



Messiah Lutheran Church

*February 22, 2026
First Sunday in Lent*

Pastor Ben Cherland

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church
First Sunday in Lent | February 22, 2026

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

KYRIE

Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

Ⓐ Chri - ste e - le - i - son: Ⓞ Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:

Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



☐ Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al-might- y God and Fa- ther, we



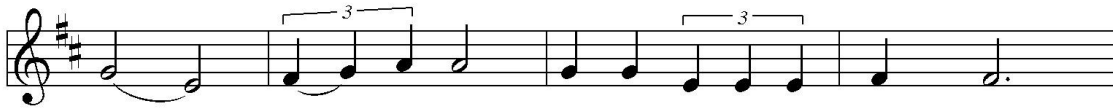
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



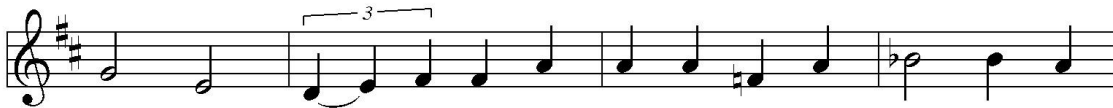
☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



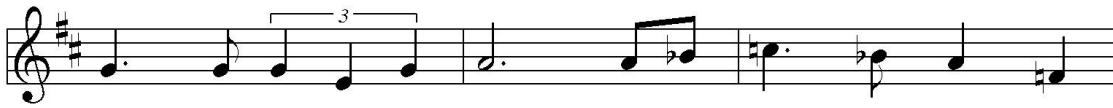
glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



☐ 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.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



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

II



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.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,



and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, you led your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide now the people of your Church, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

WORD

CHILDREN SERMON

FIRST READING: GENESIS 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and did not conceal my guilt.

⁶ **I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**

⁷ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

⁸ **You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

⁹ "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.

¹⁰ **Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."**

¹¹ Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

¹² **Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 5:12-19

Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of

the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear.

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger and I have promised, promised to be always near.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 4:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'

and 'On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS 922 *When We Are Tested*

When We Are Tested

922



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

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**

THE PRAYERS

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

...your mercy is great ELW 751 O Lord Hear My Prayer

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

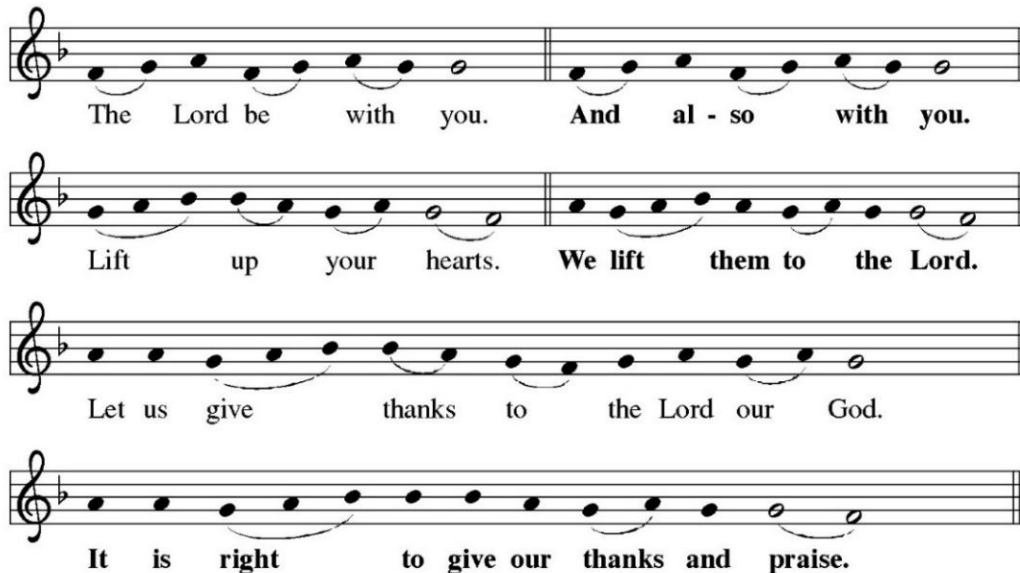
Peace be with you. And also with you.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS *ELW 692 We Are An Offering*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

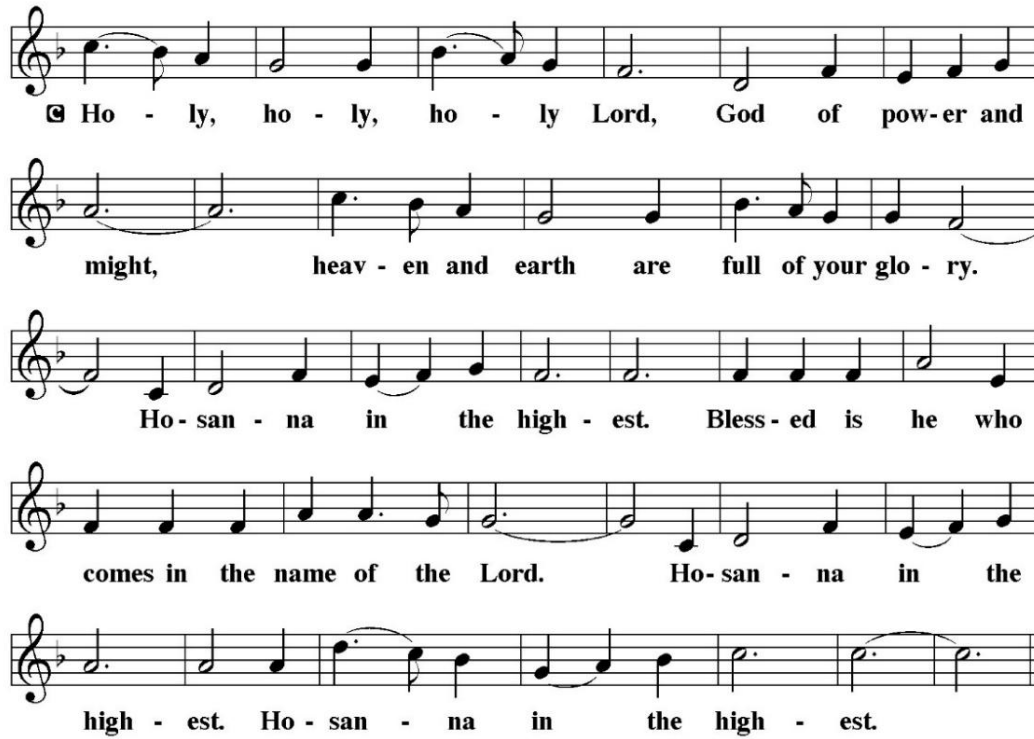
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE *(Pastor)*

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

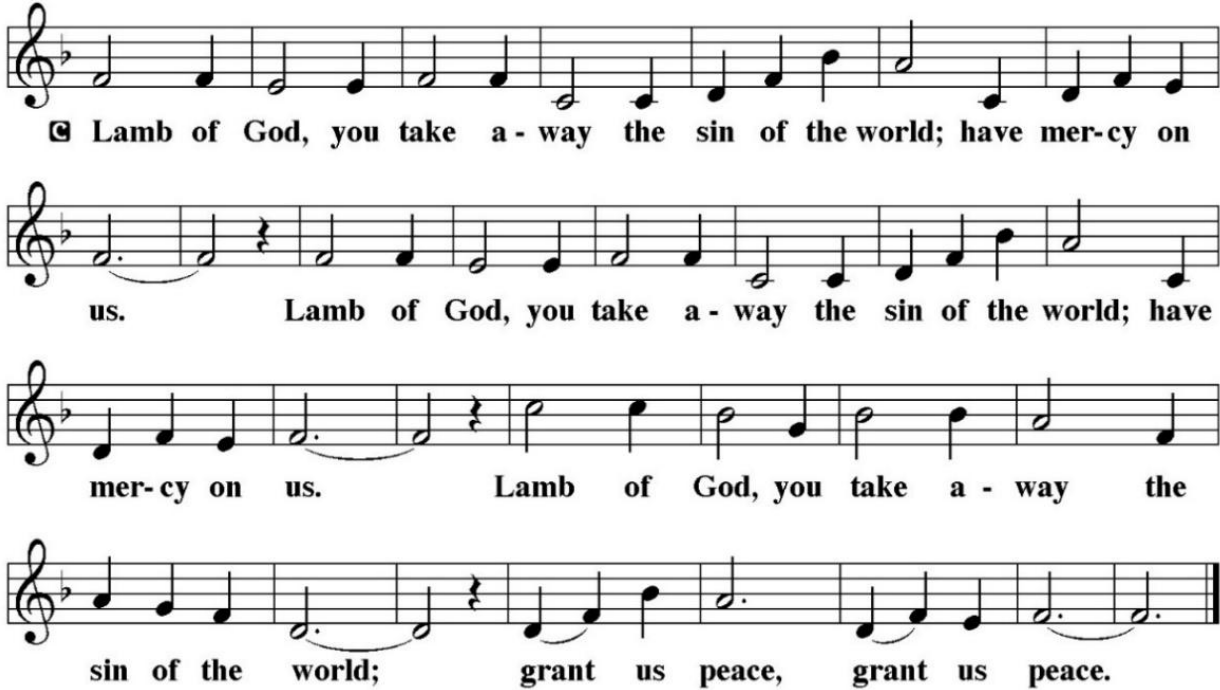
THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS *ELW 472 Eat This Bread*

ELW 325 I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

COMMUNION CANTICLE



☩ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. A - men, a - men.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. **Amen**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN *ELW 625 Come, We That Love the Lord*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The "Lamb of God" wall hanging in the sanctuary was created by the Flynn family (John, Brooke, and Kate) and machine stitched by Vickie Kittle. It is beautiful and we thank you for your labor of love.

Midweek services During Lent

Lenten midweek services begin with Ash Wednesday, February 18th at Messiah. Subsequent services will be on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm with a soup and bread supper following the service.

February 25 - Calvary Episcopal

March 4 - Red Lodge UCC

March 11 - Messiah

March 18 - Calvary Episcopal

March 25 - St Agnes Catholic Church

Delving into the Bible

We are asking all willing members to share a favorite Bible verse so we can put it here in one of our weekly bulletins. Your submission can include the verse(s) or you can tell us why it's meaningful for you. We encourage you all to tear off the page so you can take it home, allowing us to ponder and pray as a community.

Jeremiah 50:24

I set a snare for you and you were taken, O Babylon, and you did not know it; you were found and caught, because you strove against the Lord.

"Kidnapped for Christ"

I was in 9th grade and was kidnapped by several youths from my church's Luther League. It was a Sunday evening and I was in my PJs ready to watch some TV. All of a sudden three kids came into the TV room and took me, as I was, to church. They must have gotten the okay from my mother as she said nothing and away they took me. I'll never forget that.

I was "kidnapped for Christ"!

Never missed Luther League after that!

Suzi Hansen

**Special Offering for March is
St. John's Ministries**

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

Claudia B, the family of Jack Ervin, Hannah Gonzales, Dolly Koski,
Rick and Sandy Koski, Jim Kyner, Doug & Mary Lair, Lois Miller, Olivia Milligan,
Carlos Ramalho, DJ Rosekelly, 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.

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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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