



Messiah Lutheran Church

January 18, 20206

Pastor Ben Cherland

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church

January 18, 2026

GATHERING

WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 308 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*

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

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

CHILDRENS SERMON

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant's ultimate assignment is to bring news of God's victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.

¹ Listen to me, O coastlands;
 pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The Lord called me before I was born;
 while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
² He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
 in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
 in his quiver he hid me away.
³ And he said to me, "You are my servant,
 Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain;
 I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the Lord
 and my reward with my God."
⁵ And now the Lord says,
 who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
 and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,
 and my God has become my strength—

⁶ he says,
“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
 to raise up the tribes of Jacob
 and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
 that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

⁷ Thus says the Lord,
 the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
 the slave of rulers,
“Kings shall see and stand up;
 princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the Lord, who is faithful,
 the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 40:1-11

¹ I waited patiently upon the Lord,
 who stooped to me and heard my cry.

² **The Lord lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay,
 and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.**

³ The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;
 many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the Lord.

⁴ **Happy are they who trust in the Lord!**
 They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.

⁵ Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God! In your plans for us,
none can be compared with you!

 Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I can
count.

⁶ **Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;
 you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not
required.**

⁷ And so I said, “Here I am; I come.

In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

⁸ **I love to do your will, O my God;**
your law is ¹ deep within me.’ ”

⁹ I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;

I have not restrained my lips, O Lord, you know.

¹⁰ **I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance;**

I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great assembly.

¹¹ You are the Lord; do not withhold your compassion from me;

may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Though God’s church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Arise, Shine for your light has come
And the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.

Gospel: John 1:29-42

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.

²⁹ [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!³⁰ This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.”³² And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?”³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 306 *Come Beloved of the Maker*

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

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. *Amen.*

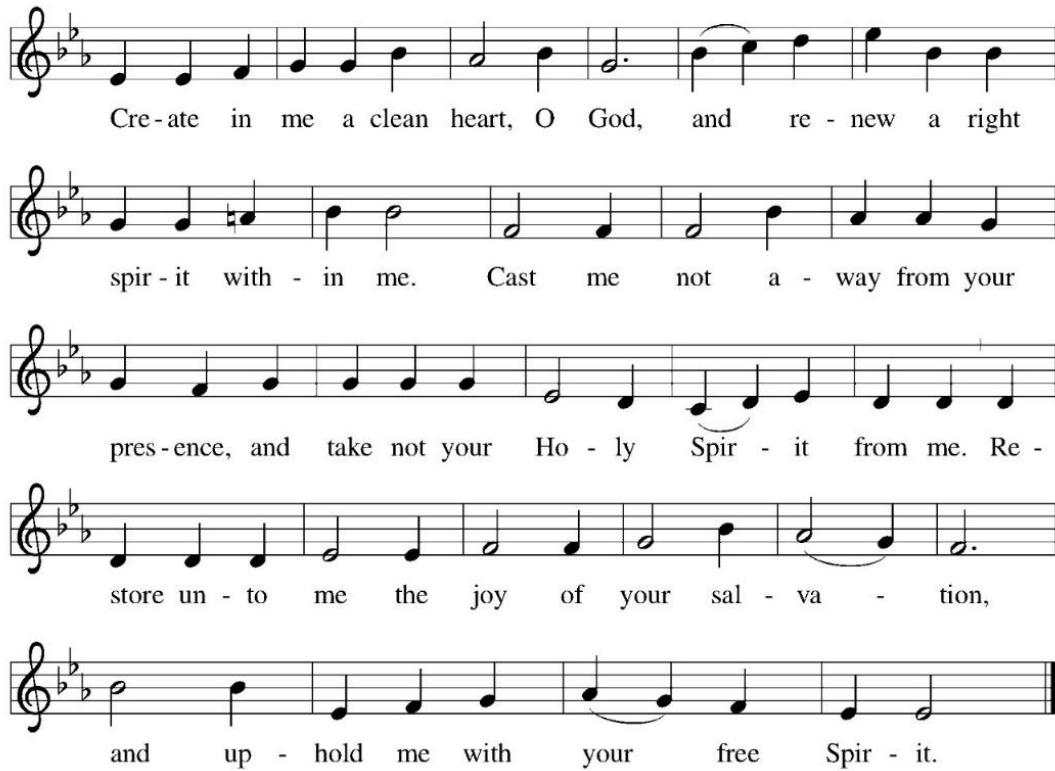
PEACE

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.

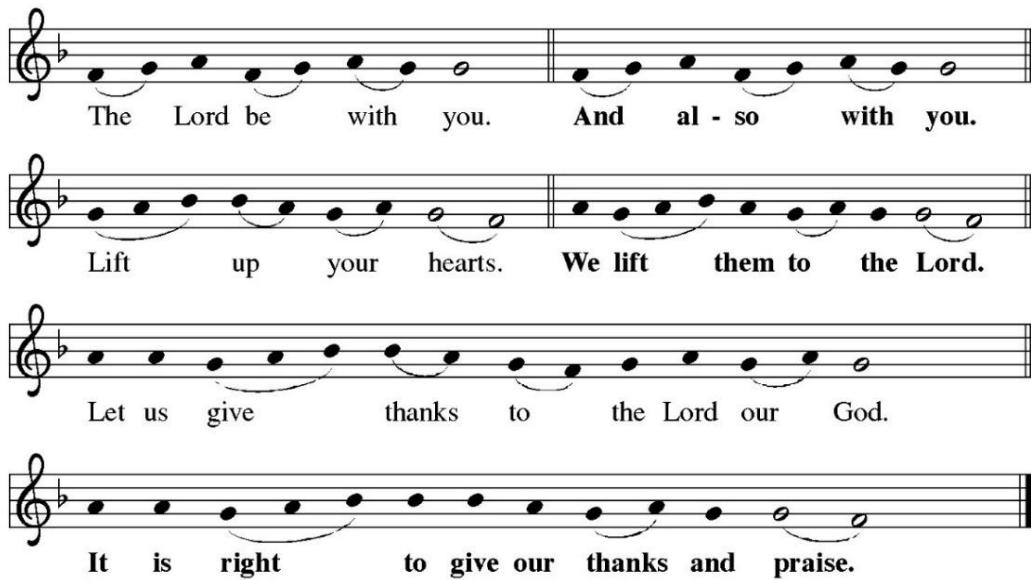
Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

OFFERING PRAYER

God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And also with you.

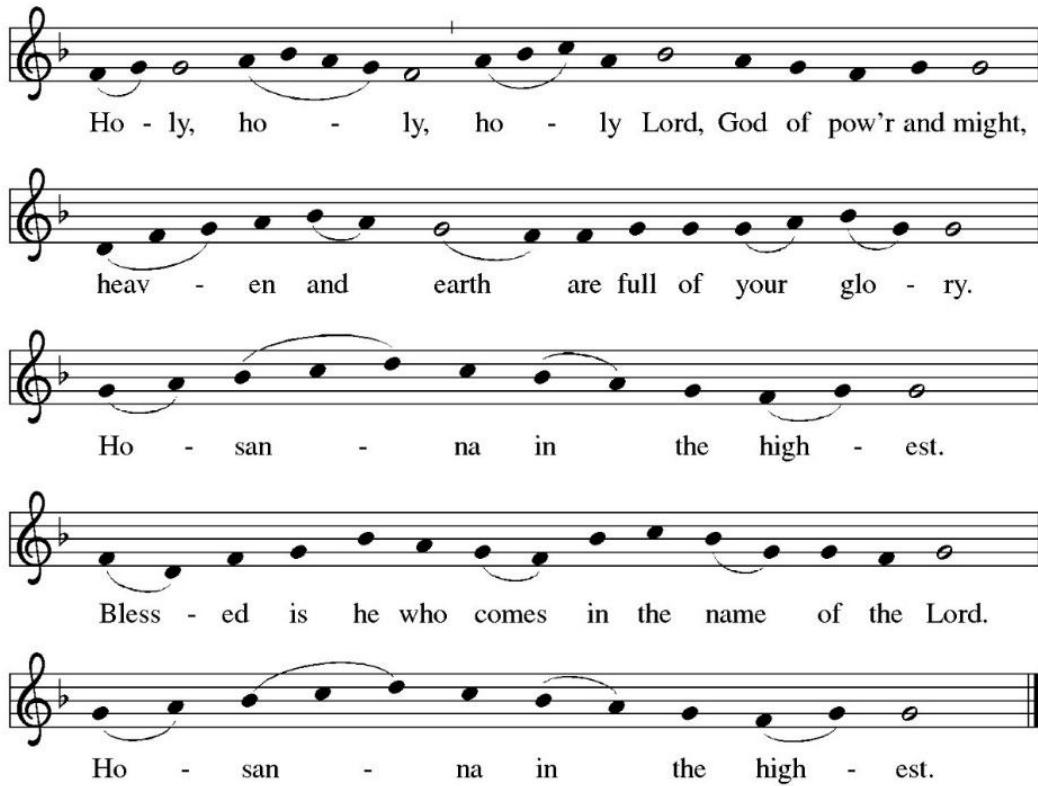
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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 592 *Just As I Am*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 314 *Arise Your Light Has Come*

DISMISSAL

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Service of Installation for pastor Teressa at the UCC Church

There will be an installation service for pastor Teressa at the UCC Church January 17th at 1:30 pm. You are all invited to attend.

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 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, DJ 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, and Lexi the unspoken prayer requests of our congregation

Messiah Lutheran Church
912 Lower Continental Dr, P.O. Box 1330
Red Lodge, MT 59068
redlodgemessiah@gmail.com, 406-446-2430

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

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.