



Messiah Lutheran Church

January 11, 20206

Pastor Ben Cherland

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church
Baptism of Our Lord | January 11, 2026

GATHERING

Water! Water! We praise you, O God, for water—Our Seasonal Streams, Rock Creek, West Fork, Clarks Fork, the Yellowstone River, Cooney Lake, the rain that nourishes animals and plants, the water for drinking and bathing.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for our water stories—
a flood that cleansed the earth,
the sea that drowned the enemy,
a river that healed leprosy.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We remember the waters of Jesus—
baptized in the Jordan River,
calming the Sea of Galilee,
drinking from Jacob's Well,
healing at the pool of Bethesda,
washing the disciples' feet.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

O God, you are the Ocean, sustaining this earth.

O God, you are the River, saving us from death.

O God, you are the Fountain, granting us health and well-being.

We praise you, O God,
today, tomorrow, forever.

Amen, and amen.

Amen, and amen.

GATHERING SONG *ELW 455 Crashing Waters at Creation* 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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's
3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we

giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -
au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one

will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,
sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to
liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord

heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we
ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in

praise you for your glo - ry.
ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.
God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

CHILDRENS SERMON

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 42:1-9

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
 my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
 he will bring forth justice to the nations.

² He will not cry out or lift up his voice
 or make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break,
 and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
 he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
 until he has established justice in the earth,
 and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
 who created the heavens and stretched them out,
 who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
 and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
 I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare...

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 29

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
 ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
² **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;**
 worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
 the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
⁴ **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;**
 the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.
⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
 the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
⁶ **the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,**
 and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
⁷ The voice of the LORD
 bursts forth in lightning flashes.
⁸ **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;**
 the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
 And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"
¹⁰ **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;**
 the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.
¹¹ O LORD, give strength to your people;
 give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

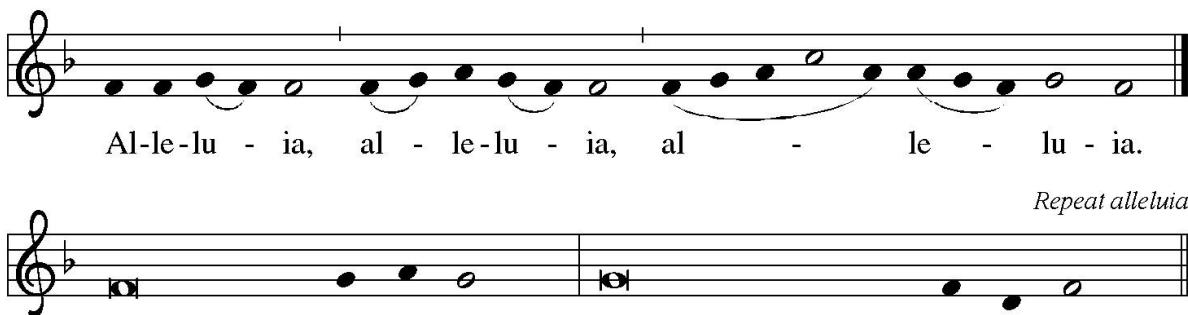
SECOND READING: ACTS 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 3:13-17

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 304 *Christ When for Us You Were Baptized*

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

PEACE

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

MEAL

OFFERING

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

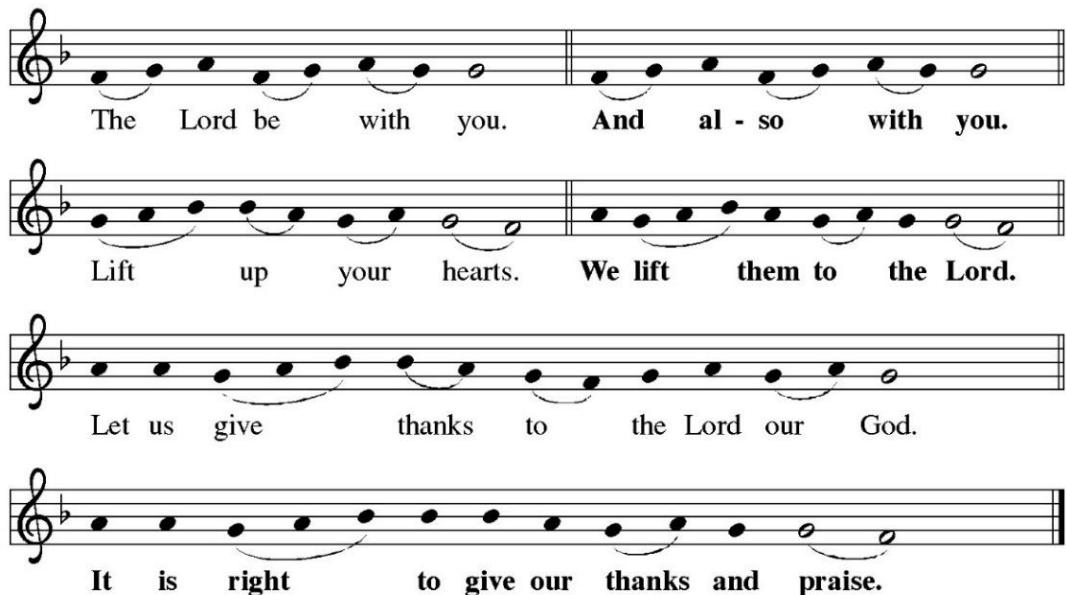
Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And also with you.

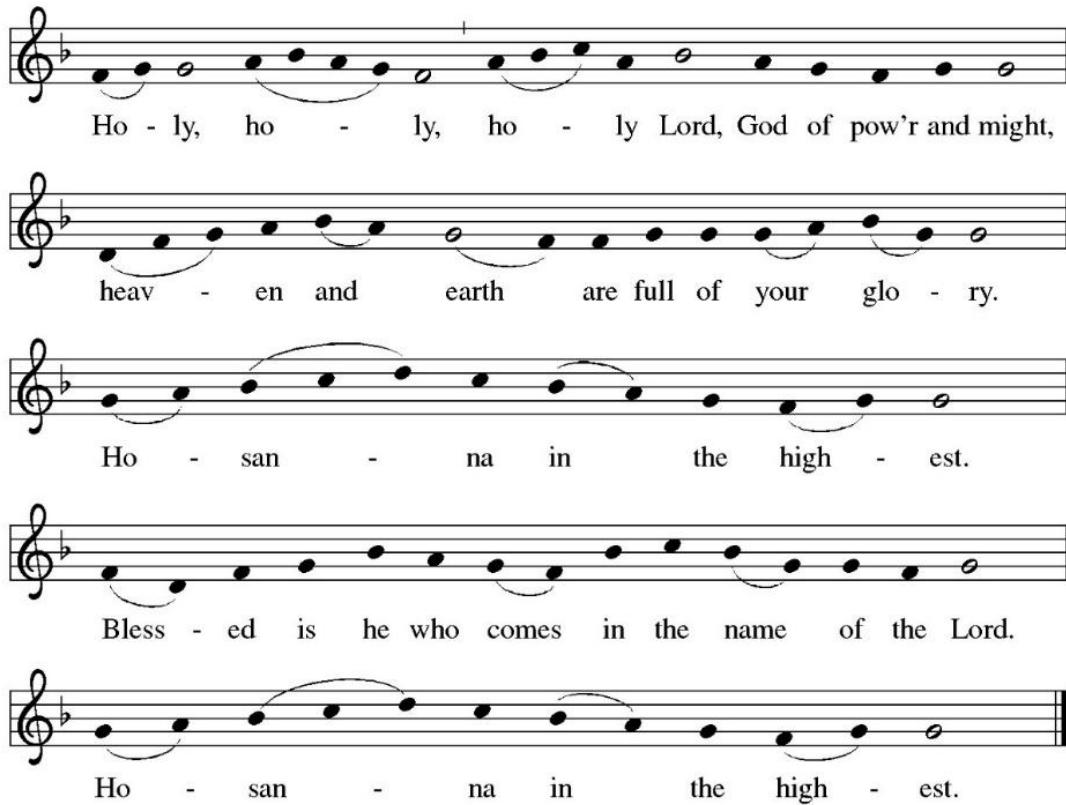
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE (*Pastor*)

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

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 Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.

Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a-against us. Save us from the time of tri - al

and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD

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. A-men.

COMMUNION SONG *ELW 396 Spirit of Gentleness*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and **✚** give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG *ELW 551 The Spirit Sends Us Forth*

DISMISSAL

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Forum | Preaching 101

Pastor Ben will be leading an adult forum on **Sunday January 25th at 9:00 AM** on preaching. You'll hear his story and philosophy, some history and more. Come early and enjoy some coffee and conversation.

Annual Congregational Meeting

February 1st will be our annual Congregational Meeting right after church followed by a luncheon provided by your Church Council.

Prayer Requests

Hebrews 4:16: Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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

Vince Ames and the extended family of Mary Ames, Claudia B, Hannah Gonzales, Dolly Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski, Jim Kyner, Doug & Mary Lair, Lois Miller, Ande Odegaard, Jackie Odegaard, Carlos Ramalho, the family of Dick Rosekelly, Pam Tuscher, the family of Wes Thompson, Sadie Sceva, Guynema Terry, Ace and Jett Wildung, Josh Wilker, Pr Kim Wilker, Josh Winter, Judy Yasi, Lexi the unspoken prayer requests of our congregation

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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