



Messiah Lutheran Church

Transfiguration Sunday
February 15, 2026

Pastor Ben Cherland

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church
February 15, 2026 | Transfiguration Sunday

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

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 HYMN *ELW 671 Shine, Jesus, Shine*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, 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: Exodus 24:12-18

At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The “glory of the Lord” settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.

¹² The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. ¹⁴ To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

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

Psalm 2

You are my son; this day have I begotten you. (Ps. 2:7)

¹ Why are the nations in an uproar?

Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

² **Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together,**

against the Lord and against the Lord's anointed?

³ "Let us break their yoke," they say;

"let us cast off their bonds from us."

⁴ **God whose throne is in heaven is laughing;
the Lord holds them in derision.**

⁵ Then in wrath God speaks to them,
and in rage fills them with terror.

⁶ **"As for me, I have anointed my king
upon Zion, my holy mountain."**

⁷ Let me announce the decree of the Lord,
who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I begotten you.

⁸ **Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance
and the ends of the earth for your possession.**

⁹ You shall crush them with an iron rod
and shatter them like a piece of pottery."

¹⁰ **And now, you kings, be wise;
be warned, you rulers of the earth.**

¹¹ Submit to the Lord with fear,
and with trembling bow in worship;

¹² **lest the Lord be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath.
Happy are all who take refuge in God!**

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.

¹⁶ We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven,

while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹ because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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: Matthew 17:1-9

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

¹ Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸ And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *ELW 315 How Good, Lord, To Be Here*

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.**

INSTALLATION OF 2026 COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

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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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

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.

The musical score consists of four staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across bar lines. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

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 in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score consists of five staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across bar lines. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

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 - gainst 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 HYMN ELW 838 *Beautiful Savior*

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 HYMN *ELW 877 In Thee is Gladness*

DISMISSAL

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 at Calvary Episcopal

March 4 at Red Lodge UCC

March 11 at Messiah

March 18 at Calvary Episcopal

March 25 at St. Agnes Catholic

Church

A Word From Your Treasurer Regarding the Building Loan.

Several questions were raised at the annual meeting and I've done a bit of research. Our building loan is a 25 year loan that matures on May 1, 2048. The interest rate is adjusted every five years. Currently, the interest rate is 4.375%. That rate will change on 11/1/2027. Our loan payments will be adjusted at that point and will reflect the 25 year payoff period. As of February 2, 2026, our loan balance is \$287,011.19. Our monthly loan payment is \$2031 of which approximately \$942 is applied to the principal and \$1089 is applied to interest. I hope this information is helpful. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. 701-391-0584. And, yes, we are moving forward with a matching fund effort this fall.

Delving into the Bible

We are beginning a new feature in our bulletin. We ask any willing member to share a favorite Bible verse, to be placed under this heading, in one of our weekly bulletins. Your choice may include only the words of the scripture or it may add comments about its meaning for you. We suggest you tear off the page, allowing us to ponder and pray as a community.

Zephania 3:17 (the Good News Bible) The Lord will take delight in you and in his love he will give you new life. He will sing and be joyful over you.

This verse reminds me just how much God loves not only me, but how much he loves everyone I love! So much that he will sing over us!

Jeri Kyner

**Special Offering for February is
The Boys and Girls Club**

2026 Church Council

President – Katrin Chandler – 406-290-4263 – katrecha@gmail.com
Vice President – Roy Olpin – 360-888-7733 – roy_olpin@hotmail.com
Secretary – Melinda Berry – 406-426-4243 – berrymelinda@hotmail.com
Treasurer – Paul Schauer – 701-391-0584 – pschauer62@gmail.com
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Property – Kathy Kreatz – 406-425-1595 – kkreatz@gmail.com
Stewardship – Linda Daily – 406-426-0841 – lindatodd94@yahoo
Worship – Susan Leaverton – 406-321-1711- seleaverton@nemont.net

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.

Messiah Lutheran Church

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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