

Pastor Ben Cherland

WELCOME TO MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Third Sunday after Epiphany | January 26, 2025

GATHERING

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing ELW 886*

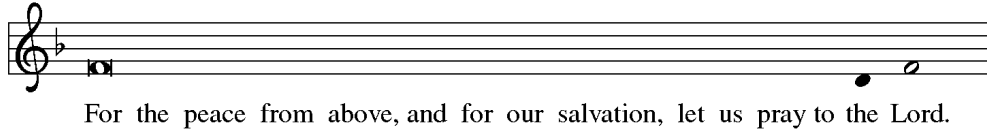
GREETING

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.

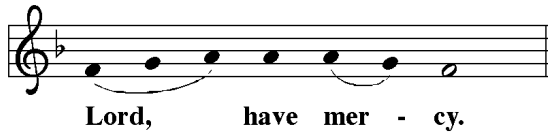
KYRIE



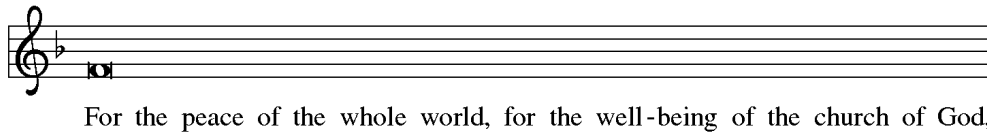
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



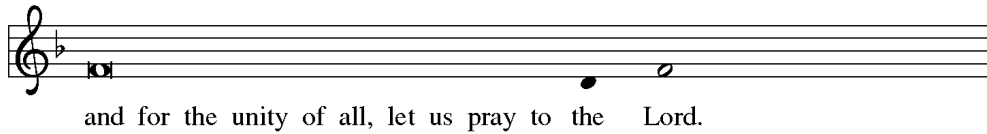
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



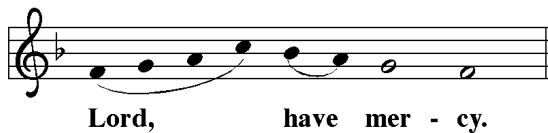
Lord, have mer - cy.



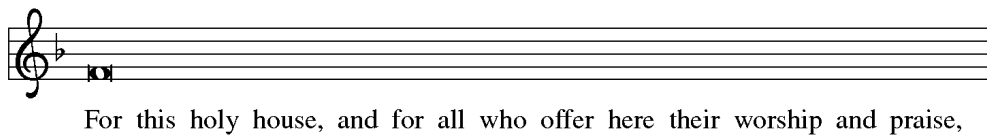
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



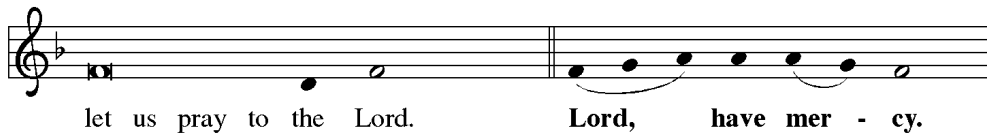
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



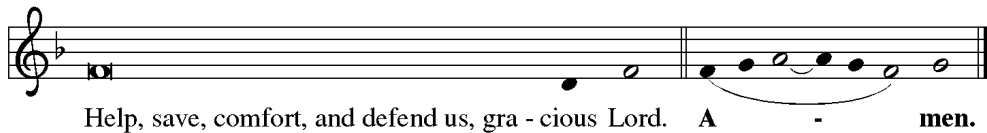
Lord, have mer - cy.



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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORD

CHILDREN SERMON

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that “the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

¹ All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared,

for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 19

The teaching of the Lord revives the soul. (Ps. 19:7)

¹ The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker’s handiwork.

² **One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³ Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

⁴ **their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

⁵ It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

⁶ **It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

⁷ The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸ **The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹ The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰ **More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

¹¹ By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² **Who can detect one's own offenses?**

Cleanse me from my secret faults.

¹³ Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴ **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,**

O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God

has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.

Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes

of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness ELW 843*

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

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

...Hear us oh God, **For your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen**

PEACE

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

MEAL

OFFERING

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and
fill to the brim our cup of bless - 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 the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948

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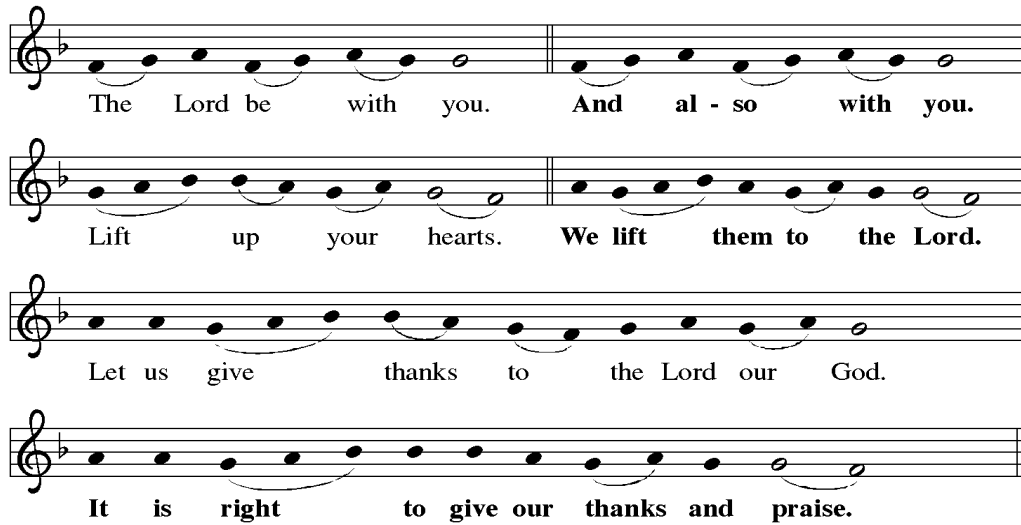
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OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, your delight for creation is revealed in Jesus, who sets wide tables, and feeds multitudes, who breaks and becomes bread for the whole world. May this meal strengthen our bodies and illuminate our spirits so that our whole lives shine with love from heaven. Grant this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

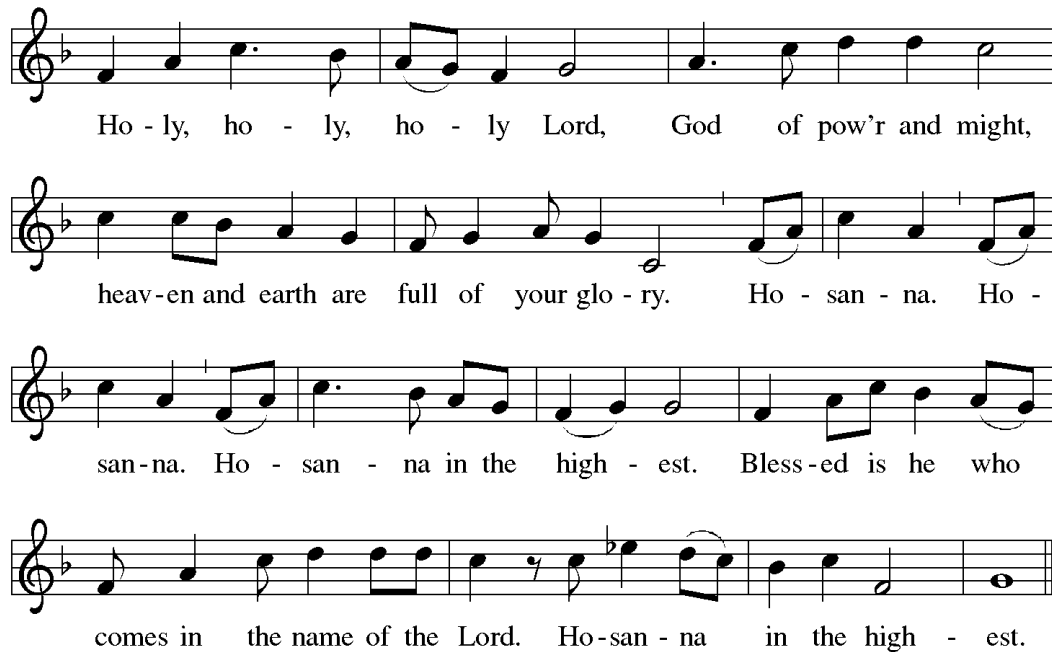
DIALOGUE



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.

PREFACE (PASTOR)

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

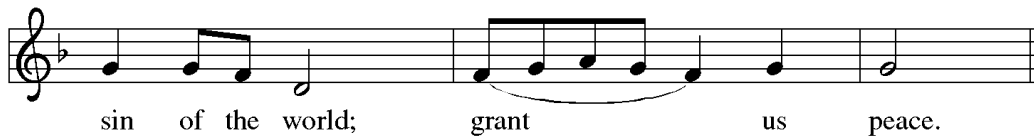
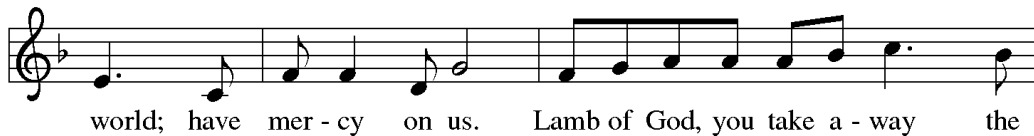
For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG



COMMUNION HYMN *Beautiful Savior ELW 838*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

Christ the Sun of righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes; and the blessing of God almighty - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing ELW 531*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is the date of our Annual Meeting. Look forward to a delicious Swedish Meatball Dinner following Worship which is being provided By Paul Schauer and LeeAnn.

Calling seamstresses/people who sew on a machine. Seven more quilt block kits need to be sewn up. Directions are in each sack of blocks that are in the quilt room in the open cupboard section in a cardboard box marked LWR (Lutheran World Relief) quilts. Please sew up and return to the Quilt Room.

Thank you! Barb Ostrum

SPECIAL OFFERING
JANUARY 2025
BareTooth Cupboards Food Bank

Messiah's January special project is BareTooth Cupboards Food Bank. Of course, BareTooth Cupboards could always use cash/checks which are greatly appreciated. Just earmark your checks with BareTooth Cupboards on the memo line.

Non-food items are needed as well. Here is their list of items:
Toilet Paper, Feminine Hygiene Products, Toothpaste, Tooth Brushes, especially children's brushes, and Bars of Soap.

You can drop off your donations at Messiah and we will deliver weekly to the BareTooth Cupboards' current location of the former Cedar Wood Villa. Their open hours are 11am to 1pm on Monday, 3 to 5 on Thursday, and 9 to 11 on Saturday.

Thank you for supporting our local food bank. Barb Ostrum

Shaia Steffes will be here February 2 with Trades of Hope, a mission to help women pull themselves out of poverty by selling goods that are made by them.

Thank you to all who participated in leading worship today, including:

- . Readers
- . Ushers
- . Communion Assistants
- . Musicians
- . and Tech Booth Attendants

If you'd like to participate in leading worship, speak to Martha Crofts - there is always a need for more faces in these roles. Pastor Ben

Our zoom link has been updated and you will need a passcode to sign into worship services. The passcode can be found directly beneath the zoom link on the church email.

PRAYER REQUESTS

For prayer requests, contact the church office at 406-446-2430 or redlodgemessiah@gmail.com or write your requests in the Prayer request book with specific information and permission from the person you are adding.

This month the people of Messiah are praying for Carl and Meredith Cherland, the family of Jim Koski, Dolly Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski, Doug Lair, Rob Loney, Paul Odegaard, Carlos Ramalho, Joan Skibber, the family of Dolly Stuber, and David Tilton

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In an effort to make Messiah comfortable and welcoming for everyone, we ask that you refrain from using strong personal scents or perfumes. Thank you.

Live by faith . Share Christ's Love . Be a Voice for Hope

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