



**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*May 3, 2026*

*Pastor Ben Cherland*

**Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church**  
Fifth Sunday of Easter | May 3, 2026

*Please be aware that our services are live-streamed. All participating adults and children appear on camera. If you'd prefer not to be filmed, there are seats along the wall in front of the Tech Booth that will keep you off camera. For Communion, simply remain in your seats and Pastor Ben will come to serve you.*

**GATHERING**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters  
where you make us new,  
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.  
We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us  
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,  
    like rains to our thirsting earth,  
    like streams that revive our souls,  
    like cups of cool water shared with strangers.  
Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.  
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.  
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ, in love and mission.  
Cleanse our hearts of all division.  
Shower us with the life we have in you.  
To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit,  
    in the glory of God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn *ELW 367 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds***

**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.**

# This is the Feast

*Refrain* S122



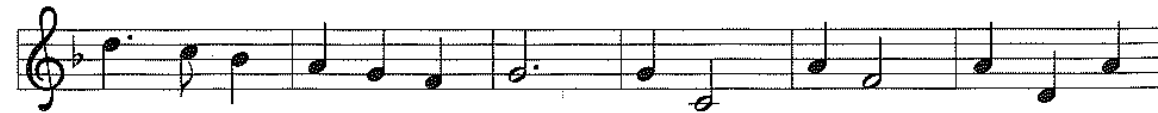
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



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



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,  
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Prayer of the Day**

**Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
 Amen.**

**WORD**

**Children Sermon**

**First Reading: Acts 7:55-60**

*Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God’s word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.*

<sup>55</sup> Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” <sup>57</sup> But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup> Then they

dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup> Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**

*Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)*

<sup>1</sup> In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;  
deliver me in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup> **Incline your ear to me;  
make haste to deliver me.**

<sup>3</sup> Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;

for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

<sup>4</sup> **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,  
for you are my tower of strength.**

<sup>5</sup> Into your hands I commend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

<sup>15</sup> **My times are in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

<sup>16</sup> Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love.”

### **Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

*Christ is the cornerstone of God’s saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God’s chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.*

<sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and <sup>5</sup> like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup> This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,  
“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,”

<sup>8</sup> and

“A stone that makes them stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God’s people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. El Se - ñor re - su - ci - tó.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en, ris 'n in - deed.

## **Gospel: John 14:1-14**

The holy gospel according to John

**Glory to you, O Lord**

*On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup> “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day *ELW 768 Lead Me, Guide Me***

## **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. 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.

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Knowing that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

## Peace

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

## MEAL

## Offering

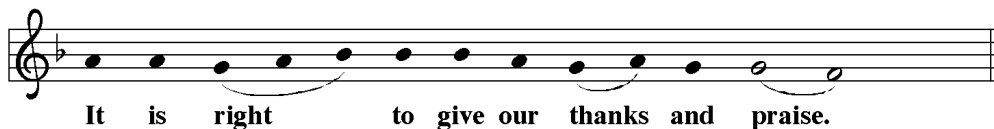
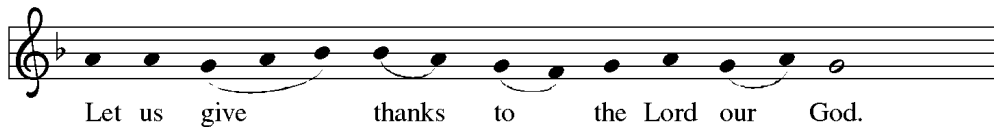
Offering Hymn *ELW 860 I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me*

## Offering Prayer

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

## Dialogue



## Preface (Pastor)

### Holy, Holy, Holy

San - to, san - to, san - to, oh Dios del u - ni - ver - so:  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of might and mer - cy,

... lle-nos es-tán el cie-lo y la tie-rra de tu glo-ria.  
your glo-ry fills all heav-en and earth. . . . You are ho-ly, God.

Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en nom - bre del Se - ñor. . . .  
. . . Bless - ed be the Sav - ior, the one who comes in your name.

Ho - san - na en el cie - lo. San - to, e - res, oh Dios.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. You are ho - ly, God.

Text: Traditional; English text, hymnal version  
Music: Argentine traditional  
English text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

ARGENTINE SANTO  
Irregular

## **Thanksgiving at the Table**

### **The 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.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

### **Communion**

**Communion Hymn *ELW 493 Taste and See (Cantor sings verses)***

### **Prayer After Communion**

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us  
and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,  
to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations.  
In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

## SENDING

### **Blessing**

Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be swift to love, make haste to be kind and the blessing of God who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us be with you now and forever.

**Amen**

**Sending Hymn *ELW 875 Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord***

### **Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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

## Delving Into the Bible

**Philippians 1:6** He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ.

This means to me that I am worth something. That God will continue helping me to improve all my life long. This has been a special verse since I was in my twenties, dealing with a physical problem that couldn't be fixed. *Marla Ebel*

## Announcements

Thank you to all who participated in leading worship today, including:  
Readers, Ushers, Communion Assistants, 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.

**Special Offering for  
May is  
Christikon**

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

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

The people of Messiah are praying for

Claudia B, Meredith Cherland, Donna Downing,  
Hannah Gonzales, Dolly Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski, Jim Kyner,  
Mary Lair, Lois Miller, Chandra Rameriz, Carlos Ramalho,  
Sadie Sceva, Guynema Terry, Josh Winter, and Judy Yasi,  
The unspoken prayer requests of our congregation.

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**Red Lodge, MT 59068**  
**[redlodgemessiah@gmail.com](mailto:redlodgemessiah@gmail.com), 406-446-2430**  
**Administrative Assistant Hours**  
**Monday – Thursday, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm**

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*