

Messiah Lutheran Church

January 25, 2026

Pastor Ben Cherland

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church

January 25, 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 HYMN *ELW 449 We Know That Christ Is Raised*

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

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

CHILDRENS SERMON

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.

¹ There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the Lord] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness

 have seen a great light;
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
 on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied exultation;

 you have increased its joy;
 they rejoice before you
 as with joy at the harvest,
 as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden

 and the bar across their shoulders,
 the rod of their oppressor,
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

The Lord is my light and my salvation. (Ps. 27:1)

¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

 The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴ **One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek;**
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to gaze
upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the temple.

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,

 hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.**

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I
will sing and make music to the Lord.

⁷ Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call;

 have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.”**

Your face, O Lord, I will seek.

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.

 Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my
salvation.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God’s salvation.

¹⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ For it has been made clear to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹² What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ For Christ

did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of 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 4:12-23

The holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—

¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness

have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from

there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them.²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 303 *Brightest and Best of the Stars*

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

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

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

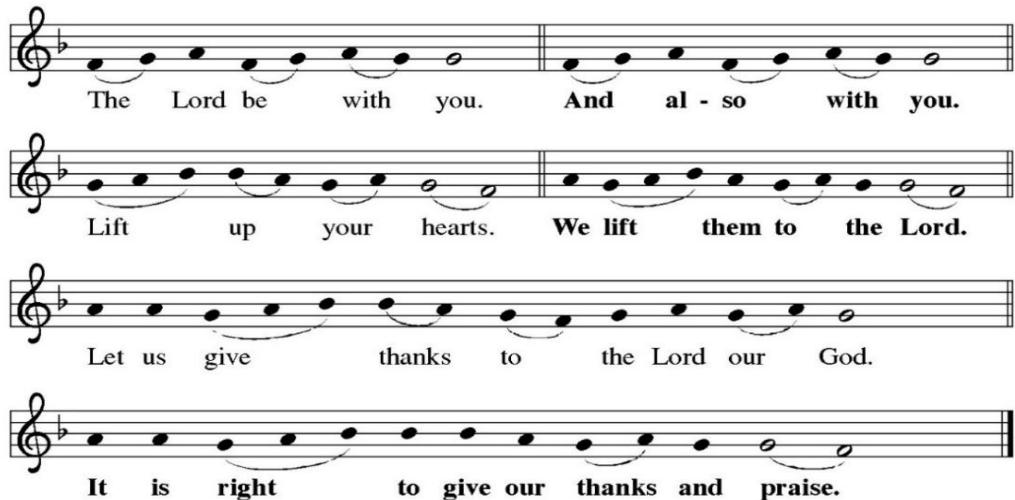
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OFFERING PRAYER

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

DIALOGUE



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

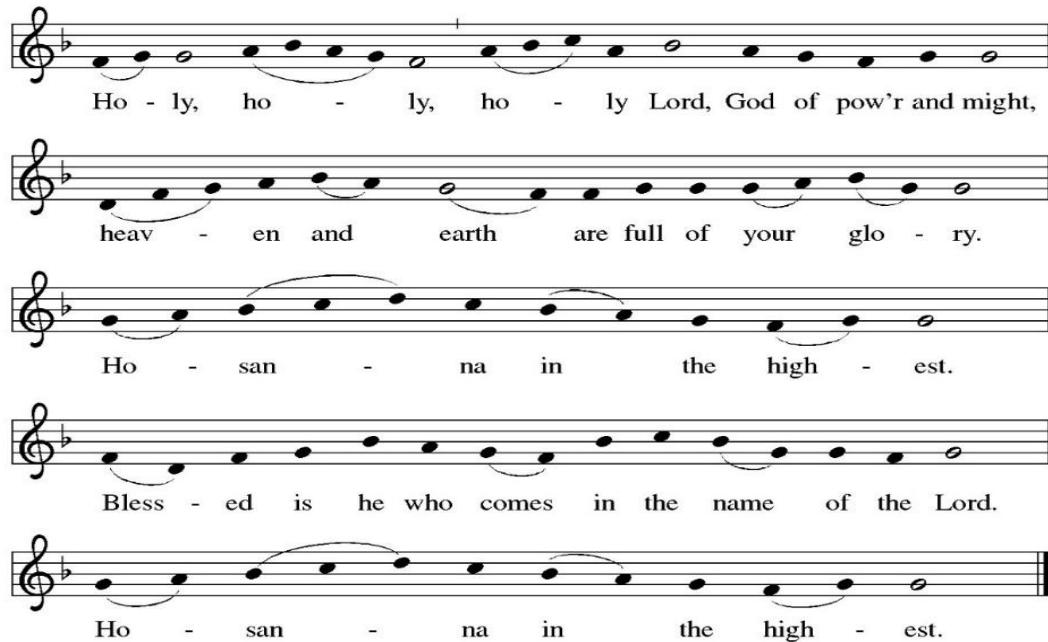
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE (*Pastor*)

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.

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 HYMN ELW 496 *One Bread, One Body*

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 310 *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

DISMISSAL

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Congregational Meeting

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

Delving into the Bible

Today we begin 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. One submission will appear here, each week, where you find our Prayer List and pertinent announcements. We suggest you tear off the page, allowing us to ponder and pray as a community.

Romans 8: 38-39 For I am convinced that neither death nor life nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

This is such a powerful statement and gives me great peace to think that neither illness or fears for today or worries about tomorrow—nothing in all creation can separate me from the love of God. *-Martha Crofts*

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.

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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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